



WØPHC

GRIDLEAK

FEBRUARY 2010

Editor's Notes:

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN 2010 RENEWAL DUES

Pueblo HAM Club Officers wish a year full of happiness, good health, and radio adventure to all of our members. In process are a variety of ideas intended to further develop the club membership as well as individual knowledge and participation. We ask that you please bear with us and lend support as we attempt to make the PHC a more enjoyable and interactive experience for our members.

**Next Monthly Meeting: March 8, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. @
1340 E. Evans WDSL Conference Room**

Please remember to check out www.pueblohamclub.com!

NET PARTICIPATION: ALL members are encouraged to demonstrate their support for our club by taking time to participate in the PHC weekly net, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on the 146.79 repeater. Most nets last less than twenty five minutes.

ARES Net Sundays @ 1930 p.m. W4CHZ is sending reminders via text so if you want a reminder let him know @ 248-6336.

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 7:00 A.M. @ CITY DINER

CHANGE IS HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PART 2

Apologies to all for a late Gridleak this month. For those who did not hear on the weekly nets – I had an emergency appendectomy surgery the first week in February that put me out of commission for two weeks. All is better now and things are back on track and schedule. Thanks for the prayers and well wishes of all.

COUNTRY BUFFET NOV 20, 2010 HOLIDAY PARTY, Time TBA

Field Day packets are available at ARRL for any who want a head start in planning their involvement in this event.

Our President will write up a short article about our selected field day location for next month – stay tuned – great opportunity for increased community involvement and public demonstration of amateur radio.

Response from our club members to our classroom topics and presentations has been GREAT!!! Putting radio back into the radio club seems to have peaked some interest and increased activity.

We still need ideas for future classroom topics – please send in your ideas – your participation and involvement makes this club work!

----- W4CHZ

PHC Board Minutes for January 31, 2010

Sunday February 21st Pizza Party starting 5 to 5:30 at Pizza Hut on Abriendo.

Holiday Party on November 20th at Country Buffet.

We discussed holding Field Day in the City Park area North of the Caboose and South of the Fountain for greater exposure to visitors.

August 14th is the Corn Feed Picnic at our usual location in City Park.

We are going to mail Gridleaks to all known area hams with a cover letter to invite them to come see what is new with our club.

No Treasurer's report and no votes taken for any motions.

Submitted by Stanley Clark WBOJRG PHC Secretary

NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO (from ARRL)

If you want to add to your CW DXCC totals, there's no better contest for little pistol North American stations than the ARRL DX CW contest. Why? Unlike the everybody-works-everybody contests, DX stations must work W and VE stations - that's you!

BUSTED QSOS

I forgot that the original provocateur for the "how many dits in a row" puzzle was actually Barry W6YE! Runner-up provocateur, Jerry VE6CNJ, is still on the job, however, sending in this short slip of an all-dot sentence: HIS SIS SEES 5 SISSIES. Just in time to practice for those EE5 stations in this weekend's ARRL DX CW contest.

CONTEST SUMMARY

Complete information for all contests follows the Conversation section

February 20-21

ARRL International DX--CW

Semi-Automatic Key Evening (Feb 17)

Feld-Hell Super Bowl Sprint

AM QSO Party

FM Simplex Contest--Phone

February 27-28

Russian WW PSK Contest

CQ WW 160 Meter SSB

REF Contest

EPC WW PSK Contest

UBA Contest--CW

Mississippi QSO Party

North American QSO Party--Digital

WSJT Sprint

CQC Winter QSO Party

North Carolina QSO Party

YL CW Party (Mar 2)

NEWS, PRESS RELEASES, AND GENERAL INTEREST

The 2010 ARRL Field Day packet of rules and forms is now available and you can download it as a PDF package. Field Day (June 26-27, always the fourth full weekend in June) is a prime opportunity for recruiting new folks to ham radio and for educating new hams about HF contesting and operating. If your club hasn't selected a site yet, consider locating yourself in a publicly-accessible area and encourage visitors - you can add lots of points from public-exposure bonuses and from your GOTA (Get On The Air) station.

The Milwaukee-area and New Jersey are both host to an FM Simplex contest this coming Sunday especially for Technician licensees and hams that haven't tried contest operation. The original contest was conceived of and run by the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club. Hoping to spread the fun to other areas, the New Providence ARC is hosting an event as well. Encourage your local VHF FMers to give it a try! Or have your club plan and host one!

Bob N6TV writes with a demo of a new Win-Test feature. "Version 4.4 includes an "Audio Recorder" that lets you save an entire contest experience as an MP3 file. A separate free program called wtQsoPlayer enables you to convert your long Win-Test MP3 recordings into short "on demand" audio clips that anyone can access on the Web. All you need is the Web hosting space and basic text editing and file transfer skills. All of instructions and sample PHP scripts are included on the Win-Test Web site." If you worked Bob in the recent NA CW Sprint, you can hear your QSO recorded with Win-Test. "After you enter your callsign and press [Search], some "Listen" links will appear at the bottom. If clicking on the link doesn't play the entire MP3 file properly, right click on the link, select "Save Link As" or "Save Target As", and note where your browser has saved the MP3 file. Then double click on the downloaded file to play the QSO directly from your hard disk. The clips are +/- 30 seconds from the time I pressed [Enter] to log the QSO, so you may need to listen for at least 30 seconds before you'll hear yourself in the audio clip."

With the CQ WW Contest receiving over 10,000 entries, the CQ WPX Contest more than 7,000 entries, and the CQ RTTY Contests with almost 5000 entries, it is becoming increasingly difficult to efficiently parse the free-form mailing addresses that appear in logs from all parts of the world. In response, last year the committee that controls the Cabrillo log format standard introduced four new tag definitions for entry of postal mailing addresses:

ADDRESS-CITY:

ADDRESS-STATE-PROVINCE:

ADDRESS-POSTALCODE:

ADDRESS-COUNTRY:

These new tags are optional for all contests, but it recommended that logging software authors implement them in the Cabrillo format output utilities so that the program user address is read correctly by the contest sponsors. There is more information on these new tags on the CQ WPX Blog of Contest Director, Randy K5ZD.

The big aluminum at K3LR can really pull in those Europeans - why it sounds like they are right in the room! Operating from Tim's during CQ WW CW last year are Mark MØ DXR, Lee GØ MTN, and Cal KØ DXC. (Photo by K8CX)

Some of the North Carolina counties are fairly remote, nevertheless the North Carolina QSO Party sponsors have been beating the bushes to activate as many as possible. Check out the list to see if any counties on your "Needed" list will be on the air!

The increasing availability of remotely-controllable stations may lead to a careless operator violating local licensing restrictions. For example, you have to hold a valid license in the location from which you are transmitting and follow all local rules and regulations. Don't assume that you can operate from anywhere and just sign your call sign "portable wherever"! For example, CEPT license authority is only granted to "temporary visitors" and it's not at all clear that someone connecting to a station via the Internet is considered to be a visitor. Make sure you know the rules before transmitting!

Steampunk, in case you hadn't encountered it before, is a combination of science fiction, fantasy, and antique technology. Aficionados of "steam radio" (a.k.a. vacuum tubes) are natural steampunks! The

upcoming Nova Albion steampunk convention in California on March 12-14 incorporates elements of Maker Faire (see the next story) and other do-it-yourself activities.

Maker Faires are going to be held in three US cities this year - San Mateo, CA (May 22-23), Detroit (July 31-Aug 1), and New York City (Sep 25-26). There is also an upcoming Maker Faire in Newcastle, England on Mar 13-14. The Maker Faire theme this year is the Young Makers, just like many of us when we were getting our start in ham radio. If you are part of a Detroit or NYC area radio club that might like to exhibit, ham radio has been a very popular attraction at past Faires. Contact the organizers via the Maker Faire Web site. (The San Mateo event has ham radio representation lined up!) Imagine thousands of proto-hamsters ready to learn about Amateur Radio!

From the Jan 20 ARRL E-Letter, the IARU Administrative Council noted that all three regions have now reached consensus on three global Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies for use in the event of emergencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. When no emergency operations are being conducted, these frequencies are open for normal amateur usage. However, GAREC-09 calls upon IARU member-societies, among others, "whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, Web sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic."

Ken KØPP discovered that the amateur radio articles that appeared in the January 2010 Linux Journal are now available on-line. You can reach them via the Linux Journal "Virtual Ham Shack: or in this online article. Web Site of the Week - Just what you were asking yourself: "Do Dogs Know Calculus?" You'll never play ball with your canine companion in the same way ever again. (Thanks, Glenn WØGJ)

WORD TO THE WISE

Ghost code - The random letters and characters that your brain generates from the noise and sounds your ears hear with the headphones off after spending a few hours in a big CW contest. The post-contest shower can be particularly interesting!

There are only four words in the English language which end in 'dous': tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

(You're not possibly doubting this, are you ?)

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: 'abstemious' and 'facetious.'

(Yes, admit it, you are going to say, a e i o u)



TYPEWRITER

is the longest word that can be made using the letters

only on one row of the keyboard. **(All you typists are going to test this out)**

IMPORTANT DATES

February 21: PHC Pizza Party Social Event – 5:00 P.M. Abriendo Pizza Hut

February 28: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans

March 8: PHC Amateur Radio Classroom, 7:00 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans –Topic: 35' Miracle Tower

John Fredericks (WA9SBX) is scheduled to present how-to information regarding a 35' tower he has designed which precludes the use of a tower climber to change antennas or modify the set-up. As we all get older having the benefits of a tower with the easy flexibility of changing the components is increasingly important. Rumor has it that the basics of antenna rotor installation and use will also be covered in this class.

March 28: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans

April 12: Amateur Radio Classroom, 7:00 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans –Topic: Basic Rig Tune-Up

Numerous PHC members will converge to give a basic how-to course in tuning up and checking out an existing HF/VHF/UHF rig. Ever wondered what the true output of your rig is or is it really on frequency? Volunteer your rig for the demonstration and we will find out! Equipment used will range from the basic to the ultimate – come see an actual demonstration of diagnostics at work!

April 25: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans

May 10: Amateur Radio Classroom, 7:00 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans –Topic: Towers and Trees – 101

Chas (W4CHZ) will present the basics of tower work and tree work relating to antennas and amateur radio operators. Basics from antenna rigging to coax runs and which trees can be trusted will be covered. Even if you never leave the ground knowing the basics will make you a better worker on the ground and safer for the individual doing the high work. Come learn!

May 23: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans (NOTE: “off-date” due to Memorial Day Holiday the 30th)

June 14: Amateur Radio Classroom, 7:00 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans –Topic: Lessons of the Go-Box

Chas (W4CHZ) has a long-standing love of boxes. Boxes are wonderful. In the last 5 years he has made many variations of a “go-box” which contains a completely portable HF/V/U station ready for deployment at any opportunity. Many failures and caveats in planning have been encountered on the way – come learn about his latest design which seems to have hit the mark and one person can still lift easily.

June 26-27: FIELD DAY – location TBD @ next board meeting

June 27 – Board Meeting???

July 12: Amateur Radio Classroom, 7:00 p.m. @ 1340 E. Evans –Topic:

Nov 20: Holiday Party, Country Buffet 6:00 p.m.

August 14 – Corn Feed – tentative planning

Not enough activities in the next 6 months? OK – here's some more activities which have not been set in stone at this time and we can look forward to.

Repeater Nights: In a quest to finish the 900 Mhz linking scheme for our repeaters a series of nights will be planned for interested parties to come help build the necessary components that will allow this plan to culminate. In addition to learning how the linking process will work – participants will also have the opportunity to build and tweak the necessary elements together into a working system prior to installation in the field.

Impromptu “Field Days”: Ever get a hunkering to just grab some gear and hit the street? Bringing visibility and public education of amateur radio and the PHC to the public-at-large is of continued interest to the Board. We are planning some “grabitandgo” days where we call folks with minimal notice to meet at an approved location and we set-up the radios, log a few contacts, then break down and have dinner or drinks somewhere to discuss the kudos and oopsies of the day. Do you want to be the one who has to make up an excuse because your rig is not ready to deploy? Prepare now – as soon as the weather is good anything could happen!

The sentence: 'The quick brown fox jumps over
the lazy dog'
uses every letter of the alphabet.

(Now, you KNOW you're going to try this out for accuracy, right?)



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Tad "[Light breaks where no Sun shines](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: The increasing sunspot activity continues, and images from [NASA's STEREO mission](#) show a string of active regions in the Sun's northern hemisphere -- both visible and over the horizon on the far side. The high sunspot number for the week was 71 on February 8; the average for the week was 43.3. We haven't reported a weekly average that high since the week of March 27-April 4 in 2008 when it was 43.6. The daily sunspot number hasn't been as high as 71 since May 28, 2006 when it was 78. The earlier reading that reached that level or more was 105 on April 6, 2006. On February 8 -- when the daily sunspot number was 71 -- the total area covered by sunspot activity was 460 millionths of a solar hemisphere. That number hasn't been as high since the same earlier week in 2008 that had a high sunspot number average. The dates were March 26-27 when the area of sunspots was 520 and 510. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, February 12. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Dylan Thomas' [Light Breaks Where No Sun Shines](#).

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GRIDLEAK DISCLAIMER...

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Jess Miley KØTAA

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Additional Family Members to Join/Renew

Name _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Name _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

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Would you like your Gridleak to be delivered by email or regular mail? _____

COSTS: Full Member \$20, Senior (60+) \$15, Associate \$15, Family \$30

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PUEBLO HAM CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 92
PUEBLO, CO 81002
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

AT A GLANCE PUEBLO HAM CLUB ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Meetings: March 08

February 21: 5:00 p.m. Pizza Party Social Event @Abriendo Pizza Hut

PHC WEEKLY NET: 7:00 P.M. EVERY WEDNESDAY

ARES NET: 1930 EVERY SUNDAY

(both on 146.79 repeater)