

# ROUNDTABLE

#### The Denver Radio Club Newsletter

Since 1917

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gerry Villhauer-W0GV

Hello DRC Members,

Some of you may have wondered why I have been absent from the airwaves and the DRC meetings and activities for the last several months. My wife Becky has been seriously ill for several years. Recently her health continued to decline at an increasing rate. She had several hospital stays followed by home hospice care and finally inpatient hospice care. On July 19th she gave up the long fight. We had a wonderful 41 years together when she departed this life and I miss her terribly. Besides me, she left behind two children, four grand children, many friends and a medical billing business. The family is helping pull it all together, keep the business running and take care of the hundreds of details. So you can see I have had little time for the DRC, ham radio or my other interests. It looks like this will continue for some time. The club officers have stepped in and kept the club going. I thank them for this. Please continue to give them your support. I hope to see you all real soon.

August 2009

Gerry, 1	W0GV			
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The most important resource the DRC has is NOT its repeaters, NOT its "in the black" treasury, NOT its interesting monthly meeting programs. It's the great DRC members. We have professionals and other fascinating people from all walks of life. Among the many, we have several media people, emergency experts, a computer system designer, an FAA aircraft inspector, a college electronics instructor, and several broadcast engineers. All of these folks add to the knowledge base of our club. But, the most important members are the newest ones. We welcome the following (6) people to the Denver Radio Club.

Pete Schroder, WM0P ~ Bill Hedeen, KB9AKD Ronald Tlachac, W9UW ~ Karen Tlachac, N9TLM Dwight DeWitt, WB0HBJ ~ J Dagel, KD0GTR

Bryan, KB0A reports he has made some progress in getting construction drop power restored to our West Metro fire station #4 site on the east side of Green Mountain. The station itself is to be torn down very soon to make way for a new and larger structure. We have been promised restoration of power during all construction phases. But until that actually happens, the 147.33 (PL 100 Hz) repeater, the HF packet gateway, the 6-

meter and 220 MHz repeaters are all off the air. We are promised that the systems will be powered up soon.

Oscar Hall, KOSSE, is one of our most informed members on the subject of emergency communications. Oscar planned our Field Day event this year and will present a program on the FD results and emergency preparedness. We hear that "best of event" awards will be announced. Come to the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 p.m. and discover why the 2009 Field Day was possibly the most successful for the DRC in over a decade. Directions to the meeting are at our website, w0tx.org.

The DRC annual Hamfest is this month (Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>) at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue freeway at Indiana. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with lots of gear and bargaining for all. Admission is \$5.00. Door prizes, VE testing and technical seminars are all part of the event. If you've never been to a really well run Hamfest, come along. You're in for a treat.

Save the date of September 16<sup>th</sup> for a very special DRC meeting. It's time to elect new board members and officers, AND we have a program about "Lightning." Mike Higgins, K6AER is a consulting engineer who presented his talk at HAMCON recently and has accepted an invitation from the DRC to be with us in September. If you saw the Monday night stormy light show several weeks ago, you may have wondered if anything can save your radio gear (and your home) from millions of volts from the sky. Mike will shock you, (bad choice of words?) with his knowledgeable report.

See you all at the meeting August 19th at the St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, 11202 West Jewell Ave., Lakewood, CO. That is about two blocks west of South 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 pm. Followed by the regular meeting and program at 7:30 pm.

73, for Gerry, W0GV...

Dave Baysinger, WG0N Vice President

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W0TX http://www.w0tx.org

#### JULY MEETING - WHAT'D I MISS

By Bill - W6OAV

As usual, the meeting was well attended. Jim, K0TOR, began the meeting with introductions. He then gave an overview of the club's field day activities. The meeting was then turned over to Paul Olson, K0WSU, who is a Professional Engineer with the Federal Highway Administration. He showed a short video from the 1930's about the beginning of controlling traffic using traffic signals. Some of this traffic control philosophy is in use today. He followed with slides showing present signal operation and coordination.



On display were some of the past and present equipment and how it operated. Referring to the picture the unit on the left is an old timer that used cams to push on switches to turn lights on and off. Paul said that there are 10.000 of these old units still in operation in New York City. It was surprising how today's traffic control systems are so archaic. Today's traffic control systems require on-site programming. The vast majority have no remote programming or control. So to establish synchronized timing of traffic flow, a specific traffic control box must be manually time synchronized with each adjacent control boxes, feeding into a given intersection. When a light control timing sequence is interrupted by an emergency vehicle or extended time period for a pedestrian walk light, this time increment is subtracted from the time budget of the next traffic light sequence. So if you are waiting for a green light on the next traffic light sequence, it may enough time for one or two vehicles to pass. Also there are numerous intersections that have video cameras installed. These cameras are used only for monitoring traffic flow patterns. If a traffic problem is observed, nothing can be done real time to remedy the problem. (It is no surprise that we drivers get so frustrated with traffic lights.) Paul said there are no colleges or universities in the United States that offer a

Bachelor degree in traffic control. Therefore the majority of training takes place on-the-job. Thank you Paul, for a very interesting and informative program.

The meeting ended with door prizes given to lucky attendees.

# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bill - W6OAV

There was no tech committee meeting this month due to the "summer" absence of about half of the committee members.

However, several members of the tech committee were busy a few weeks ago. The picture shows K0HTX and WG0N installing the UHF antenna on the left side of the tower for our upcoming voter repeater system. The antenna on the right serves the 147.330MHz repeater. KB0A and N3PQ comprised the ground crew for the installation. Thanks guys.



#### SIDE NOTE

A special "Thank You" goes out to SATERN members Jim Beall, K0TOR; Gerry Singer, KC0CAT; and Barry Wilson, KA0BBQ who helped with the setup and operation of our display at The Salvation Army July 4th "Kool 105 Family Fireworks" show in Arvada. There was a huge crowd and with the presence of a mobile kitchen, command post and tower trailer provided great representation of The Salvation Army. We had an operational 2m/70cm ham station as well as one setup on 20m/40m. We talked to some folks about ham radio and Emergency Disaster Services.

Thanks also to Gerry Singer who took our command post and tower trailer to the Little Fire Muster in Littleton where we won a prize for the display.

Mike Gelski KB0PVD 303-906-4695 Coordinator, Metro Denver Emergency Disaster Services and SATERN Coordinator Western Territory USA The Salvation Army

#### FIELD DAY 2009 EXERCISE

By Oscar - K0SSE

Well the rent is paid for the use of the Hudson repeater site for another year. Thanks to the efforts of 17 or 18 members and nonmembers of the Denver Radio Club. This group really worked hard on Friday the 26th to clean up the weeds and trash at the old AT&T facility. Thanks to the recent rainy weather, a large group of the weeds reached a height of anywhere from 5 to 6 feet and were very difficult to remove. It took a lot of effort and a lot of sweat to get the job done.



What helped boost the morale of everyone was the wonderful barbecue provided by our own super great specialist cook Paul Meenach, KD0CXX, the food he provided was really great, and it made the work at the facility a little easier. There wasn't a single complaint about his cooking. You should have been there just to get that gourmet meal. (He even provided breakfast Saturday morning, and no one complained about it either).



Well Field Day got underway on 27th of July as scheduled. Of course, Murphy had to step in here and there, but in most cases, we were ready for bad luck Murphy and were able to handle things well, which was attested to by a visit from the Colorado ARRL section manager, Jeff Ryan. He was making the rounds of some of the various Field Day sites and ours was the first one he visited. He agreed we were following the rules and things looked good. Thank you Jeff for your encouraging comments. We had things pretty well set up, when lo and behold, a photojournalists showed up from Fox Channel 31. I think he was pretty amazed with our set up with six stations; how we were running one of our transceivers using solar power; our information display and the 50 foot tower that had been set up. He interviewed our club vice president, Dave Baysinger, W0GN. But alas, I don't think we made the nine o'clock news. We will just have to try again next year.

Well, the Salvation Army, as promised, showed up on time with the canteen truck to provide meal service for both Saturday and Sunday, Gerry Singer drove the vehicle, and we want to give a big thank you to him for bringing the truck and to several club members operated the canteen for the good meals provided. Thanks to Earl, Rita, and John.

Right on schedule, Jim Beall, K0TOR, started his Anderson power pole class. It was well attended. Everyone said they gained some much-needed knowledge and welcomed the idea of having such a class presented during the exercise. Thanks Jim.

The presidential challenge did get underway. The presidential team was soundly beaten, but I'm not going to tell you won just yet. You'll have to come to our August meeting to see who the winners were. You might be surprised.

All in all, our operations this Field Day went very well. It looks like we may score between 3000 and 3500 points. I want to be cautious on this, because, ARRL may not agree with what I consider to be bonus point credit. We will just have to wait and see. However, I think you can go out to the ARRL website and see what they are willing to accept. Otherwise we will have to wait until the December issue of QST comes out.

See you at the August meeting.

More Field Day 2009 photos from a unique perspective follow... Thanks Dave - KOHTX







DRCFest is here!

Are you ready for the big one Colorado?

Please note, if you are looking for Part 3 of The Inverted "L" article it will be in next month newsletter. So keep your eyes peeled.

#### SALVATION ARMY NEWS

July 25 – Saturday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Training in Fort Collins: Introduction to EDS and Serve Safe (Food Safety) (Canteen Orientation)

Aug 8 – Smokey's 65th Birthday Party from 1-4 in Monument, CO. There will be a parade through town and events at the city park

August 16 – Sunday, 10 AM - 2 PM Air National Guard Family Day in Aurora (meals for 3000 of our closest National Guard friends and family)

August 20 - Thurs, 8 am - 4 PM, SUNCOR/Adams County Large

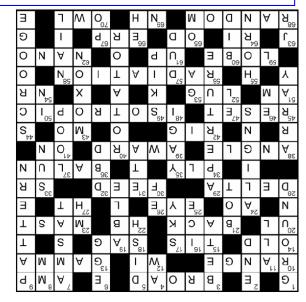




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#### **UP COMING EVENTS**





The Denver Radio Club Hamfest Jefferson County Fair Grounds

When: Sunday August 16 - 8:30am to 2pm

For more information! contact Bryan - KBOA Volunteers Needed drcfest@w0tx.org Food ~ Fun

Lots of vendors with everything you need

Computers ~ Radios ~ Antennas

Parts + Pieces

You name it and you'll see it here!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
						1 ARRL UHF Contest Begins 1800U		
2 ARRL UHF Contest Ends 1800U	3	4	5 Learning Net 7pm Full Moon	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12 <b>Learning Net</b> 7pm	13	14	15 Setup for Hamfest		
16 The Big One! DRC Hamfest 8:30am - 2pm	17	18	19 DRC Meeting Elmer 6:30pm General 7:30pm	20	21	22		
23/30	24	25	26 Learning Net 7pm	27	28	29		

#### **DRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

K0SSE

W6OAV

KB0MQQ

AG0S

AJ0C

DRC BUARD OF DIRECTORS									
President	W0GV	Gerry Villhaurer	303-467-0223	W0GV@hotmail.com					
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Oscar Hall

Bill Rinker

Lloyd Plush

Carolyn Wolf

Robert Rude

George McCray

#### DRC REPEATERS

Field Day

APRS Chair

Benevolent

RT Editor

Education

Tech. Committee Chair

VO IVE	EATERS	
BAND	Freq / Shift / PL Tone	Additional Information
10m	29.620mHz (-100kHz) FM	Not In Service At This Time!
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	Local Area, Members Auto-Patch Does Not TX a PL!
2m	147.330mHz (-) 131.8Hz PL	NE Area Remote Does Not TX a PL!
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.

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### **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 August. **Editor** 

# Puzzle Page

## "A Ham's Pie in the Sky"

Puzzle By H. Ward Silver, NOAX ARRL's Crossword Puzzler

It's the middle of summer - what better time for antenna work? You know what they say about the final result working so much better if the work is done in heat or rain! So get out there and haul up those skyhooks, dig those radials, and change those rotators! And when you're all done and looking for something to do while you throw down a cold one, here's a handy crossword puzzle about antennas.

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

#### Across

- 3. Perpendicular to an axis of an antenna
- 7. Makes a signal louder
- 10. Where antennas are tested
- 12. Instead of hi, we now want this kind of fi 13. Unbalanced impedance match
- 14. Venerable antique
- 15. The ARRL's on-line technical reference (abbr.)
- 18. Flex under one's own weight
- 20. Safety lab (abbr.)
- 21. Forms an important ratio with front
- 22. Swiss prefix
- 23. Tube that holds up an antenna
- 24. Amateur satellite prefix
- 25. Bolt with a ring for a head
- 27. British abbreviation for high voltage
- 28. Triangular antenna
- 30. To apply energy
  33. Opposite of 63 Down
- 34. Single layer of several
- 36. Keeps currents even
- 38. Amount of difference in bearing
- 39. Prize given for merit
- 41. Powered up
- 42. Slang for radio
- 43. The Show-Me State (abbr.)
- 45. Start again or go back to the beginning
- 48. Radiates the same everywhere
- 51. Oldest mode for voice
- 52. Terminal that attaches to a screw
- 54. Number (abbr.)56. Energy given off by an antenna
- 59. Antennas have mains and sides
- 61. Towards the sky
- 62. Milli-micro (prefix)
- 64. Smallest of the 48 contiguous states (abbr.)
- 65. Diameter measured outside a tube (abbr.)
- 66. Radiated power taking into account line losses and antenna gain (abbr.)
- 68. A wire antenna of indeterminate length
- 69. The Granite State (abbr.)
- 70. Scares birds off antennas...maybe

1		2		3			4	5		6		7	8	9
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	59		60			61					62			
63		64			65			66		67				
68							69			70				

#### Down

- 1. An electrical imaging plane
- 2. Where a Zepp antenna is fed
- 3. Balanced match dubbed "hairpin"
- 4. Sigh of disappointment
- Bowl-shaped antenna
- 6. Round insulator
- 7. Satellite organization
- 8. 25.4 of these in an inch (abbr.) 9. Graph showing antenna radiation by direction
- 11. Opposite of none
- 16. Builds up on antennas in winter time
- 17. Waves that bounce off the ionosphere
- 19. Can perform a task if willing
- 21. Slang for automaton
- 23. A giga-pico-henry (abbr.)
- 24. Brings together so that they fit
- 26. Type of transistor circuit with no voltage gain, but lots of current gain (abbr.)
- 29. A measure of an antenna's ability to capture signal power
- 31. Guess at an arrival time (abbr.)
- 32. Measure of gain with respect to a dipole (abbr.)
- 33. What makes the ionosphere
- 35. Type of beam antenna
- 37. Circular element
- 38. Antenna with multiple elements
- 40. What turns antennas
- 43. Inventor of a famous rectangle
- 44. Bah, humbug!
- 46. Electromagnetic (abbr.)
- 47. Complement to "az'
- 49. Bounce of a signal
- 50. Not out
- 53. Measure of wire thickness (abbr.)
- 55. Antenna that looks like a megaphone
- 57. Antenna that doesn't work well
- 58. What everything looks like when all you've got is a hammer
- 60. Placed during auctions
- 63. Indicates a smaller version of something
- 65. Affectionate term for husband (abbr.)
- 66. The two types of fields in a radio wave
- 67. Where the boxes are (abbr.)