

# ROUNDTABLE

# The Denver Radio Club Newsletter

Since 1917

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gerry Villhauer-W0GV

#### **NEW MEETING LOCATION!**

June 2010

Hello DRC Members.

Please note this now! I told you we were searching out several sites for a new meeting location. The board has selected the EI Jebel Shrine Center at 4625 W 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. That is one block west of the intersection of 50<sup>th</sup> and Tennyson St. in North Denver on the east side of the Willis Case Golf Course. We will be meeting in the East Room, which is upstairs. The building is wheel chair accessible and there is an elevator. The room will seat about 80 people comfortably and the building is air-conditioned. The location is easily accessible from Sheridan and 52<sup>nd</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> and Tennyson and 50<sup>th</sup> and Federal. We will try to do a couple email notices prior to June 16<sup>th</sup>. Come and enjoy our new meeting location. (See map & picture on Page 6.)

Thank to Oscar, KOSSE, for getting us up to speed for the upcoming Field Day. If you have not already done so, mark June 26-27 on your calendar and come out to Field Day. We also need help on June 25 for our annual clean up of the site. This is a great time to introduce your friends and family to ham radio especially with our "Get On The Air" Station (GOTA). Come on out even for a few hours... you will be happy you did!

Do you have an old computer with obsolete software which can't run modern applications and can't be upgraded due to its hardware? Are you tired of constantly having to pay more money to upgrade your computer's software? Have you had enough of the constant threat of computer virus attacks, and having to pay extra money to protect your computer? If you like to "home brew" your amateur radio gear, why not "home brew" your computer and use it in your ham shack with amateur radio applications.

If any of this interests you, then please come to Denver Radio Club's June meeting to learn more. Bill Hester, N0LAJ, has been working with the free Ubuntu operating system for the past three years. He has built or converted several computers to use Ubuntu, instead of Windows, as the main operating system.

Bill will present a brief background about Ubuntu, and demonstrate his latest project - a small netbook computer with Windows 7 and the latest release of Ubuntu; both installed in a "dual-boot" configuration. If you are already using Ubuntu, then please come and share your knowledge and experience.

I would like to welcome and thank new DRC members Fred Hart, AA0JK and Carroll Widenhouse, KL4CRT. Please check in on the nets, come to the meetings and activities and remain an active member.

See you all at the meeting June 16th at the El Jebel Shrine Center one block west of the intersection of W. 50<sup>th</sup> Ave and Tennyson St. (second level in the East Room). 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.

Gerry, W0GV President

#### NEW MEETING LOCATION!

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W0TX http://www.w0tx.org

# MAY MEETING - WHAT'D I MISS

By Bill – W6OAV

Fifty four folks attended the May meeting! Gerry, W0GV, began the meeting with attendee introductions. After the introductions, Gerry announced that the board is investigating the possibility of moving the meeting location to a place that provides more space, and air conditioning.

An announcement was then made that volunteers are needed for the Golden Gate Marathon on June 5<sup>th</sup>. K0TOR then thanked the club members for their support with the siren test.

The meeting was turned over to Oscar, K0SSE. Oscar gave a great Power Point presentation highlighting last year's Field Day. He then covered the schedule for this year's Field Day (see article titled "Field Day 2010" later in the RoundTable). Oscar ended his presentation with a very good tutorial on the Field Day



logging software. It is very user friendly.

The meeting concluded with several lucky attendees winning door prizes.

### JUNE CLUB MEETING - WHAT IS UBUNTU?

Do you have an old computer with obsolete software which can't run modern applications and can't be upgraded due to its hardware?

Are you tired of constantly having to pay more money to upgrade your computer's software?

Have you had enough of the constant threat of computer virus attacks, and having to pay extra money to protect your computer?

Would you like to explore and understand more of the inner workings of your computer?

If you like to "home brew" your amateur radio gear, why not "home brew" your computer - and use it in your ham shack with amateur radio applications.

If any of this interests you, then please come to Denver Radio Club's June meeting to learn more. Bill Hester, N0LAJ, has been working with the free Ubuntu operating system for the past three years. He has built or converted several computers to use Ubuntu, instead of Windows, as the main operating system. Bill will present a brief background about Ubuntu, and demonstrate his latest project - a small netbook computer with Windows 7 and the latest release of Ubuntu; both installed in a "dual-boot" configuration. If you are already using Ubuntu, then please come and share your knowledge and experience.

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bill – W6OAV

This report provides an overview of the items discussed during the May Technical Committee meeting.

#### Interference to 449.35

<u>Goal</u>: Decrease interference by connecting the repeater to a transmitter combiner/receiver multi-coupler system:

 The technical committee is waiting for the "go ahead" from the owners of the combiner.

#### **New Salvation Army Location:**

<u>Goal:</u> Install VHF/UHF systems and a temporary NVIS capability.

 KB0BZZ has been working with his TSA counterpart making the necessary arrangements for the installation. The project has been given the green light. KB0BZZ and W6OAV will go out to the site after KB0BZZ returns from the Casper HamCon to finalize how we will get the feed lines to the roof.

#### **Remote HF Transceiver**

<u>Goal</u>: Determine the feasibility of building an Internet accessible Remote HF transceiver for club member use.

 This project will be put "on hold" until the voter system comes on line.

#### 147.33 - Hudson Audio Issues

Goal: Determine the cause of the high pitched audio.

N0LAJ and W6OAV went out to Hudson and performed tests to determine if multi-path is the problem.
 Tests indicated that multi-path was not the problem.
 They removed the repeater and controller and delivered them to WW0LF for analysis.

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#### Field Day

Goal: Lay the ground work for the 2010 Field Day.

 KOSSE expanded the list of action items and presented them to the Tech Committee.

#### **Tech Committee Meeting Productivity**

<u>Goal:</u> Investigate the possibility of increasing the Tech Committee meeting productivity but using tools like Skype audio conferencing.

KB0A setup a tech committee conference via Skype.
 The conference went well and proved that Skype can increase productivity.

# Special Courtesy Tone/Announcement for Repeaters in Emergency Mode

<u>Goal</u>: Configure the controllers for: 1).Command- able special courtesy tone (such as a double beep) which will indicate to users that the repeater is in the emergency mode, 2). A command-able emergency mode broadcast message.

This issue put in the "On Hold" Category

# **2010 CLEANUP AND FIELD DAY**

By Oscar - K0SSE

The DRC annual site cleanup will take place on, June 25th 2010. The Field Day exercise will begin on 26 June at 0800hours and will continue until 1500hours. June 27, 2010. We will need all the help we can get. Come to the Hudson site to help with the cleanup. (The clean-up is part of the DRC's responsibility for having a repeater at the Hudson site.) If you are going to participate in the cleanup phase of the three days, I suggest that you bring yard tools such as hoes, rakes, and

weed-whacker's if you have them. It will surely help. Also, be sure and wear or bring sunglasses, gloves, insect repellent, suitable headgear and a dust mask. It may be wise to use a strong suntan lotion, if you are subject to sunburn.



For directions on how to reach location, go to our club website, www.w0tx.org. There you will find a map and directions to the site.

The cleanup will begin at 1000hours on the 25th. Paul Meenach, KDØCXX will have lunch ready for us at 1300hours. You do not want to miss some good cooking.

We will begin setting up for the Field Day exercise at 0800hours on Saturday morning. If you have an outdoor chair or two, please bring them. Also if you have some old wire that you can let the club have or use please bring it, we can use it to make ground radials or

good ground connections. I also suggest that you bring your own headset, if you have one. The club will provide several headsets and "Y" connectors, but we do not have enough for the six or seven transceivers we will be using.



Meals will be provided for both the Saturday and Sunday sessions of field day. And again, you don't want to miss some good cooking.

At the site, we will be operating on the six HF bands allowed. Plus, we will have a "get on the air" or GOTA station. This station is for newly licensed hams or rather hams who have only held their license for a year or less or General class hams who have not operated for some time. Unlicensed visitors and youngsters who would like to get on the air are especially invited. The goal for anyone operating the GOTA set is to make 20 or more con-

tacts. By that I mean, we score points if they do make 20 contacts.



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When you do come up for the cleanup and or Field Day be sure and sign-in. We must keep track of anyone on the site and who operated the equipment. Remember the three days of this fourth weekend in June gives us an opportunity to pay the rent for the use of the Hudson repeater site and each of us an opportunity to experience HF operations under field conditions. Please note, even if you do not have a amateur radio license. You will be able to operate this particular weekend, because there will be plenty of personnel with an extra class license to monitor what we're doing and to keep us out of trouble.

We will also have a class on Saturday, at 1400hours which will cover how to use the MFJ antenna analyzer. This class will provide some hands-on experience with the analyzer and is being taught by Lance Wilson, N1ETV; or Steven Riley, KD0CPE. Both who are very ham savvy.

We will have one or two other things going on that weekend, which I will tell you about at the next club meeting. If you have questions about the exercise, feel free to send me an e-mail. You'll find my contact information on our club website.





# DRC SUPPORTS LAKEWOOD SIREN TEST

By Jim - K0TOR

On May 12<sup>th</sup> the DRC supported the annual Lakewood Emergency Warning siren system. The system includes 25 sirens located within the city limits of the City of Lakewood. DRC provides an on-site inspection of the siren site condition (physical damage to the siren horn, contamination or damage to the solar panel, loose wires, damaged or unauthorized entry of the control box) and monitoring of the siren performance (tone quality and voice clarity as the siren rotates through each of four quadrants).

This is an important responsibility that we have to the City of Lakewood. It required the time and commitment of 28 ham operators. It is important to our radio club as it demonstrates our desire and ability to support public service events. And it gives us the opportunity to showcase the value and benefit of our ham radio capability and skill.

We received thanks and appreciation from Bryan Neilson, Environmental Services Manager for the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood radio communications staff for our support of the siren test. They expressed how valuable these test results are to them in ensuring an operational emergency siren system.



We thank each of the following for volunteering and for a job well done;

Wally - AC0T Joel - N0KEX Jerry - KD0JKC Lloyd - KB0MQQ Lawrence - KC0PTV Charles - KB0UZI Glenn - K0BO Dave - K0HTX Ron - WB0HWP Marshall - KF0UV Robert - K0RCW Leon - N0GWM Bill - W0GVT Doug - N4ATA Bryan - KB0A Paul - K0WSU Charlie - N0LD Bill - NOLAJ Paul - KD0CXX Ron - KOHRT Perry - WB5VCC Orlen - WW0LF Bill - W6OAV Chris - KD0HMT Ed - AG1M Oscar - K0SSE Chad - KC0WWW Jim - K0TOR, Coordinator

### **Remember When**

By Bill - W6OAV

Many "old timers", like myself, well remember seeing ads like the one below, in the '50s and '60s ham publications. They were for something called Conelrad.

So, what was Conelrad? Conelrad stood for "Control of Electromagnetic Radiation". It was active from 1951 to 1963. Conelrad served two purposes: First, to prevent Soviet bomber during the cold war from using AM stations (there were few FM stations then) and TV stations as navigational aids to home on American cities. Second, to provide civil defense emergency information to the American population.

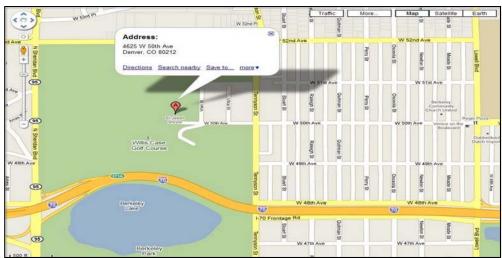
By FCC edict in 1951, all radio broadcast stations and all TV broadcast stations were required to monitor a broadcast station and to cease transmitting when a Conelrad alert was broadcasted by that station. All further broadcasts would be carried out by designated regional low power stations on the frequencies of 640 KHz and 1240 KHz. Remember the Civil Defense triangles at 640 and 1240 KHz on the dial on radios manufactured after 1953? In 1957 the FCC edict was **expanded to include all hams**.

As of 1957, all hams had to monitor a broadcast station while operating in case a Conelrad alert was broadcast. This was tough to do while operating. So, manufactures began to pro-

duce devices that would monitor 640 KHz and/or 1240 KHz for carrier. When a carrier appeared. the device would produce an alarm and perhaps turn on a speaker. Some devices could be wired to automatically turn off the transmitter! Some devices could be tied to the speaker output of a radio which was then left on either 640 KHz or 1240 KHz. Even Heathkit had a kit called the model CA-1 Conelrad Alarm. Ah, those were the good ol' days don't you know.



# **NEW MEETING LOCATION!**



From I-70 Westbound take exit 271B then continue West on 48th Ave to Tennyson St., turn North to 50th then go West 0.1 miles to the El Jebel Shrine Center.

From I-70 Eastbound take exit 270 continue East on 48th go North on Sheridan Blvd then turn East on 52nd Ave to Tennyson Ave, go South to 50th Ave then West 0.1 miles to the El Jebel Shrine Center.

Note: The map at right may be enlarged and printed to provide better readability.



You have arrived!
The El Jebel Shrine Center is ahead on the right.



24 HOUR FAX 303-745-7394

e-mail: denver@hamradio.com

# DRC Field Day T~Shirts



This years shirt is a Hanes Beefy-T (very soft) in a light tan with the Field Day logo on the back (shown here). The front of the shirt has a custom DRC logo on the left chest.

Due to circumstance beyond my control Field Day shirts will not be available at the June meeting. So they are

only available by mail order and mailed directly to your home or office.

\$10 per shirt (sizes S-XL) 2XL is \$11.50, includes tax. Postage for up to two shirt is only \$5. For more than 2 shirts please, email or call for postage rate.

Orders must be received by the 14th of June and will be mailed on the 21th of June.

To order shirts send a check for the total amount with size & number of shirts. Be sure to include mailing address.

TO: Wild Coyote Graphics 13925 E Idaho Place Aurora, CO 80012

Questions: AGOS@comcast.net Subject Line: "Field Day Shirt" or call George, AGOS at 303.751.7246

# **UP COMING EVENTS**

## **HAMFEST LIST**

July 17 – PPRAA Megafest

Lewis-Palmer High School

August 22 – DRC Hamfest

Jefferson County Fairgrounds. This is the BIG one, start planning to participate now.

Contact Bryan - KB0A for more information.

September 26 – BARCfest

**Boulder County Fairgrounds** 

June 26-27 - DRC/ARRL Field Day



If you can't make the Field Day Event this is one you should seriously consider.

June 26-27,10 - Bike MS 2010

**To volunteer contact** Paul Garvey – K0BLM Bike MS 2010 Communications Coordinator 303-520-5545 or k0blm@arrl.net

### CORRECTION

Last month we listed safety tips for keeping yourself safe when lightning is near. The 30/30 sule has been modified a bit by NWS.

**OLD:** 30/30 RULE – If 30 seconds or less between lightning and its thunder, go inside. Stay inside 30 minutes or more after the last rumble is heard.

**NEW:** Only use the 30/30 rule when Visibility is good and there is nothing obstructing your view of the Thunderstorm. More importantly stay inside 30 minutes or more after the last rumble is heard.

Better yet - When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors

Ref: NWS-Public Information Statement

<b>JUNE 201</b>	DRC Net Sunday 8:30pm Local					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins	2 Learning Net 7pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Learning Net 7pm	10	11	12 ARRL VHF QSO Party Starts 1800U
13 ARRL VHF QSO Party	14 ARRL VHF QSO Party Ends 0300U  Flag Day	15	16 DRC Meeting Elmer 6:30pm General 7:30pm	17	18  First Quarter	19 <i>ARRL</i> <b>Kid's Day</b> 1800U to 2400U
Father's Day	21	22	23 Learning Net 7pm	24	25 Field Day Site Clean up	26 RETHE WORLD Full Moon
27 STATE HOLD THE WARD	28	29	30 Learning Net 7pm			

Check www. ARRL. org for Contests and Rules!

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# **DRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

KB0A

K0SSE

W6OAV

KB0MQQ

AG0S

K0RAR

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Bryan Steinberg

Oscar Hall

Bill Rinker

Lloyd Plush

Carolyn Wolf

Robert Rude

George McCray

# **DRC REPEATERS**

Swapfest Mgr

Tech. Committee Chair

Field Day

APRS Chair

Benevolent

RT Editor

Education

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.

303-987-9596

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303-741-2537

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303-279-1328

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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 AGOS@comcast.net. Submission deadline is the 25th of the June. **Editor**