



ROUNDTABLE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gerry Villhauer-W0GV

Hello DRC Members,

"January 2010"...as I type that, I am thinking where did the year go? It was not a good year for me as many of you know, and I for one, am ready for a new year.

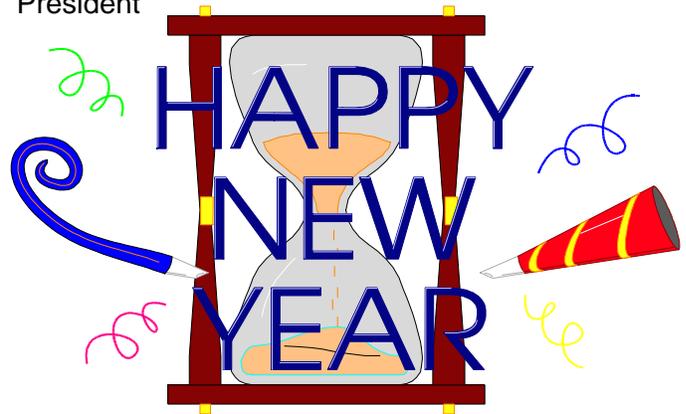
WHAT A PARTY IT WAS! That's the reports I am getting from the members and officers. Our DRC Holiday Party was as huge success. My regret is that I was basking in the minus 15 degree weather in Minneapolis and not here with all of you. Thanks to Bryan, KB0A, our very capable vice president, for taking over and managing the activities. And to Tim Samaras, WJ0G, a very big thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to give us a *Fantastic Program*. Keep watching for Tim and his colleagues on the Discovery Channel series "Storm Chasers".

Our January program will be presented by Bryan, KB0A, and feature an introduction to Home Automation. You may recall articles on automated houses in those old issues of Popular Science in the 1960s and 1970s. Well, whether you are aware of it or not home automation has been available and accessible for almost 20 years. Bryan will take us through the basics of home automation; what it is; what it can do; how it works and how you can get started. I have seen teasers on this subject and I think you will find it very interesting.

I would like to welcome new DRC members: David Knight, KDOGBI, George Knight, KD0BSY and Robert Sterner, KN0BOB. Please check in on the nets, come to the meetings and activities and remain an active member.

See you all at the meeting January 20th 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, www.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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Gerry, W0GV
President



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DECEMBER MEETING - WHAT'D I MISS

DRC'S HOLIDAY DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS

By Bill – W6OAV

This year's Holiday dinner was a fun and very successful event. There were 98 folks in attendance.



The photo above shows only about a third of the group (I need to buy a wide angle lens!). Bryan, KB0A, began the dinner meeting by having the attendees introduce themselves. He then gave an overview of the latest club happenings.

After the overview, Bryan introduced our guest speaker, Tim Samaras, WJ0G. Tim is a "Storm Chaser".



He is an engineer who puts himself in the path of tornadoes and then deploys weather probes that he designed. These probes measure the metrological events in the vortex of the tornado. Tim has scored many firsts in his activities.

Tim's video presentation covered his tornado chasing "adventures" which were amazing. He also gave a presentation about his project to video record lightning leaders. His camera system is totally amazing as are his lightning videos. Check out the videos on You Tube. Tim's activities are well documented on <http://thunderchase.com>.

The meeting ended with several lucky attendees winning the door prizes.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

No committee meeting in December due to the Holiday Meeting.

MY LOOP ANTENNA EXPERIENCE – PT 2

By Irv – K6DUX

The antenna was laid out on the garage floor once again and the piece parts were assembled to check all of the dimensions before final soldering.



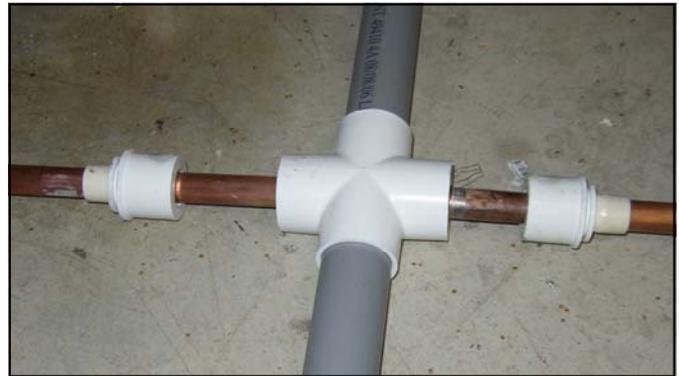
Starting at the capacitor each of the octagon sections were soldered in turn. I first had the control wire through the sections of the loop but after soldering the first few sections I found that the control wire had melted. So I used it to pull a stainless steel wire through the original sections and the remaining unsoldered sections and then pulled a new control wire through the loop after all of the soldering was done.

(Continued on page 3)

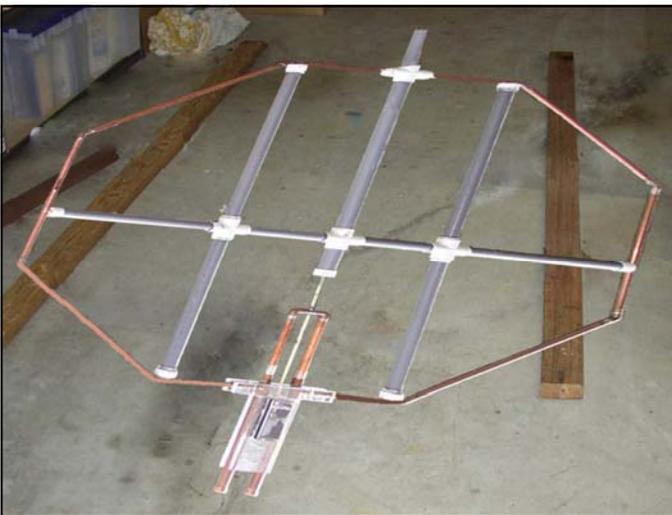
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The initial thought was to support the loop with a simple T section made out of schedule 40 PVC where the top of the T was at the middle of the loop. Almost immediately it became apparent that this would not work as the trombone capacitor at the top of the antenna would flex which caused it to bind. So I went back to the drawing board.

An H configuration was then constructed out of schedule 40 PVC for the cross arms and the main support out of schedule 80, highlighted in the photo below.



The photo above shows the supporting technique of the bottom section of the loop.



Upon completion of construction the loop was placed into a test position on my lawn. *Photo Below* A very simple faraday feed system was built out of coax. A small loop was cut at the top and the center wire soldered to the braid of the other side. (For an illustration, refer to the diagram in the Introduction to this series).

The loop was unsoldered and PVC end pieces and center sections were drilled and threaded over the loop so that the arms and main support were fully secured.



This photo shows the bottom support with the control wire being threaded down the inside of the main vertical support.

Part 3 will cover testing the antenna.

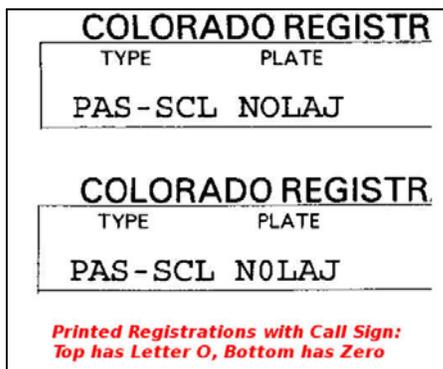
BEWARE - CHECK YOUR HAM PLATE REGISTRATION!

By Bill – W6OAV

If you have ham call plates containing either a zero or a "O", BEWARE!

Two club members recently discovered that they both had been driving for over 20 years with invalid ham plates! One ham is me. The other ham is N0LAJ. It turns out that other hams could easily have this problem.

Here is the issue. On the call plates, the zero has a slash. The "O" does not have a slash. On the registration form, the "O" is almost a full circle, whereas the zero is more elliptical and does not have a slash. See Below One has to look closely to see the difference. The state is often confusing the two characters when they input the call plate into their data base.



W6OAV's Issue: When I regularly received my registration form, I routinely glanced at the plate number to insure it was for the proper car. I never noticed that the "O" on the registration form was actually a zero. I found out about the discrepancy when I received a parking ticket from RTD. The ticket was for parking in the Park and Ride and not paying as the plate did not register as being in the RTD district. Later, I went to the DMV. Their data base showed that my plate did not exist in their data base! After several weeks they were able to correct the registration.



N0LAJ's Issue: When Bill heard about my issue, he checked his registration form and guess what! His registration form showed the zero as an "O"! So, down the DMV he went. The over 20 year old error was corrected in the DMV database within 10 minutes.



This registration error may explain why both Bill and I had driven past the remote auto emissions testing vans on the various freeway entrances ramps for many years and never received a pass: but always passed with flying colors at the dynamo testing stations!

The moral of this story is....your zero can be registered as an "O" and visa versa. I guess Bill and I are good drivers since obviously a cop has never run our plates in over 20 years of driving.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee considered S 1755 on December 10. After it passed through Committee, it was placed on the Senate's calendar to be voted on. "We are grateful to Committee Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins for sponsoring the bill and arranging for its swift consideration and passage by the Senate," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

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Similar in language to HR 2160 (also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 that was introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX-18]), S 1755 calls on DHS to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief and then to submit a report to Congress no more than 180 days after the bill becomes law. The study shall:

Include a review of the importance of Amateur Radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States, as well as recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts and improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

Identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other federal departments, agencies and Congress.

In conducting the study, S 1755 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to "utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications communities."

S 1755 makes note of the fact that Section 1 of the Joint Resolution entitled Joint Resolution to Recognize the Achievements of Radio Amateurs, and To Establish Support for Such Amateurs as National Policy -- approved October 22, 1994 (Public Law 103-408) -- included a finding that stated: "Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of Amateur Radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit."

The bill also pointed out that Section 1805(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 757(c)) directs the Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate their activities with ham and Amateur Radio operators among the 11 other emergency organizations, such as ambulance services, law enforcement and others.

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Received by KC0UOQ via email.

I thought I would let you know that I just passed the Extra Class exam on Oct. 30,2009, and I am quite pleased. Your instructors Rob Rude & Bill, WA3H, were very competent and did their job well. Both were quite experienced and both Navy trained. I also served in the Navy for 5 years.

I now go from KBOZTU to KB0ZTU / AE, thanks to your extra-class training and instruction.

73,
Bob Aleksick

PERSONAL HAM RADIO CALENDAR

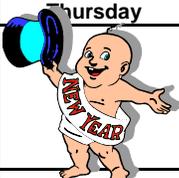
During an Elmer session in January 2009 DRC Club meeting everyone was encouraged to create or update their personal ham radio activity calendar for 2009. It's that time of year again. Here are just a few of the items you may want to add to your 2010 calendar. As the months go by watch the RoundTable for updates.

- January 16, 10** – NCARC Winterfest, Lincoln Center, Fort Collins
- February 7, 10** – ARA Swapfest, Adams County Fairgrounds
- April 3, 10** – Longmont ARC, LarcFest, Boulder County Fairgrounds
- June 26-27, 10** – ARRL Field Day
- August 22, 10** – DRC Hamfest, Jefferson County Fairgrounds

You may wish to start a calendar of your own. Some other non-amateur radio dates you may want to remember are:

1. Your Anniversary (very important, if you want to live long)
2. Family member's birthdays (especially your mother-in-law)
3. Religious Holidays & Church events
4. Business Holidays
5. Special school events
6. Vacations (a personal favorite)

These are just a few dates which may be of importance to you. With out a doubt you will think of many more.

JANUARY 2010							DRC Net Sunday 8:30pm Local
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1 ARRL Straight Key Night	2 ARRL RTTY Round-Up Begins 1800U	
3 ARRL RTTY Round-Up Ends 2400U ARRL Kid's Day	4	5	6 Learning Net 7pm	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13 Learning Net 7pm	14	15	16	
17	18 Martin Luther King Day 	19	20 DRC Meeting Elmer 6:30pm General 7:30pm	21	22	23 ARRL Januray VHF Sweeps Begins 1900U	
24	31	25 ARRL Januray VHF Sweeps Ends 0359U	26	27 Learning Net 7pm	28	29	
 First Quarter	 Full Moon					 New Moon	

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	Not In Service
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.

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 January. **Editor**

Puzzle Page

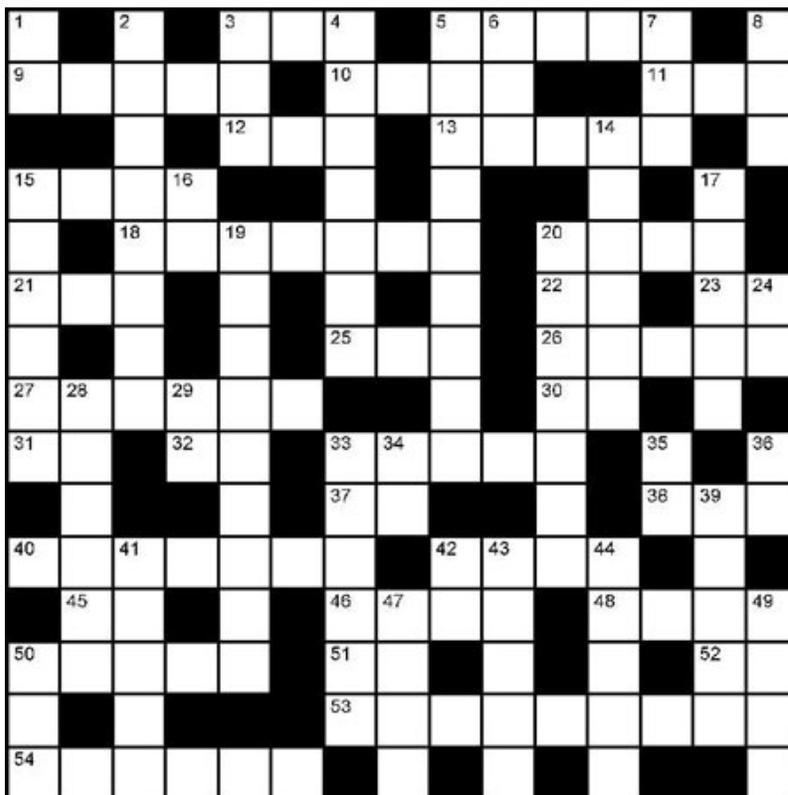
"Worthy Components"

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

Get out your resistor color code chart and see if you can track down the various parts of this puzzler!

Those little bits and pieces that make up so much of electronics are often taken for granted. This puzzle's theme is words associated with the various types of simple electronics components. How well do you know your little friends and neighbors?

NOTE: Puzzle solution is located on page 5.



Across

- 3. Batteries with liquid electrolyte are ... cells
- 5. Prevent flow of ac current
- 9. Unit of inductance
- 10. Translate symbols into information
- 11. Old abbreviation for pico
- 12. Ferrites prevent this type of interference (abbr.)
- 13. This moves on a variable capacitor
- 15. Designates "6" on resistor band
- 18. Material of disc capacitors
- 20. Resistors cause voltage to do this
- 21. Adjustable resistor
- 22. Common abbreviation for "that is"
- 23. Mixer signal (abbr.)
- 25. Receiver frequency fine tune (abbr.)
- 26. Legitimate
- 27. Hit
- 30. Indefinite article
- 31. A good job is done "just ..."
- 32. Light (abbr.)
- 33. Unit of capacitance
- 37. Abbreviation for chip
- 38. One in a million (abbr.)
- 40. Printed value of a component
- 42. Makes mistakes
- 45. Input-Output (abbr.)
- 46. Lift or carry
- 48. Smallest state in the tenth district
- 50. Confuse
- 51. Electric vehicle (abbr.)
- 52. CW abbreviation for "and"
- 53. Power dissipating components
- 54. These designate numbers and exponents of component values

Down

- 1. Thousands of microhenries (abbr.)
- 2. Stores magnetic energy
- 3. Opposite of delta connection
- 4. Small adjustable capacitor
- 5. Stores electric energy
- 6. Good kind of cholesterol (abbr.)
- 7. Longest possible path for a contact
- 8. Main frequency control
- 14. Imply hostile intent
- 15. Shunt ac signals around a component
- 16. Engineer that knows the most about electricity (abbr.)
- 17. Divided in two
- 19. Imaginary impedance
- 20. Two series resistors form a voltage ...
- 24. Rod dimension that must be less than a matching hole's ID
- 28. Round core with a hole in the middle
- 29. Safety lab (abbr.)
- 33. Remove a signal
- 34. Reversing current
- 35. A correctly adjusted circuit is "tuned ..."
- 36. Most popular mode on 2-meters
- 39. Volts times amps
- 41. Prototype or exhibit
- 42. Phoned home
- 43. One component of epoxy
- 44. Blue-black-black
- 47. Heats materials
- 49. Assistant (abbr.)
- 50. Keeps volume constant (abbr.)