



# P\*PCompAS

Pikes Peak Computer Application Society  
History of the Society  
By Toni Logan, Secretary



## The History

In March, P\*PCompAS will be officially 25 years as an incorporated entity. I thought it might be a good idea to give you all a brief history of our club through my eyes. Sometime in the early 80's, Brad and I were shopping at a Radio Shack. We were intrigued by one of their items, a Model I computer. It seemed like that could be a real handy item in our house. We proceeded to buy it and our world opened up to a great association of people and activities.

Meanwhile, a friend, Warren Hickey invited us to a meeting of microcomputer owners. They met on a Saturday morning at Vilachi's, which was on the corner of Bijou and Union. There was a big screen TV where we watched some demonstrations of computer stuff. Most of it was over our heads. The discussions were mostly about machine language. Dave Wood came up with the name for the club and that was FRASBUG, which stood for Front Range Small Business Users Group.

We enjoyed the social aspects of the group and we were hooked. The founder of FRASBUG, Dave Wood eventually left town and the group reformed as P\*PCompAS and then in 1982 the club incorporated, so it is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event this March. Computers have come a long way since the inception of P\*PCompAS and I don't think anyone realized at the time how much we would depend on the home computer and what we could do with one.

In the past the club participated in a Home Show at a local mall. We held our own open house at Blair College a couple of times. Mid Kolstad was instrumental in getting a "Demo Day" organized that was held at Blair College. In February 1992 we started the breakfast meetings. We were at Coco's at Academy & Academy Cir; and in 1992, Baron's on Academy; and Country Buffet on North Academy to Country Kitchen on Powers to Country Buffet at Citadel Crossing. The breakfast meetings have extended the camaraderie that has developed over the years between the

club members.

Another fun thing the club did as a group was to get together and build their own computers. Several of the members would gather at Charlie Kunz's house and they each built a computer from the ground up. One of the members donated the computer he put together to the club.

Even before we became a 501(c)(3) organization, P\*PCompAS has been interested in educating, helping or being of service to the community.

Among the many activities that we have been involved in as a group or individually are: inputting data for the library district; helping the boys and girls club; and a Computer Fair at Pioneer Plaza. Individually, the members help each other with their computer problems.

### The People

The first Board of Directors members were Byron Smith, Billy Robinson, Ralph Redinger, Andy Freeborn, and Paul Godfrey. Byron Smith also was Editor of the newsletter and President. Billy Robinson was one of our members who helped us with our computer problems. Billy had a business at his home and was a great help to many of us computer novices. Brad Logan is still using a computer Billy built for him in 1994. Ralph Redinger worked at Radio Shack and was a big help during the Model I, II, and III

era. Andy Freeborn was one of the packet radio guys and Paul Godfrey had his photography business and is still a member of P\*PCompAS.

Dave Hughes gave an interesting program at Blair College in 1994. This was really the first foray into the Internet. He presented a program about the Internet, demonstrated its use and a look at the NAPLPS (North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax). It was the standard for the coding and transmission of color graphics in computers. He talked about a new system designed to provide interconnectability between the hundreds of different networks around the nation and around the world, voila! The Internet was born.

Dave is well known to long-time P\*PCompAS members, having been one of the original members of the organization back in 1979. Dave, a native of Colorado Springs, has been in the personal computer business for many years. In fact, he established and ran the first BBS in Colorado Springs in 1980. Until recently, Dave also provided the physical space for the WebBoard server hardware (case, monitor, keyboard, and mouse). He also provided a high speed connection to the Internet.

Mid Kolstad got us all interested in genealogy. She would help those of us who knew nothing about the subject.

There have been so many people involved with P\*PCompAS over the past 25 years. There is no way to mention all of them. Some of the past Presidents have been: Ralph Redinger, Byron Smith, Dick Knoeckel, Norm Miller, Mid Kolstad, Byron Smith, Dick Stienmier, Billy Robinson, Dick Immig, Toni Logan, Chuck Blaney, Greg Lenihan, Dave Guevara, Harry Birkner, Joe Nuvolini, and Paul Godfrey.

### **The Technology**

We have gone from many different computers and systems to basically IBM types and Windows systems. There were a lot of different users groups including TRS-80; Atari (PPPACE); IBMPC; Computer Genealogy Study Group; C/S Osborne; TI Group (Front Range 99ers); CP/M Group; Commodor/VIC20; Apple Group; Color Computer; and Kay Pro Users Group. During the mid 80's a lot of us got our first IBM clone computer and then we were all talking the same language, sort of.

### **The Meetings**

Over the years we have met at a restaurant; a business place on West Colorado; a Technical College on Elkton Drive; Rastall Center at CC; Blair College on Galley; a Colorado Springs Police Substation and our present location, Springs Community Church. It is amazing to me that even though our meeting places have been

all over the Colorado Springs area, attendance at meetings has stayed constant. We have members from the Denver area, Woodland Park, Security, Monument and all over Colorado Springs. The membership has fluctuated from a small number of 30 to over 100 members.

We have given a plaque to Blair College for letting us meet there. We have given the Community Church tables, a projection screen, and blinds for letting us use their very nice facilities.

### **Communications**

We have had a newsletter from the very beginning. Although during the lean years, only a postcard was sent out to announce the meetings. Byron Smith was the first newsletter editor and over the years many have done the job. Mid Kolstad, Toni Logan, and Tom Douglas were editors in the 80's. Marc Valley, Mark Eager, David Kalman, Gil Duran, George Francis and Greg Lenihan were editors in the 90's. Greg Lenihan has been the editor since 1996. In May 1994, we had a contest to name the newsletter. Until then it was called "The P\*PCompAS Newsletter". The winner of the contest was Art Wagoner and now it is called "Bits of Bytes".

Since the 80's we have gone from BBS to Internet. The club's BBS pretty much started in 1984. The SYSOP was John Bresnahan and Ted Statler.

**We had our own dedicated equipment in January, 1985. We had to pay for the phone line costs. When COSUG dissolved in 1995, they gave us their BBS equipment if we became a non-profit organization, which we did. Over the years the SYSOP's have been the two mentioned above and Charlie Kunz, Bernie Herpin, and John Pearce. Since we have had the WebBoard and our Web Site, John Pearce and Joe Nuvolini have handled the various chores involved.**

**Finally**

**This article is a personal remembrance of this computer club and the fun we had and the people we have met through the club.**

**I remember having a couple of great picnics. A great deal of coffee and donuts provided by the various volunteers has been consumed. More recently, we have heard all about the computer shows in Las Vegas. Just think of all the programs there have been over the years. Some of them have been given by professionals, but many more have been given by our own members. There is so much knowledge and we love sharing it with each other. Thanks P\*PCompAS for 25 great years and hopefully many more.**