



# GRIDLEAK

Official Newsletter of the  
Pueblo Amateur Radio Club  
Pueblo, Colorado USA

Volume 4 - Number 3

March 2019

## Club News

Dues are due.

The 79 repeater has been moved and it is now linked to the 73 machine on Rattlesnake Butte in Huerfano County.

The Capitol Hill repeater (Walsenburg) is on the air in Pueblo for testing. 447.600 negative offset, 88.5 tone. We are just waiting for the use of a bucket truck to mount the antenna in Walsenburg. The pole is already in place.

Bill Nicoll takes over as repeater chairman. The repeaters are going under the W0PHC

call sign so that the repeater ID never has to be changed again should trustees change..

ATTN Officers and staff: Please check your contact info on page 6 and submit any changes to AD0JL

Membership badges are available. If you want one, it will be provided free of charge to members. Please contact AD0JL ([richard@ad0jl.com](mailto:richard@ad0jl.com)) with your name and call sign. The next batch will be printed before our regular meetings

## Calendar of Events

Mar 11 - PARC Pizza Party @ Pizza Ranch 6:00 pm

Mar 28 - ARES meeting @ Pueblo ESC 6:00 pm.

April 8 - PARC Membership meeting @ Pueblo ESC 6:00 pm

All meetings are now being held at the new Pueblo County Emergency Services Center 101 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Pueblo, unless otherwise noted. It is at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Main.

# PARC Minutes for 02-11-19

Feb. 11, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by  
President ke0llh.

Treasurers REPORT: Treasurer KD0SOV reported. The current club balance is \$915.27 deposit 185.00 and 40.00 balance 1040.27 had to buy new polyphaser for .79 and winter field day 273.06 and new balance \$867.27

Old Business.

Repeaters all on the air. The repeaters are all up to date with the new call sign.

New business

La Veta for flooding and off the fire. March 16

For Ares using Boy Scout and putting of repeaters to the Boy Scout ranch. Let get the maps and see where it going to cover. Ask to see if it is possible ccarc. Vote passed for the study.

March 11, 2019 pizza ranch

April 8, Greg.

MEXT MEETING March 11 2019

Submitted by La Dawn

## PARC AGENDA March 11, 2019

SECRETARY REPORT: La Dawn

TREASURES REPORT: Carrie

OLD BUSINESS.

Repeaters. Bill.

Field day

New Business:

If you need to put something on the agenda please let me know by the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Any other business:

Motion to adjourn?

## Repeaters and Nets

### PARC Repeaters, W0PHC Trustee:

146.790 – offset 88.5 Tone , Bacculite Mesa

145.115 – offset 88.5 Tone, Pueblo. Pueblo Blvd & St Clair

146.880 - offset 88.5 Tone, 12 Mile

146.730 – offset 88.5 Tone, Rattlesnake Butte

447.950 DMR Bacculite Mesa, Stand Alone

447.175 DMR 12 Milel, Stand Alone

447.600 – offset 88.5 Tone, Walsenburg  
Coming Soon! On air in Pue for testing!

### Nets:

PHC NET:146.79 - Wed @7:00pm local; 146.880 backup

ARES NET:146.88 – Sun @7:30 pm local; 146.79 backup

ARES Simplex Net 146:580 Thurs 7pm. No net on last Thurs of the month due to the ARES meeting.

### NEW HAMS!

Checking into a net is one of the best ways to ease into the hobby. It is also a good way to learn net procedures should you want to get involved in emergency communications.

# THE PUEBLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



# WANTS YOU

**There is a lot of neat stuff happening now with the Pueblo Amateur Radio Club**

We now operate more repeaters in the area than any other club. We are linking repeaters and getting new ones on the air. Soon our coverage will be from Colorado Springs down to the New Mexico Border and hopefully out to Kansas and new fun activities are being planned. But we can't do it without you.

Club membership is a great way for those new and even experienced in ham radio to network with other amateur operators in order to learn more about the many facets of ham radio. Older hams also have the opportunity to help mentor newer hams as well. Your membership also helps support our growing repeater network and helps support emergency communications in the region. Remember when all else fails, there is still ham radio. Go to [www.puebloradio.org](http://www.puebloradio.org) and download the latest copy of our newsletter, The Grileak and fill out an application today!

# Is FT8 Creating a “Tipping Point” for Amateur Radio?

Gerald, K5SDR CEO, FlexRadio

October 9, 2018, zero sunspots, and I am making *10m DX* contacts one after another. *Zero sunspots* but working DX on FT8! Is FT8 creating a “tipping point” for amateur radio at the very bottom of the solar cycle?

Several years ago I was captivated by a book written by Malcolm Gladwell called, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. Merriam-Webster defines tipping point as, “the critical point in a situation, process, or system beyond which a significant and often unstoppable effect or change takes place.” In his book, Gladwell describes how, “The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.” He shows us how the phenomenon applies to everything from flu epidemics to the explosion of new technologies.

Does the FT8 mode included in WSJT-X software constitute a tipping point in ham radio for good or for harm? There are many ham radio opinion blogs on the Internet that strongly or sometimes sarcastically take one or the other stance. There is even an Internet poll asking, “Is FT8 damaging amateur radio?” At this moment it is 52% yes, 45% no and 3% undecided.[1] All of the articles and videos I have seen agree on one undeniable fact – FT8 has since its introduction in June of 2017 achieved “killer app” or tipping point status. Some think it will kill amateur radio and others believe that such innovations give the hobby new life.

The FT8 digital mode is the latest in a series of weak signal applications for amateur radio. Conceived originally for enhancing esoteric propagation modes such as high speed meteor scatter and moonbounce, Joe Taylor (K1JT) developed a series of applications including FSK144, JT6M, JT65, and JT9. When FT8, jointly developed by Joe Taylor and Steve Franke (K9AN), was announced it was described as being designed for, “multi-hop Es where signals may be weak

and fading, openings may be short, and you want fast completion of reliable, confirmable QSO’s.”[2] Being a 6 meter fan, that resonates with me.

What happened to take an esoteric mode designed for multi-hop E skip on VHF and overnight turn it into a worldwide phenomenon across all bands from 2200m through 70cm? In other words, what makes FT8 a killer app? Here are a few of my observations:

- FT8 counters the current dearth of sunspots
- FT8 opens “dead bands”
- FT8 is addictive – see em, click em, work em... Boom!
- FT8 lets little pistols work DXCC like a big gun
- FT8 lets you work the world from small or deed restricted lots
- FT8 is a weak signal – not a low power mode (power works the really weak ones)
- FT8 lets you work DX on 6m when there would be none
- FT8 is suddenly dominating VHF/UHF contesting
- FT8 lets you work weak signal DX without proficient CW skills
- FT8 is like having constant DX beacons on every band
- FT8 puts the DX, WAS, WAZ, etc. on the air when they might not be
- FT8 let’s you work DXCC on 160m without a big station
- FT8 let’s you call CQ and become the DX
- FT8 is amazing literally space age technology
- FT8 is probably other things I haven’t realized yet but some of you have

So, will FT8 kill ham radio as some have posed? True, it is mostly automated. True, it reduces the skill required to make DX contacts. True, it removes conversation from the QSO the same as is true of most DX chasing contacts on any mode. True, it removes some of the human factor. But does that make it bad for amateur radio’s future?

In my humble opinion, FT8 is at the very heart of what amateur radio has been about from its inception – amateurs who love the art of radio enhancing the art of radio. The FCC in Part 97 of the rules lists the following as second in the list of five tenets that define amateur radio:

*“Continuation and extension of the amateur’s proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.”*

In my humble opinion, what will ultimately kill amateur radio is not FT8. To the contrary FT8 is an example of what will keep it alive and relevant. What will kill amateur radio is if we

we cease to innovate, become old and grumpy, and no longer bring new blood into the hobby. I received my novice license over 50 years ago (rock bound CW on a 6L6) and still find new and exciting things to peak my interest. Frankly, technical innovation in amateur radio directly led to my career in technology just as for many of you. I hope that continues long after I am gone.

Amateur radio is alive and well. FT8 is one just one element of keeping it that way. Hope to work you soon on FT8, some other new mode, or maybe a ragchew on SSB when the sunspots come back.



TUBES TUBES TUBES! The Pueblo Amateur Radio Club has a large inventory of vacuum tubes for sale. If you need tubes, please contact Jon Fredericks at 719-547-7537. Prices vary.

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Old style FCC AMATEUR licenses and Skywarn IDs available. All license classes now available! Personalized replications of the 1970s and 80s FCC licenses and laminated photo Skywarn IDs are now available. Licenses are \$15 for a printed copy. Message AD0JL for more info. Skywarn IDs are \$10. Visit [www.ad0jl.com](http://www.ad0jl.com) for more info or email [richard@ad0jl.com](mailto:richard@ad0jl.com) 719-251-0418

AD0JL will be willing to trade graphics and web design services for any used radio odds and ends. Contact Richard at [richard@ad0jl.com](mailto:richard@ad0jl.com) or at 719-251-0418

AD0JL is also looking for FCC part 15 certified radios such as the old Kenwood Pueblo Zoo TK-280s to use for youth programs at the Ice Arena.

Remember if you would like to place an ad for something to sell or are looking for something to buy, please contact AD0JL on the 79, [richard@ad0jl.com](mailto:richard@ad0jl.com), or at 251-0418 No calls before noon or after 9pm, please.

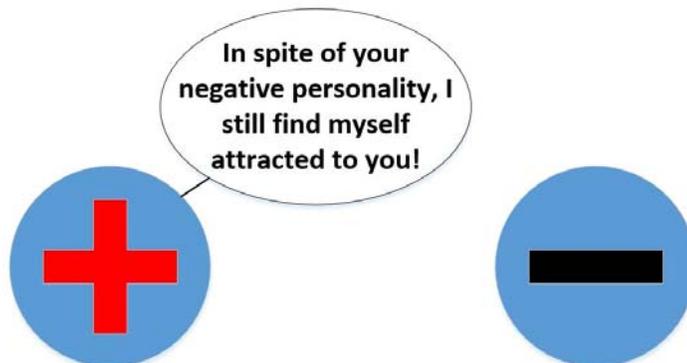
**Wanted! Your photos! We need pictures of our events, past present and future for the website and the archives.**

# PARC Organizational Structure

President	Brad Fox	KE0LLH	924-3140	bradfox42@msn.com
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Board Member	Brian Thompson	KE0KEP		
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ARES AEC (North)	Chris Truby	KE0BYQ	248-4569	jctruby@gmail.com
ARES AEC (South)	John Fink	W0DNR		
VEC	Ed McCandless	AA0XP	671-7450	aa0xp@comcast.net
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	Mark Balsick	W0AOK		

## GRIDLEAK DISCLAIMER...

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR PUEBLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_ New Member/Renewal? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Your CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

HamPhone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Family Members to Join/Renew**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your Grid leak to be delivered by E MAIL or regular mail? \_\_\_\_\_

COSTS: Full Member \$25, Senior (60+) \$20, Associate \$20, Family \$35 Senior Family \$27.50, Student \$20.

**Make checks payable to "PARC" Circle Membership Above Total Amount Included: \_\_\_\_\_**



860-594-0200 or Toll-Free 1-888-277-5289

Welcome to the only national organization representing Amateur Radio in the US. As an ARRL member you support the ranks of thousands of other ham radio enthusiasts shaping the Amateur Radio service today. If you consider yourself an active ham... you need ARRL now. If you are not presently an active ham... let ARRL help you. As a member of the ARRL, for as little as \$39.00 per year, here are some of the benefits you will enjoy: QST Magazine – your monthly membership journal

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  - QST, QEX and NCJ article index
  - Email forwarding E-Newsletters – delivered to your inbox
- A voice in the affairs of ARRL and ham radio through locally appointed volunteers
- Publication Specials and on-line course discounts
- Emergency Communication Services
- Technical and Regulatory Information Services Operating Awards
- Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan Available
- Outgoing Foreign QSL Service
- Plus [much more!](#)

**PUEBLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**