



P*PCompAS

**Pikes Peak Computer Application Society
40-Year History of the Society
By Toni Logan, Member, March 2020**



This history is written in two parts. Part I was written after the society was in existence for 25 years. Part II covers the following 15 years.

Part I

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 25th 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 interconnectibility 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 nonprofit 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.

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.

Part II

In 1981 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' was the big movie, Ronald Reagan became President, the term "Internet" was first mentioned, MSDOS was released and the Pikes Peak Computer Application Society was formed. Now, we find ourselves 40 years old and still going pretty strong.

There have been a lot of changes in the past 15 years since I first wrote the history of our club. Television went from analog to digital and we had to buy those boxes for the TVs if you didn't have cable until we got smart TVs. Computers have changed too in design. We have the all-in-one and no more 3 1/2-inch discs and in most cases no CD drive.

We started in the 80's with MSDOS and quickly migrated to Windows and since have gone through Windows XP, Vista, Version 8 and 8.1, and lastly and forever, evidently Windows 10.

Apple released the iPhone in 2007 and the iPad in 2010. A lot of us drank the Kool-Aid and joined the OS crowd. Not to mention the new watches that put your iPhone on your wrist.

The club has been lucky to have so many who have served as officers and committee chairs over the years. The WebBoard was overseen by John Pearce and housed by Dave Hughes and then Jon Peters. John has also served as President, Vice-President, and served on the Board of Directors

Joe Nuvolini has managed the website, our obligations to the government and APCUG, plus taking care of our computer equipment and arranging the tables at our breakfast meetings. Joe has been President and served on the Board of Directors.

Ilene Steinkruger, Phyllis Butler, Carol Stanton, and Ann Titus have handled the membership duties over the past 15 years.

When we finally got a sound system including microphones so that we can

hear every word said, A J Whelan has overseen that department.

Greg Lenihan has been the newsletter editor since 1996, a yeoman's service. There have been so many wonderful articles in the newsletter. He also handled the coffee duties until David George relieved him in 2016.

We have had the pleasure of receiving our coffee from Starbucks at the Citadel Crossing for many years. Between Pat Krieger, Warren Hill, and Ilene Steinkruger, we have had tasty doughnuts for our meetings each month.

Bill Berkman, Frank Fraser, and Gene Bagenstos served on the nominating committee. The Librarians have been Paul Major and Paul Godfrey. Bob Logan and Cary Quinn managed the drawings for the better part of the past 15 years.

The Board of Directors has consisted of so many of our members over the past 15 years. Joe Nuvolini, Chuck Blaney, George Francis, Bill Berkman, Jim Way, Dave Guevara, Greg Lenihan, Ilene Steinkruger, Gene Bagenstos, Norm Miller, Bob Blackledge, Warren Hill, John Pearce, Peter Rallis, Paul Godfrey, Ann Titus, Harvey McMinn, and Jeff Towne.

The Treasurer's duties have been ably handled by Bill Berkman, Ilene Steinkruger, Jim Way, Dennis Conroy, Bill Gardner, and now Chuck Harris.

The Vice-President and programs chairman have been Cary Quinn, John Pearce, Harry Birkner, Laura Pellerin, Bonnie Snyder, Bob Blackledge, Harvey McMinn, and Jeff Towne.

The Secretary's job is to take the minutes and has been done since 2007 by Bob Blackledge, Pat Krueger, Bill Abell, Cary Quinn, and Phyllis Butler.

Our presidential leader's duties have been handled by Paul Godfrey, Joe Nuvolini, Gene Bagenstos, John Pearce, and Cary Quinn.

We have had a good representation of all the members as officers and on the committees over the years. A great many of our presentations have been made by members of P*PCompAS. The club couldn't function without them.

In 2006, a volunteer lunch program was instituted to thank those who volunteered during the year. We first went to Bambinos on Platte Ave until the building was torn down and we then went to Old Chicago at Academy and Austin Bluffs Parkway. A big thanks to Joe Nuvolini, Bob Blackledge and Ilene

Steinkruger for arranging our yearly lunches.

Speaking of presentations, we have had a wide variety of subjects over the past 15 years. As times changed, we have had to rely on our own members or videos for programs instead of vendors. We have had so many that I won't try to list them all.

We had SKYPE meetings with Gene Barlow quite frequently and presentations from members who attended the annual CES and APCUG meetings in Las Vegas. The weatherman from KKTU, Brian Bledsoe, was a presenter. We have had security experts, digital programs, 3D printing, and a Pikes Peak Library representative. In addition, many programs on systems and even an FBI agent, Bitcoin, and hearing loss.

Our meetings have been held at the Springs Community Church for many years now. We moved into the new annex in 2005 and the room was eventually remodeled and enlarged. We have given annual gifts to the church for letting us have our meetings there. We paid for and installed the Internet connection in the new annex.

Our breakfast meetings were held at the Country Buffet at Academy and Galley Rds. We briefly met at the Country

Buffet on Academy while the new building was constructed at Citadel Crossing. In 2019, Country Buffet closed and we moved to the Golden Corral on Powers. Everyone enjoys getting together once a month for good food and good conversation.

Members Warren Hill, Bill Kennedy, and Bill Everett collected used computers to be sent to a sister city in Mexico through the Rotary Club. One of the great things about our club is the Around the Room segment of our meetings and the willingness of each of us to help our members.

Lastly, we have lost quite a few members in the last 15 years. Some have merely moved away and others sadly, have passed away. We have memorialized them in the newsletter and miss them forever. Bill & Barbara Everett who perished in the 2012 Waldo Canyon fire had a trail dedicated to them at the Mountain Shadows Park in 2014.

I happily served as President, Secretary, and Board member over the past 15 years. This is my memory and research of the last 15 years of the Pikes Peak Computer Application Society. If I have missed one of your memories, please share it with the club.



A Volunteer's Luncheon at Bambino's in 2007.