



ROUNDTABLE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bryan Steinberg – KB0A

Every so often we get ham radio and electronic equipment donated to the club. We've been fortunate to be remembered by former club members and their families when the time comes to take down the tower and antennas and remove the equipment. We get equipment from non-members and their families, as well. Recently we have received a rather large amount of ham equipment, most of it long in the tooth, so to speak, but still workable. The board has discussed how best to handle these items and has made a number of decisions. In most cases the club will keep working test equipment and add it to our test equipment loner program. Some of the other items will remain with the club for use at field day and other events. The remainder of the equipment we will liquidate via the club "Trading Post" page on our website, at the hamfest and possibly at club meetings. All items will be priced at fair market value, however there will be a discount from that price for current club members. So, keep an eye on the club website and tune in to the weekly nets for a first shot at the gear. Also, be sure to check the club sales table at the Hamfest, in front of the stage.

At this month's meeting Doug Parker, N4ATA, will present the BPQ Packet Switch System. Doug will discuss the history, system requirements and features of the BPQ Packet Switch along with a live demo of the system.

Our annual Hamfest is coming up in a few short weeks on August 19th. Reservations are already ahead of last year, while we do have more tables it's not a lot more. If you are thinking of getting a table to sell some surplus gear now you're almost out of time! You will find the advance reservation form on the club website at <http://www.w0tx.org/hamfest.htm>. We are trying something different this year by using the local Lions Club to run our kitchen, their prices should be similar to ours. So, while I won't need any volunteers for the kitchen I will still need support for setup, cleanup and everything in between. If you can help, please let me know in advance or at the August meeting. Once again the club will offer a member's sales table for current club members looking to sell a few items (we're talking one or two here). Please mark all items with your name/callsign and price so we know who to give the money to when it sells.

See you on August 15th and the 19th – membership meeting and Hamfest. Please remember to use the club's calendar (<http://w0tx.org/calendar.htm>) to keep track of upcoming events (e.g. Hamfests, Field Day, Meetings, etc.) of interest to the Denver ham community.

Until next month...
Bryan – KBØA
President

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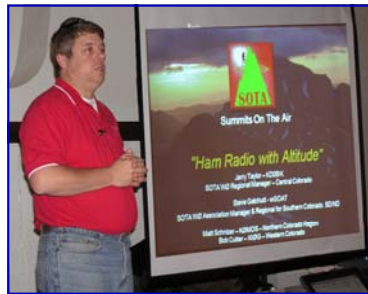
JULY MEETING - WHAT'D I MISS

By Bill – W6OAV

There were 42 attendees this month. KB0A began the meeting with attendee introductions. Bryan proposed shortening the Elmer session to a half an hour and starting the regular meeting at 7 PM which will allow the regular meeting to be completed before 9 PM and give attendees time to visit. The membership agreed to the change.

KB0A then gave an overview of the plans to move the club's MotoTRBO repeater to Station 4. He also announced that he had reprogrammed the 6 meter repeater DTMF system to prevent it from and creating voice dropouts.

The meeting was then turned over to the guest speaker Jerry, KD0BIK. Jerry began by describing SOTA (Summits On The Air). SOTA is a world-wide program with a goal of encouraging hams to operate from mountain summits. Points are awarded to those who operate on a summit (Activators) and to those who work the summit operators (Chasers).



SOTA is operational in 55 countries with 3,400 registered members and nearly 50,000 certified peaks in the SOTA database. Each country has its own Association which defines the recognized SOTA summits within that Association. Each summit earns the Activators and Chasers a score, the value of which is determined by the height of the summit. An honor roll for Activators and Chasers is maintained at the SOTA online database.

Jerry then covered the following topics:

- General operating principles.
- How mountains can qualify as a valid SOTA mountain.
- Scoring methods and awards.
- Available tools and aids.
- Bands and modes.
- Typical SOTA rigs.
- Jerry's Pack Communication configuration.

There are many available references at:

<http://www.sota.org.uk/>
<http://www.w0-sota.org/>

AUGUST PRESENTATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Using Packet Without A Radio & TNC

Doug, N4ATA will describe how to access packet without the use of a radio. He will cover the following topics:

- Brief history of the BPQ Packet Switch System.
- System Requirements for implementation.
- Features of the system including the Mail & Chat server portion.
- Remote SYSOP monitoring.
- Accessing the system using just a computer with TELNET application.
- Accessing the system using a radio & TNC (for those that have the equipment).

He will demonstrate how to use TELNET via the Internet and VHF Packet using portable packet station connecting into DVRCO: N4ATA-7 BPQ32 Packet Switch Server.

JULY TECH COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bill – W6OAV

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

Modify Tech Committee Meeting Time

Goal: Shorten meeting time or start earlier.

The committee agreed to start the meeting at 6:30 and keeping it to ½ hour. Also, the agenda items will be prioritized. Any item requiring lengthy discussion may be covered by a Skype conference.

North Table Mountain (NTM) Repeater

Goal: Install a 147.33 MHz repeater on NTM:

W0GV will schedule a Skype conference with the appropriate folks to setup a work party date.

Voter System

Goal: Design, build and test a 147.33 MHz voter system consisting of a central voter site and one remote site. KB0A will build and install the interface cable. KOHTX will install the link receive antenna.

HF Packet Gateway

Goal: Replace HF radio:

KB0A will build the TNC to radio interface and will then replace the TS-430.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Centennial Repeaters

Goal: Ground hard lines:

W0GV will schedule a Skype conference with the appropriate folks to setup a work party date

New MotoTRBO Repeater

Goal: Move MotoTRBO repeater to Station 4:

KB0A will:

- Install a microwave link to Station 4 to provide Internet access.
- Install the MotoTRBO repeater at Station 4.

K0HTX will install:

- Install the microwave receiver system on the tower.
- Install the voter UHF link receive antenna on the tower.

449.35 Interference

Goal: Resolve the digital signal interference:

The Rocky Mountain Ham group will move their MotoTRBO repeater to a lower frequency in the UHF band. Hopefully, this will cure the interference.

Station 4 Maintenance

Goal: Implement weed control (install ground cover and layer of rocks) and paint shed:

On hold until Fall. Will occasionally spray weed killer until then.

Climate Control at Station 4

Goal: Design and install a climate control system to prevent excessive heat buildup:

KB0A's climate control system has proved adequate during our latest hot spell.

Read The NOTE Below



Please Note!

The Denver Radio Club Meeting time has changed!

General Meeting start time is changing to 7:00PM

The Elmer Session will still start at 6:30PM.

ELMER SESSION NEWS

By Paul – KD0CXX

A special Thanks to Lance Wilson, N1ETV for a great presentation at our July Elmer session. Lance talked and presented many facts about storage batteries that we use in all phases of our lives. He covered purchasing, sizing, charging, maintaining, and safety issues associated with storage batteries. Again thanks, Lance.

Next month, Bill Burek, AC0VC will present our program. He is going to show and tell via technological means the removal of the tower and antenna from a residence by using a crane. I will not attempt to thank all involved in the exercise at the Quait residence. The session should be about a half hour long and should be very interesting. We are looking forward to his presentation. Thanks Bill in advance as I won't be able to attend the August or September meetings

I want to personally thank all the "old-timers" that have stepped-up to support and share their experiences with our new folks as they come to "check us out". It has become a much easier task for me to serve as Education Chairman for the group. That doesn't mean that I am not terrified and intimidated by the vast knowledge that other folks possess and how little I know. Thanks for entrusting me with such an important task. Please hang in there with me during "Q & A" sessions, as we all learn together.

WHAT IS FIELD DAY?

Excerpted from ARRL.org – July 29, 2012

Amateur Radio operators have been transmitting from "the field" ever since radio has been around. Since 1933, the American Radio Relay League – the National Association for Amateur Radio – has formalized this activity for one weekend each June, called Field Day. During Field Day, over 35,000 "hams" across the United States, Canada, and many other countries take their radio gear out of their homes and set up temporary stations almost anywhere imaginable: public parks, beaches, mountaintops, baseball diamonds, atop parking garages, and yes, even in fields. They do so as part of a local club, with just a friend or two or their family, or individually. In 2011, over 1.4 million radio contacts were made between Amateur Radio operators during the Field Day weekend.

Why do hams do this? Many radio clubs treat Field Day as a way to keep their communications skills up in case they are needed for an emergency. Still others treat it as a competitive event and try to make as many contacts as they possibly can (good clubs will make several thousand in a weekend). Some enjoy setting up in a public place, such as a neighborhood park or the parking lot of a shopping center, to help educate the public about what Amateur Radio is and what we do. Perhaps the best reason is, it's simply fun! Combining the great outdoors with radio fun makes for a great weekend.



SALVATION ARMY NEWS

My perspective on the Waldo Canyon Fire.
By Paul – KD0CXX

Salvation Army Callout, Waldo Canyon Fire – 6/27/12
The following DRC Members participated in call out:

- K0TOR Jim Beall
- N1ETV Lance Wilson
- KD0MYZ Art Thayer
- KD0CXX Paul Meenach

Salvation Army called K0TOR to round up crew, to go to Colorado Springs and to support the Evacuation Center for the Waldo Canyon fire. Within an hour and a half we were on the road to the Evac. Center located at Cheyenne Mountain High School. We convoyed there all arriving in Colorado Springs within minutes of each other. Jim, K0TOR seemed to be in charge (what a great guy) always leading by example.



Salvation Army Captain being interviewed by news crew in front of Canteen.

Upon arrival we were given our assignments by the Salvation Army Captain and Shift Team Leader. K0TOR Lead, N1ETV direct guest and traffic safety, KD0MYZ distribute food to guests, and KD0CXX was profiled to be (Santa Claus) HA! HA! This was for distribution of stuffed animals and toys to small children. We had a great time and were blessed greatly for our efforts.

My greatest personal experience came from 3 different scenarios with small children saying the exact same phrase as they selected a stuffed animal from the collection, "Now I have a pillow to sleep on tonight". So I banked several million "Love Dollars" in my eternal bank account.



Guest being interviewed by news crew.

There were plastic pools provided for animal relief filled with ice water from the cooler. Most of which were taken over by small children having fun. The squirt guns, provide by Santa, were used quite effectively on all present.

After 4 hours approximately 400 meals had been served and we were released from callout. There were 30+ volunteers including Salvation Army staff, DRC Radio Club, Church groups, Marines, US Army, and a homemade Ice Cream vendor in the 103 degree heat.

If you have never had the opportunity to serve on a "callout" I would highly recommend taking advantage of the next callout.

To see the Salvation Army, in action, meeting guest's most basic and personal needs at a time when things were uncertain for many is "SIMPLY AWESOME".

Thanks again K0TOR for Leadership, N1ETV for direction and safety, KD0MYZ for serving, KD0CXX for lighting up children lives in an otherwise dismal situation.

ANOTHER LOOK AT EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES

I am proud to say the EDS (Emergency Disaster Services) responded to the two most destructive wild-land fires Colorado has ever had. At the High Park fire, Ft. Collins, Denver Metro, Colorado Springs and Cheyenne WY EDS units served nearly 5,000 meals and 15,000 bottles of water. The Emotional and Spiritual Care Team supported survivors at the canteen and the Disaster Recovery Center. The Loveland CO Service Extension unit gave out over \$5000 in financial assistance.

The Waldo Canyon fire was a little close to home and for a little while we were in a pre-evacuation area. At its highest point there were over 32,000 people evacuated from their homes. Colorado Springs, Denver Metro, Cheyenne WY, Reno NV, Grand Junction, Vail and Santa Fe NM EDS units served 17,000 meals and 44,000 bottles of water. Again the Emotional and Spiritual Care Team supported Survivors at the Canteen and now in the burn areas. We also activated our SATERN team as we supported a Shelter in Divide CO.

EDS volunteers were instrumental in starting a new response trend at both fires. We coordinated with local restaurants to cater several meals and many volunteers used their personal contacts to bring in local musicians for entertainment. Both were tremendous hits, people love our food but they also love Outback, Rock Bottom, Old Chicago and many, many others. We were able to do this in both Ft. Collins and Colorado Springs at it worked out great.

THANK YOU very much to everyone who responded to these fires. I know many of you worked long hours under a lot of stress for many days in a row. I have spoken with hundreds of people from both communities and all of them were tremendously grateful for your service.

I am sure I have not captured everything that has happened over the last couple of months but I hope we can highlight some of the great things that happened over the coming weeks.



Canteen serving line

Photos by Lance Wilson, N1ETV



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UP COMING EVENTS

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

The following are the HamFests & Conventions which have been registered with the ARRL so far. More information can be found on www.arrl.org/hamfests.

August 19 – **DRC HAMfest**
Jefferson County Fairgrounds

September 23 – BARCfest
Boulder County Fairgrounds

2013

May 31 – Rocky Mountain Division Convention
Rocky Mountain Park Inn, Estes Park, Colorado

*Don't forget to join in Wednesday nights at 7:30pm for the DRC Learning Net!
145.49/448.625 machines*

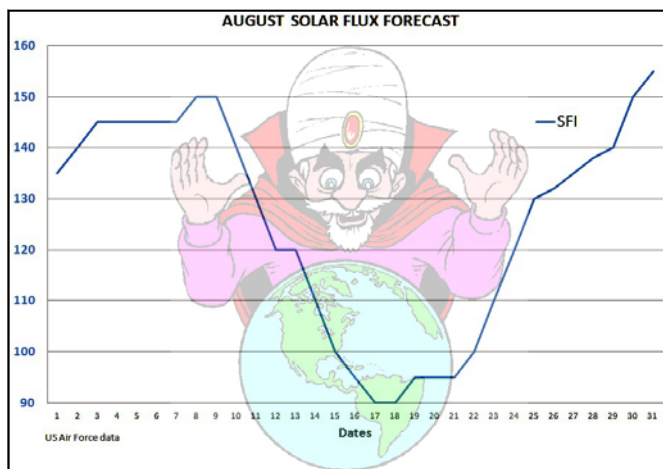
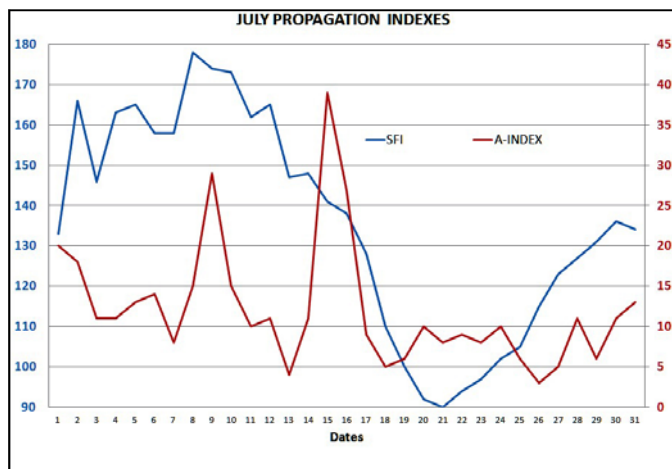
PAST & FUTURE PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

By Bill – W6OAV

This article provides two charts: the propagation conditions for last month and a forecast of next month's propagation conditions.

USING THE PROPAGATION INDEX CHART

Note two things on the chart: the trend of the SFI and A indexes and the date of largest SFI peak. The trend of the SFI shows the progress of the solar cycle during the past month. The SFI peak allows the rough forecasting of the reoccurrence of SFI peak in the next month. In order to "forecast" the next SFI peak, note the date when the SFI peak occurred and project out to about 28 days. Due to the sun's 28 day rotation, the SFI peak will often reoccur in about 28 days. The reason is because the sun spots causing the SFI peak move with the sun's rotation and face the earth every 28 days. This 28 day repetition will become more pronounced as the solar cycle improves. Refer to the September 2010 *Roundtable* for more complete information on the "SFI" and "A" indexes.



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The BIG ONE is HERE!



The Denver Radio Club Hamfest

Jefferson County Fair Grounds

When: Sunday August 19

8:30am to 1pm

*For more information!
contact Bryan-KBOA
drcfest@w0tx.org
Or visit www.w0tx.org
Volunteers Needed*

Food Fun

*Lots of vendors with everything you need
Computers ~ Radios ~ Antennas
Parts + pieces
You name it and you'll see it here!!!*

AUGUST 2012							<i>DRC Net Sunday's at 8:30pm Local on 145.490 & 448.625 (No PL)</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Learning Net</i> 7:30pm	2	3	4 <i>ARRL UHF Contest</i> Begins 1800U							
5 <i>ARRL UHF Contest</i> Ends 1800U	6	7	8 <i>Learning Net</i> 7:30pm	9	10	11							
12	13 <i>International Left-Handers Day</i>	14	15 <i>DRC Meeting</i> Elmer 6:30pm <i>General 7:00pm</i>	16	17	18 <i>10GHz & Up Contest (Round 1)</i> 6am to Midnight Sunday, August 22							
19 <i>Our Very Own! DRC Hamfest</i> 8:30am - 1pm	20 <i>Rookie Roundup August 19</i> 1800U to 2359U	21	22 <i>Learning Net</i> 7:30pm	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29 <i>Learning Net</i> 7:30pm	30	31								

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DRC REPEATERS

BAND	Freq / Shift / PL Tone	Additional Information
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	447.825mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Saint Anthony's
70cm	448.625mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Linked to the 2m - 145.490mHz machine.
70cm	449.350mHz (-) 100Hz PL	Wide area coverage with Echolink Node # 4140.
70cm	446.7875mHz (-)	MotoTRBO Repeater Slot 1 – DMR-MARC WW, Slot 2 – Local

EDITOR'S NOTE

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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 AG0S@arrl.net. Submission deadline is the 25th of the Month. Editor