



ROUNDTABLE

The Denver Radio Club Newsletter

September 2008

Since 1917

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gerry Villhauer-W0GV

Hello All,

August was a very busy month. Our DRC Hamfest was a great success. We had a larger attendance than last year and we received lots of positive comments from attendees that our Hamfest is at the top of their list. I am very pleased to hear that. Thanks to Bryan, KB0A, our hamfest chairman, for the best one yet. The other big one, the DNC has come and gone without any big catastrophes as far as I am aware. If you were involved with The Salvation Army operations you know they were prepared and our club was a part of that. There were a dozen or more mobile kitchen at the York St. garage from several parts of the country just in case. We were lucky that they were not put into service. The DRC members manned communications at York Street for many hours over the period of the convention. I would like to thank Oscar, K0SSE, for all his work and organization for The Salvation Army communications operation and also to all the members that assisted. I will not attempt to name each member here but if you helped, THANKS! The new Kenwood VHF repeater that we voted on for our Hudson site was approved by the board and is on order. We look forward to getting Hudson up and running with a brand new piece of gear.

August was a great month for new members, we gained 10 in all. Wonderful! I would like to welcome new DRC members Barbara Aleksick, KD0EBZ, Leo Barrios, WN0B, Jim Burt, AC0KB, Ronald Castle, N3TOA, Michael Hazlett, KB0UIG, Frank Ivan, K0FEI, Judith Ivan, KOJAI, Ventura Olague, KC0MEX, Ray Randolph, KC0EMF and Ryan Straughan, N0RYN. Thank you for choosing the Denver Radio Club as your club. Please come to the meetings and activities and be an active member.

Thanks to Bill Rinker, W6OAV for our August program on Sporadic E. I believe Bill answered a lot of question about the E's. Our September program will be another interesting subject with a live demonstration presented by Dave Baysinger, WG0N. Every time we watch TV, listen to broadcast radio, talk on our cell phone, send a fax, talk on Echolink, make a bank transaction, buy with a credit card or make an airline reservation, we use satellites. Circling Earth at a distance of 22.5 thousand miles, hundreds of satellites receive microwave energy and repeating it back to the surface day and night and year after year. But how do they work? How does the new digital world work through them? How do we find them with dish antennas that have over 40db gain? What does geo-stationary mean anyway? Come find the answers and talk over an uplink through the Americom AMC-4 bird. Bring up the DRC web page by sending a signal 45,000 miles through space. See the antenna we'll use at the link below.

<http://www.sepatriot.com/txfly1.0ku.htm>

It's all "Magic", so let's have fun...and bring friends. Ham radio works through satellites too. Come a bit early and help WG0N setup the gear. Break out from 450 Mhz "long waves," and get into really short-wave radio.

See you all at the meeting September 17th at the St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 11202 West Jewell Ave., Lakewood, CO. That is about two blocks West of Kipling on West Jewell. And remember to check our website, w0tx.org, for lots of important information about the DRC. The Elmer Session and Tech Meeting start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Meeting and Program at 7:30 p.m.

73
Gerry, W0GV

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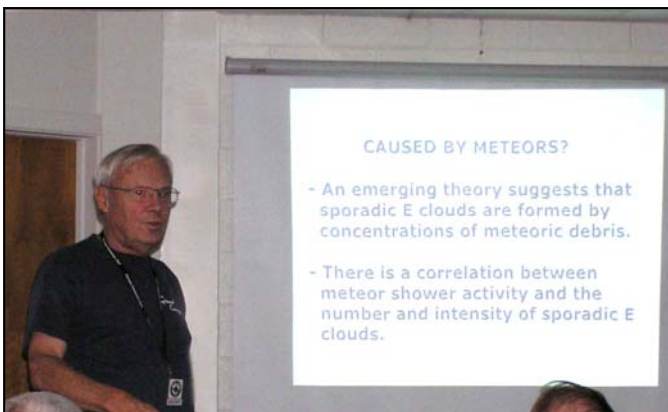
AUGUST MEETING - WHAT'D I MISS

By Bill W6OAV

There was almost standing room only at this month's meeting. There were 39 attendees!



After introductions, Jerry, W0GV, gave a report on the antenna installation work party at Centennial Cone. (See Centennial Cone article) Bob, KC0CZ, added to Jerry's report by describing the work party activities as he projected pictures that he had taken during the work party. Following Bob's presentation, Oscar, K0SSE, presented several remaining certificates of appreciation to members who had contributed to the Field Day activities. After the presentations, W0GV discussed the need to purchase a Kenwood VHF repeater for Hudson. He made a motion for approval of the purchase. The motion was moved and approved by the attendees.



Bill, W6OAV, rounded out the meeting with a presentation titled "Sporadic E - What is it, how do I find it and how do I work it?" As a special treat he played audio recordings of Sporadic E beacons and actual Sporadic E contacts.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bill - W6OAV

This report presents an overview of the main items discussed at the August technical committee meeting.

COMBINER AT SQUAW

Goal: Install and share a UHF transmitting combiner.

- This project is still under discussion as to when, how and who will be on the combiner.

145.49/448.625 Relocation Project

Goal: Relocate antennas and repeaters to Centennial Cone.

WA9TVH was at Centennial Cone while this meeting was in progress. Orlen:

- Found that the shield was broken on the VHF antenna connection. The antenna will need to be lowered and fixed before it is mounted up on the tower.
- Connected the VHF repeater to a vacant antenna on the building.
- Removed the VHF receiver which had extreme internal noise.
- Will replace the receiver with another one as soon as possible.

W0GV will coordinate a possible VHF antenna repair and installation party on September 6th.

147.33 Relocation Project

Goal: Bring a second 147.33 repeater on line at Hudson with a different PL.

- W0GV made a motion at the club meeting to buy a Kenwood repeater. The motion was moved and seconded by the attendees. The purchase will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Special Courtesy Tone/Announcement for Repeaters in Emergency Mode

Goal: Command up a special courtesy tone (such as a double beep) and periodic voice announcements to indicate to users that the repeater is in the emergency mode.

- The committee agreed that this ability is a good idea. W6OAV will discuss the feasibility with N0YIX.

WM Fire Station 4 Power Line Noise

Goal: Force Xcel to reduce power line noise which affects **all** systems at Station 4.

- Since Xcel performed work a few weeks ago, the noise issue seems to be improved. The packet

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gateway is working well. A couple of S meter checks over the past few weeks showed that the noise was at a more acceptable level. Will monitor over time as the severe impulse noise was very intermittent.

TSA projects

Goal, Modify the backup battery activation/deactivation procedures to reflect the new SA HF station configuration.

- W6OAV will email a copy of the existing procedure to N1ETV. Lance will make notes on it and email back to Bill for updating.

145.49/448.625 Repeaters

Goal: Setup controllers to allow the repeaters to be inter-connected via Touch Tone commands.

- W6OAV will confer with WA9TVH and N0YIX to verify the feasibility of doing this both from hardware and software prospective.

HF NVIS/Non-NVIS Telpac Gateway at the SA

Goal: Provide an NVIS HF Telpac Gateway as an alternate for existing VHF Telpac Gateways.

- W6OAV will get together soon with N4ATA and KC0VTU to begin "engineering" this project.

CENTENNIAL CONE PROJECT

By Bill - W6OAV

Photos by Bob - KC0CZ, David - KD0CJU and Doug - N4ATA

On August 9th a work party took place on Centennial Cone. The goal was to mount the 145.49 and the 448.625 antennas between top two horizontal arms of the 150' tower.



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the site. Figure 2 shows the view from the ground level looking east.

Since afternoon weather conditions were a concern, work began at 7 AM. Dave, WG0N, Dave, K0HTX, and Frank, N3PQ, arrived early to start prepping the site. Orlen, WA9TVH, also arrived early with his trailer FULL of all the equipment needed for the project.



Figure 2

WG0N, and K0HTX, climbed the tower carrying a small rope which would be used to pull up the larger ropes and pulleys. Meanwhile, WA9TVH and N3PQ worked on the ground setting up the equipment. Brian, N0TBM, then arrived, climbed to the top of the tower and out the North arm to set up the pulley for hoisting the antenna. While the setup work was progressing, more ground crew members arrived. Once the climbers were ready, the UHF antenna, with a lot of manipulation by the ground crew, was hoisted up the tower. After several modifications to the mounting hardware, the UHF antenna was mounted to the cross arms.

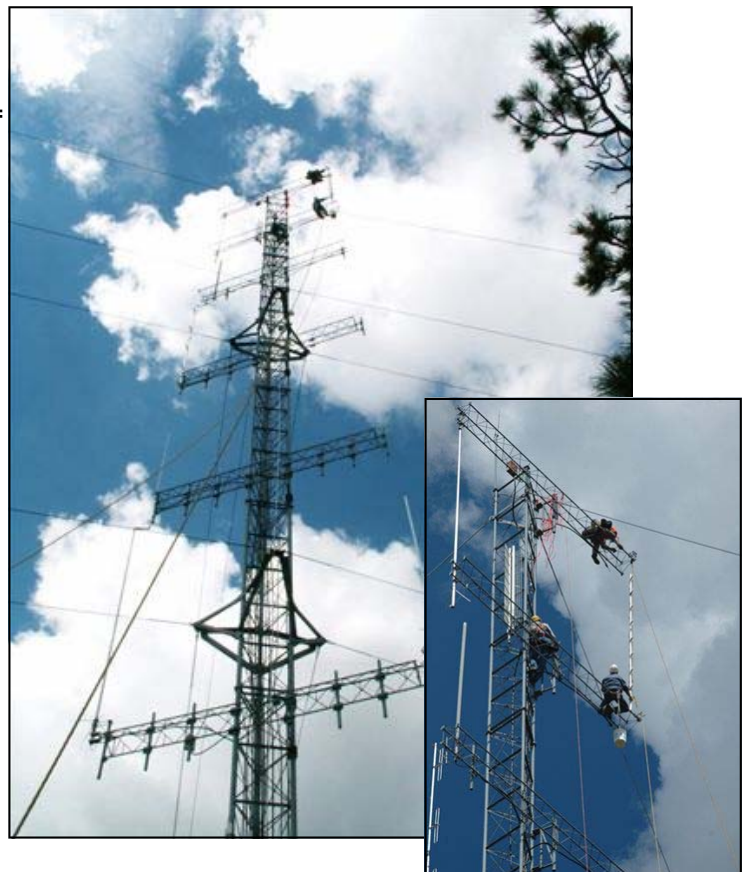


Photo above gives a perspective of the height the climbers had to climb and work. Inset is a close-up of the installation antenna and climbers.

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While the antenna installation was progressing, WA9TVH checked out the repeaters and the UHF antenna.



Figure 5

Figure 5 shows Emit, W0UAW, and WA9TVH checking out the UHF antenna. Figure 6 shows the UHF repeater on the left and the VHF repeater on the right.



Figure 6

The UHF installation took almost 6 hours. The weather was starting to turn bad and the climbers were nearing exhaustion. The decision was made to temporarily leave the VHF antenna in place near the base of the tower and come back in the very near future to move it to the top of the tower.

Once the crew left the site it became obvious there was an issue with the 145.490-VHF repeater. Orlan - WA9TVH went back to the site a week later and found the shield had separated from the antenna connector. Since the repair couldn't be made at that time, he moved the coax to an unused antenna on the site building. However, he discovered the receiver had excessive internal noise which masked most incoming signals, so, he took the receiver home for repair. Plans are now in place to resolve these issues in the next couple of weeks. Let hope the weather holds.



Very special thanks to our climbers, N0TBM, K0HTX, and WG0N.

Additionally, I'd like to thank Dave-K0HTX, Bob-KC0CZ, and Doug-N4ATA for providing written information used to compile this article. Also, a big thank you to the following for their hard work at the site: KE0SJ, KD0CJU, WB0TUB, WK0C, N4ATA, N3PQ, KC0UUO, K0FLP, N0TBM, W0UAW and KC0CZ.

2008 HAMFEST REPORT

By Bryan - KB0A



Well, after months of planning and the frantic days just before the DRC 2007 Hamfest is now in the history books. Once again it was a popular event with great participation by the local ham community. Our attendance reached a new high with over 400 enthusiasts showing up. We sold all our tables (85 total) with vendors coming from as far away as Cheyenne, Colorado Springs and Arizona.



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The addition of a second conference room for testing



allowed us to present four technical forums. Bill, W6OAV, presented two sessions. The first was "Sporadic E Communications" and the

second "Radials Demystified." Rob, AJ0C, and Bill, W6OAV had a Q&A session about HAM related issues. Rob, AJ0C also conducted a Q&A session for the new ham titled "You're A New Ham Where To From Here." All the sessions were well attended.

VE Testing started at 10 AM! Mel, K0MEL report there were 9 candidates with 6 new calls issued. Wally, AC0T, and his VE team did a great job, as usual, with about 67% of the test takers passing their exams.

Our kitchen staff presented a delicious assortment of tasty tidbits. From fresh donuts (Gerry, W0GV, was at the bakery by 7 AM to get them right out of the oven), and home-made chili to top the hot dogs. As well as the chips and sodas a new addition this year was the nachos which seemed to be well re-

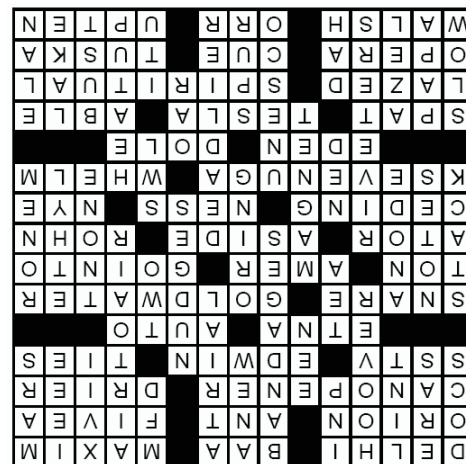


ceived. So I offer thanks to our kitchen workers, most of whom were spouses of club members, for their dedication and support.

More thanks to the many members who showed up Saturday night to assist in setting up the kitchen and exhibit hall. And, again to those, in many cases the same, members who helped us check in vendors, run the kitchen, sell tickets to those waiting in line and cleaning up afterwards.

Finally, a big *THANK YOU* goes out to the ham community for supporting us by making this year's event a resounding success.

We are looking forward to another block buster Hamfest next year.



Buy ~ Sell ~ Trade

For Sale

HF Station Package

1. Kenwood TS-430S HF Transceiver equipped with YK-88C CW Filter (500Hz), YK-88SN SSB Filter (1.8KHz), and FM-430 FM Unit. Transceiver modified for MARS/CAP.
2. Kenwood PS-30 DC Power Supply
3. Kenwood SP-120 Speaker
4. Kenwood AT-180 Antenna Tuner
5. Manuals for the above equipment

All in working condition. A couple of scratches in Transceiver. Was used as mobile. I do not have a microphone. Asking \$450 for package.

Bob Willson - Kc0cz Call 303-659-0517



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WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

WEATHER RADIOS AND DISASTER SUPPLY KITS

With winter rapidly approaching, every family should be prepared to face another season of destructive cold, storms and flooding. Every home should have a Disaster Supply Kit that includes a weather radio. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge all residents to act now to assemble their family's emergency supplies before the start of the winter storm season.

The National Weather Service forecasters provide routine weather programming at all times. During life-threatening weather conditions, the radios send out a special alarm tone. This is critical, because weather can turn deadly very fast. Ice Storms and flash flooding are two examples which can occur when people are sleeping or unaware of the forecast. Both can be deadly if people do not have an emergency plan or enough warning so that they can get to a safe place.








With a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, you will be alerted to dangerous weather and have time to take shelter. NOAA Weather Radios also broadcast warnings and information regarding technological disasters, such as chemical releases or oil spills. They can be purchased at most stores that sell electronic devices. Most run on batteries or have battery back-up.

Every home should be stocked with a supply kit and when storing the supplies, keep them easily accessible in case of an evacuation.

A Disaster Supply Kit should contain the following:

- Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking utensils / fuel, paper plates, plastic utensils
- Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- Clothing - seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes
- Medical supplies - first aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs
- Special Items - for infants and the elderly
- Toiletries - hygiene items
- Moisture wipes
- Flashlight - extra batteries
- Radio - battery-operated and NOAA weather radio
- Cash - (Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.)
- Important documents - in a waterproof container
Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items - Proper identification, immunization records, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, muzzle and leash.

Visit www.Ready.gov, and www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm for a thorough look into disaster preparedness and a more detailed list of emergency supplies. Also, www.Ready.gov/kids is an excellent resource for information on how to involve children in the process of assembling the family's Disaster Supply Kit.

September 2008		DRC Net Sunday 8:30pm Local				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day 	2	3 Learning Net 7pm	4	5	6
7 Grandparents Day 	8	9	10 Learning Net 7pm	11	12	13 ARRL VHF QSO Party Begins 1800U
14	15 ARRL VHF QSO Party Ends 0300U 	16	17 DRC Meeting Elmer 6:30pm General 7:30pm	18	19	20 ARRL 10GHz & Up Comp Int'l EME Comp
21 ARRL 10GHz & Up Comp Int'l EME Comp 	22 Ice Cream Cone Invented 1903 	23	24 Learning Net 7pm	25	26 Native American Day 	27
28	29	30				
						

Check www.ARRL.org for Contests and Rules!

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DRC REPEATERS

BAND	Freq / Shift / PL Tone	Additional Information
10m	29.620mHz (-100kHz) FM	
6m	53.090mHz (-1mHz)	
Packet	145.05mHz<>14.105mHz	
2m	145.490mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Linked to the 70cm - 448.625mHz machine.
2m	147.330mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Members Auto-Patch
1.25m	224.380mHz (-) 100Hz PL	
70cm	448.625mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Linked to the 2m - 145.490mHz machine.
70cm	449.350mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Wide area coverage with Echolink Node # 4140.

EDITOR'S NOTE

DRC members - this is your newsletter. If there is something which is club or amateur radio related that you'd like to see as a regular feature, email suggestions to the editor. Members are the heart and sole of The Denver Radio Club, if you have an expertise or an interest in a particular segment of ham radio that you'd like to write about, you may email your submissions to DRC_RT@comcast.net. Submission deadline is the 25th of the Month. Editor

Famous HAMs

Some people are born hams some achieve ham radio licenses and some have ham radio thrust upon them. Or something like that.

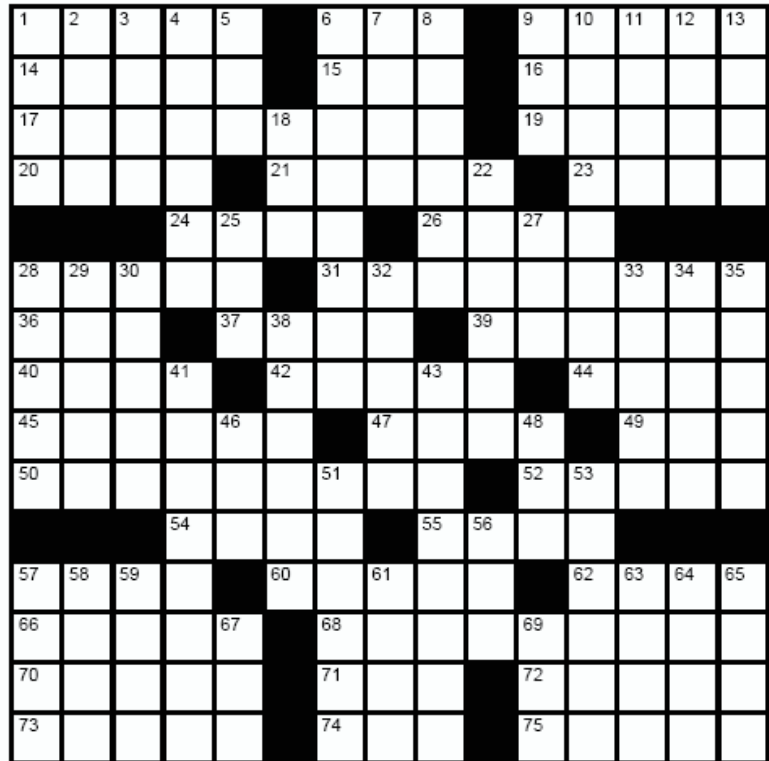
By Chris Codella, W2PA

Across

- 1. VU metro (not meter)
- 6. Call to Bo-peep
- 9. T.O.M.
- 14. TN made rig
- 15. Rear panel label
- 16. 7X neighbor
- 17. Used before flip tops
- 19. More unwet
- 20. Infrequent frame rate mode
- 21. Major Armstrong, familiarly
- 23. Wiring harness parts
- 24. IT9 peak
- 26. Prefix with -tuner
- 28. Kind of drum
- 31. Contact plating solution?
- 36. Boatanchor unit
- 37. Part of ARRL: Abbr.
- 39. Enter
- 40. Suffix with reson-
- 42. In reserve
- 44. Produces radiator supports
- 45. Giving up
- 47. GM monster place
- 49. Viking partner
- 50. Callsign of 31 across
- 52. Overcome utterly
- 54. First QTH?
- 55. Hand (out)
- 57. Small fight
- 60. Field unit?
- 62. Competent
- 66. Loafed around
- 68. Nonphysical, say
- 70. Met show
- 71. Feed lines to
- 72. Partner of 9-across
- 73. Rocking ham
- 74. Hockey's Bobby
- 75. DXpeditioner's instruction

Down

- 1. Manuals, slangily
- 2. Times past
- 3. Fuzz
- 4. ARRL president, and president's grandson
- 5. Rev. of out.
- 6. Wound covers
- 7. All over again
- 8. Of a heart chamber
- 9. Cap. unit
- 10. Missile type



- 11. Ancient WARC band?
- 12. Prof. org. with many ham members
- 13. Elser-Mathes Cup objective
- 18. Poetic dusk
- 22. Pushes, gently
- 25. Leaves in a bag
- 27. The one above six?
- 28. Two or more yagis, say
- 29. Do and so
- 30. Tube terminal
- 32. Gasket
- 33. Possible Congo prefix
- 34. ___ alcohol
- 35. Malyj Vysotskij prefix
- 38. Suffix with electro-
- 41. Force-12 element fasteners, say
- 43. More lethal
- 46. Homer's neighbor
- 48. Pre-ham?
- 51. Int'l org. promoting learning
- 53. What the shack might do with the amplifier on
- 56. Crew tool
- 57. QRS
- 58. Between Oscar and Quebec
- 59. Kind of antenna aimer
- 61. A receiver annoyance, briefly
- 63. Arrest
- 64. 47-across is one
- 65. Exuberance
- 67. CW word
- 69. Zone type

NOTE: Puzzle solution for this puzzle is located on page 5.