

E ROUND TABLE

The Denver Radio Club, Inc.

Since 1917 August 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gerry Villhauer, W0GV

Hello DRC Members,

I hope this month finds all of you safe and healthy. It is a challenge dealing with all the restrictions and precautions but, I think we all are learning how best to deal with it. Cathy and I have ventured out to a couple restaurants that complied with what we feel are safe practices. I do not see a big improvement in the COVID-19 situation until a proven vaccine is available.

It has been a welcome quiet time for DRC activity the last couple months. One ongoing project is the replacement of the antenna for the 220 mhz. repeater. Orlen (WW0LF) found that the replacement antenna had issues with the phasing harness. He investigated purchasing a new harness, only to find there were none available from the manufacturer. Orlen is in the process of reverse engineering a new harness. I expect this to be accomplished in the next few weeks.

Thanks to Bill (W0SUN) for a very informative presentation on the Yaesu C4FM digital system and the WIRES-X part of this system. I believe we all came away with a better understanding of this fairly complex radio system

August Meeting Presentation:

By Bill Rinker, W6OAV

There is a lot of confusion about why hotspots can, or cannot, access certain WIRES-X networks but can access YSF and FCS Fusion networks. Bill, (W0SUN), will explain this issue by contrasting the similarity and dissimilarity between the YSF, FCS and WIRES-X networks and how gateways can interconnect to these networks. Also, Bill will discuss the different types of hotspots, their pros and cons and the relative cost of the various systems will be discussed.

Amazon Smiles...for DRC. The DRC is registered as a not for profit organization for Amazon Smiles Program. If you are not familiar with this program, you can sign up on Amazon Smiles and list the Denver Radio Club as your donor. DRC will get a small portion of all your Amazon purchases. This has no effect on your purchase price, and really benefits the club financially. Just go to SmileAmazon.com to sign up. After you sign up, remember to go to SmileAmazon.com when you make a purchase for the club to get credit. Thanks in advance.

Thanks to all of our new members who have recently joined the DRC. Your support is very much appreciated. Please come to meetings and events and stay active. Your name and call will be posted in this edition of the Round Table.

73 for now,

Gerry W0GV President



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W0TX w0tx.org

Who's New In The DRC?

By Bob Willson, KC0CZ

The DRC is a very active club in the Denver metro area and we'd like to have all of our members listen for these new calls and personally to make them feel welcome. Welcome to our newest members:

Steve Sybesma	Michael D Knighten - KE0OIT			
Peter Wright - K0PJW	Theodore Hudson Miller - KE0FAN			

We have a number of activities throughout the year and we'd like very much for you to participate in serving your community. If you have questions please feel free to ask on any of the repeaters or see the contact information on the last page of this publication.

Also, please join us once a month at the regular club meeting on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. For new hams we have the Elmer session which starts at 6:00 p.m. before the regular meeting.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

The following is an overview of current issues discussed at the July Tech Committee meeting.

DRC/TSA Aurora Site.

Goal: Work with the TSA relative to establishing a "communications room" for the DRC.

Status: This project shelved until Covid-19 is over.

Internet Failure Procedure at Station 4.

Goal: Develop a troubleshooting procedure when the Internet fails.

Status: W6OAV will research and develop a troubleshooting procedure.

Replace 220 Repeater Antennas

Goal: Improve coverage for the repeater.

Status: WW0LF is constructing the coax harness. Once completed, a work party will be scheduled.

Resolve the 220 Repeater Lockup issues.

Goal: Obtain a response from BridgeCom for troubleshooting assistance.

Status: W0GV will forward the past documentation to W6OAV who will attempt to escalate the issue.

Station 4 Remote Power Control.

Goal: Configure the Power Control to allow remote power control for various systems.

Status: W0GV will obtain help contacting APC to configure the system in their server.

Install a Remote 6 Meter Receiver

Goal: Investigate the possibility a remote receiver to resolve the high noise level at Station 4.

Status: WG0N and W0GV will check out conditions at a possible site.

Repair the Echolink Server

Goal: Investigate either repairing or rebuilding the server

Status: NOOBA will troubleshoot the server ASAP.

WIRES-X Repeater Tech Support

Goal: Create and educate a tech support team for maintaining and troubleshooting.

Status: W6OAV and KF0UV will chair this project.

LEARNING NET REPORT

By FRED HART, AA0JK

Our group gathers here to discuss, and respond to topics aimed at enhancing a better understanding of our hobby. The net is open to all and we encourage your participation.

July Topics:

- Field Day activity reports
- Using System Fusion vs Wires X
- Yaesu System Fusion Introduction: https://youtu.be/OIHNcTGrkPI
- Yaesu Wires X: https://youtu.be/ogg 49XeozY
- Yaesu FT-60 with a Diamond Dual-Band HT antenna
- Tiger Tail for HTs: w3atb.com/tiger-tail-antenna/ (Round Table March 2016)
- Power Supplies for your HF radio-base station
- Comet CHA250B HF/VHF Vertical Antennas CHA-250B
- Bicycle HF Mobile QST August 2020 P61
- Maritime Mobile Service network on 14.300, aid in rescue of vessel in distress
- HOA antenna options
- On The Air July / August issue topics
- Bread-board circuit projects
- QRP Kits
- Introducing new Hams to local nets. Making those first HF contacts.
- Stealth HF Antenna for your HOA Yes it can be done! AF5DN: https://youtu.be/mLDeuEyV qM
- How to make a Ham Radio Speaker Wire Antenna: https://youtu.be/cqh0Ntus5G0
- Remote stations: http://www.arrl.org/link-remote-control
- NanoVNA: https://www.eham.net/reviews/view-product?id=14390

Great topics from our group. We certainly enjoy everyone's participation. Thanks to all.

If you are listening and don't yet have your license, you can contact us via w0tx@w0tx.org or elmer@w0tx.org.

If we don't have the answer here on the net, we have a lot of experienced hams in the club that can help. Getting that first Technician license? Upgrading to General or Extra? We're here to help. You may also find the following helpful: Amateur Radio Licensing Guides via https://dcasler.com/ham-radio/

We would encourage those who have been Hams for several years to also join us. Your experience and input is welcomed. What topics would you like to discuss? Join us Wednesday nights, 7:30 PM, 145.490, 100 Hz PL tone & linked to 448.625, 100 Hz PL tone.

73,

Fred AA0JK



A DIFFICULT DECISION MADE: DRC'S 2020 HAMFEST CANCELLED

By Gerry Villhauer, W0GV

The DRC Board of Directors unanimously made the decision to cancel the 2020 DRC Hamfest scheduled for Sunday August 16, 2020. We all know why this had to be done so I will not labor that point. The facts; we are way down on vendor applications and looking at the age demographic of the ham community, it is fair to say, most hams in our age group will not be willing to gather in large groups, even if more restrictions are lifted by the date of our hamfest, Organizing a successful hamfest is a big undertaking and a financial gamble for the club. With the situation we are ALL in this year, the board just does not see that happening this year. We will look forward to a bigger and better hamfest in 2021.

JULY MEETING - WHAT'D I MISS?

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

A big "Thank You" to Jeff, KB0CHT, for setting up and coordinating the Google "Hangouts Meet" video sessions.

There were 62 attendees. Gerry, W0GV, began the meeting with an update on the DRC WIRES-X repeater. The DRC's repeater was defective and had been sent to Yaesu for repair. In the meantime the Denver Water Amateur Radio Club kept our WIRES-X system on the air by loaning us a spare repeater. The repaired DRC repeater was received from Yaesu this week and successfully reinstalled.

The meeting was then turned over to our guest speaker, Bill, W0SUN. Bill began by defining terms such as C4FM, Fusion, WIRES-X, IMRs, FCS, YSF, etc. He then presented an in depth overview of features that the Fusion and WIRES-X systems provide. He ended the presentation by describing how to use the WIRES-X Rooms, the various PDN modes and the various Fusion radios.

Bill's PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ru6Yb95rzThWi5OGe2neSOV9KJUTIPLC/view?usp=sharing

AUGUST MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

There is a lot of confusion about why hotspots can, or cannot, access certain WIRES-X networks but can access YSF and FCS Fusion networks. Bill, W0SUN, will explain this issue by contrasting the similarity and dissimilarity between the YSF, FCS and WIRES-X networks and how gateways can interconnect connect these networks. Also, Bill will discuss the different types of hotspots, their pros and cons and the relative cost of the various systems will be discussed.

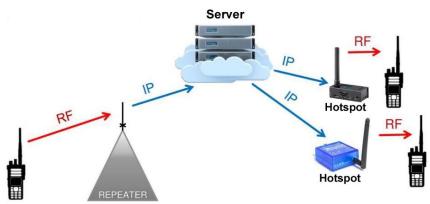


Figure 1 - Hotspots and repeaters

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

Question

I can connect to various Fusion repeaters with my hotspot. Why can't I connect to the DRC Fusion WIRES-X repeater with my hotspot?

Answer

First off, the term "Fusion" is often misused. The references below will clarify this issue which isn't necessary for this answer.

There are 3 types of networks. They are the FCS, YSF and WIRES-X networks. The FCS and YSF networks consist of reflectors to which hotspots can connect. The FCS and YSF Fusion networks are open source which were developed and are maintained by hams. The WIRES-X network consists of WIRES-X nodes to which hotspots cannot connect. This because the WIRES-X network is a proprietary network developed and maintained by Yaesu.

However, in certain cases it is possible to access a WIRES-X node with a hotspot. This is accomplished by using a site that has a bridge between a WIRES-X node and a FCS or YSF reflector. Figure 1 shows a typical example of such a system. The YSF reflector #12345 offers access to the WIRES-X room 56789 via the MMDVM hotspot bridge.

To sum it up, the DRC WIRES-X repeater does not have a bridge.

References:

WIRES-X vs YSF vs FCS: http://k0rq.com/wires-x-vs-ysf-vs-fcs

What is System Fusion?: http://systemfusion.yaesu.com/what-is-system-fusion/

What Is A Digital Ham Radio Hotspot?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuEpFJbXNq4

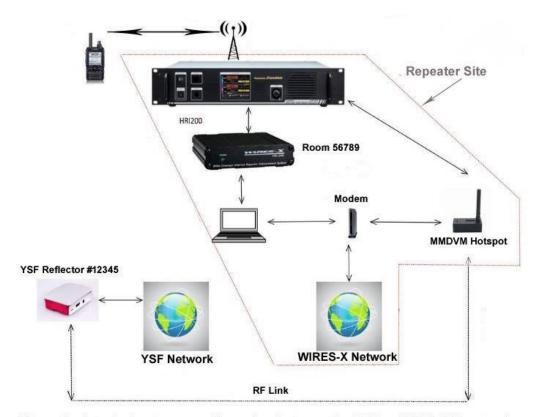


Figure 1 - A typical gateway configuration between the YSF and WIRES-X networks

PAST ROUND TABLE PAGES

PROVIDED BY WOODY LINWOOD. WOUL

The December 1954 RT was a single sheet. It is the oldest known remaining Round Table.



December 1954

The Denver Radio Club will meet December 15, 1954 at Carnegie Hall on the Denver University campus. This will be our Kmas. Party and all the XYL's are invited to attend. Each one will bring a gift not to exceed One Dollar.

There will be a raffle held for a B & N coaxial Switch. A free chance will go to each one who has contacted his legislator. Chances will be sold at 25¢ each or special 5 for a dollar.

The winners of the Sweepstakes will be announced for the club.

Bob Jensen, WØWLN and his XYL are leaving for Brussels, Belgium. Bob will be stationed there for the next two years. It is with regret that we seen them leave as Bob has been very active in the Denver Radio Club. Best of luck to them on their journey.

At the January meeting Len Wright, WØUOM, will give a talk and demonstration on Single Side Band. Plan now to attend!

We wish to welcome the following new members into the club: Gregory Norberg, Betty Rogers, WTYB - W.D. Cozzens, WTBLE/Ø Larry Hastings, WAL - Ray Richardson, WNØWUN, and Roy Earhart Who should have a call to report soon.

The new membership list is being distributed now. If you are not on the list, please report the fact to the club secretary. Natch the round table for additions and corrections, which will be published as they are found. New members will also be added by way of the Round Table, so keep your copies for reference.

Don't forget to be working on your Legislator contacts, and if possible. be on the air Sunday morning at 9300 - Dec 12th.

73's

REMEMBER WHEN?

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

The purpose of this article is to bring back memories to old time hams like me and to let newer hams know what ham radio was like in the 50s and 60s.

Back in the 50s and 60 there were many "ham stores" in the Denver area as well as several surplus electronics stores. Figure 1 shows some of the "ham stores" that advertised in 50s and 60s issues of the Roundtable. These ads should bring back many pleasant memories to older Colorado hams.



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Figure 1 - Roundtable ads from past Denver "ham stores".

SOLAR GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITY REPORT

PROVIDED BY FRED HART, AA0JK

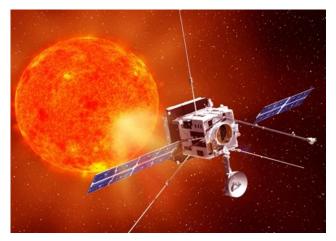


Image: NASA / ESA Solar Orbiter

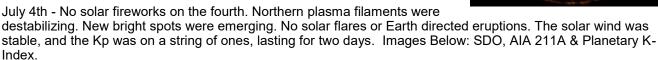
July started out with the Sun being mostly quiet, except in the northern hemisphere. Filaments were actively rising and snapping back as coronal holes rotated into the center disc Earth facing strike zone. Kp index reports were at calm to quiet levels. Bright active areas around the eastern limb were showings signs of possible Sun spot development as they came into Earth view. If they were to surface, they would have to grow, and survive for at least 24 hours to acquire an official active sun spot AR designation.

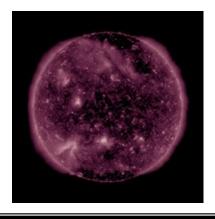
Image to right: Coronal Holes: 01 July 2020. Credit: SDO/AIA

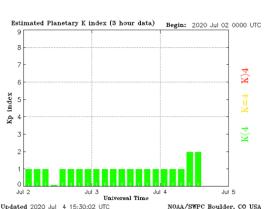
Solar wind flowing from this northern coronal hole was expected to brush Earth's magnetic field on July 5-6.

Emerging sunspot alert: A sunspot was emerging in the Sun's southern hemisphere. The spot's magnetic polarity and high latitude mark it as a member of new Solar Cycle 25. The tiny spot will have to grow and survive a full day, however, in order to receive an official AR number.

Predicted solar flux over the period was averaging only in the 68 range. This was hardly a promising outlook for any good propagation in the HF bands. Fair to good flux values would need to be north of the 70+ range.

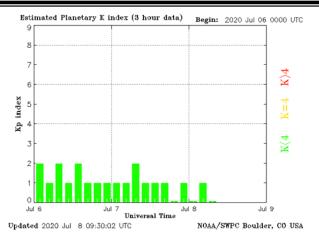






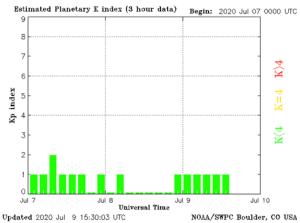
corona

hole



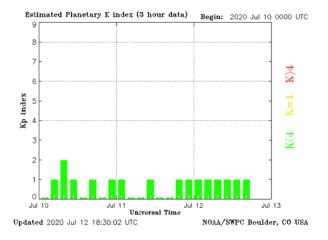
Above Image: The Sun sleeps through week two.

July 9th - Solar activity was very quiet. Filament activity was confined to the corona. Earth facing side of the Sun was void of sunspots.

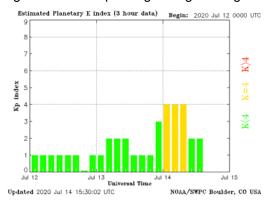


Despite the current prolonged quiet, the Sun seems to be telegraphing its forward momentum into cycle 25. There were feeble attempts at creating sunspots. As they surfaced, they could hardly hold themselves together before falling apart and fading back under the solar surface. In order to acquire an AR designation number they needed to remain together and above the surface for a period of no less than 24 hours.

July 12th - A quiet Sun persists. No Sunspots. Coronal holes were confined mainly to the polar regions with no significant activity. Kp indice levels were holding at readings of one and below.



July 14th - Minor storms were brewing as Earth was passing through a magnetized wake of a CME.



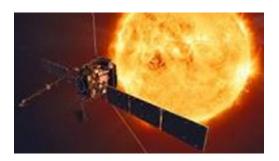
Solar cycle update: NOAA released a new interactive tool to explore the solar cycle. It lets you scroll back through time, comparing sunspot counts now to peaks and valleys of the past. One thing is clear. Solar Minimum is here, and it's one of the deepest in a century.

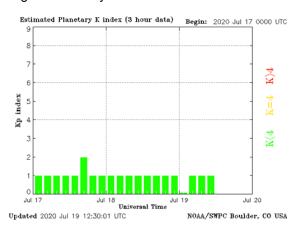


As week two wound down, solar conditions were relatively quiet. On the Earth facing side of the Sun, in the southern hemisphere, numerous small coronal holes were mixed with two bright spots. They were not developing significantly enough to become AR designated at this stage of the upcoming new solar cycle.

Kp indices were holding in the low Kp 1 range. (Image to right.)

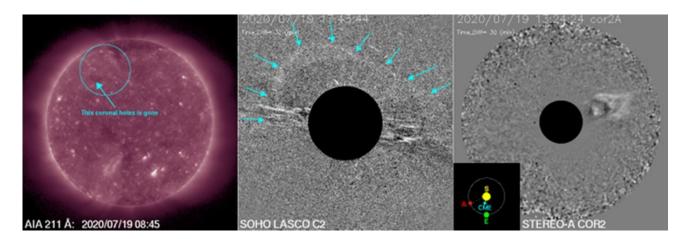
Solar Orbiter made its fist close pass by the Sun to study our star with a comprehensive suit of instruments. The data was already revealing previously unseen details. go.nasa.gov/3fB355k





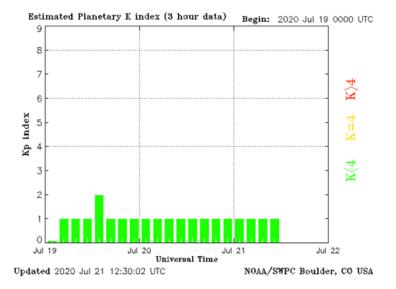
Week Three

There was a substantial eruption in the northern hemisphere on July 19th . The CME was expected to glance Earth July 23rd . The expected effect TBD.



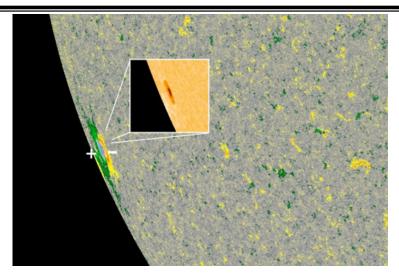
One challenging observation was that of coronal dimming. They were barely detected. Instead, a small coronal hoe was masked by new traits.

Spotless Days to date, 10 days.



July 21st - A sunspot region was emerging and clearly seen (AR 12767). It was a new (solar cycle 25) polarity region, located at latitude S21.

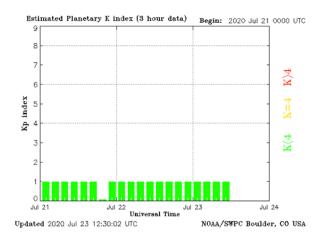
The sunspot's Earth-sized dark core is inset in this magnetic map from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (image next page):



This new spot is another sign of life from strengthening Solar Cycle 25. So far this year there have been 13 sunspots, ten of them (77%), coming from the new solar cycle. This compares to only 17% in 2019 and 0% in 2018. The Sun is clearly tipping from one solar cycle to the next.

It is too soon to know if this new sunspot will become a source of solar flares. That depends on its magnetic complexity, which will reveal itself as the sunspot turns toward Earth.

PLANETARY K-INDEX



Week Four

As we entered week four, we were seeing several new active regions rotating into Earth view. One region was boosting the solar flux back into the marginal range for amateur radio HF propagation. Additional active regions were expected to boost propagation even more.

Forecast Prepared jointly by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Weather Prediction Center. UPDATED 2020 July 25 1230 UTC

Summary: Solar activity was very low. Region 2767 (S21E27, Hsx/alpha) was quiet and stable. No Earth-directed CMEs were observed in available imagery. Solar activity was expected to remain very low July 25-27.

73,

Fred AA0JK

DRC's Emergency Responses

In the event of a disaster in the metro area, please monitor our repeaters on 145.490/448.625 (primary) and 449.350 (secondary).

The emergency Net Control Operator will provide information and/or requests to members for assistance.

W0TX Repeater Directory



Search for Deliver Radio Club @ Sillile.amazon.com

Note to DRC Members:

Our club depends on the involvement and participation of YOU, our members. Do you have a skill or interest that could help the club. Maybe you want to volunteer to be on a committee? Like to write? Have ideas for improving what we do? Speak up and let someone know, all ideas are welcomed and participation is always helpful. ~Editor



THE ROUNDTABLE ARCHIVE

Go to: http://www.wotx.org/roundtables.htm

THE ROUNDTABLE ARTICLE INDEX

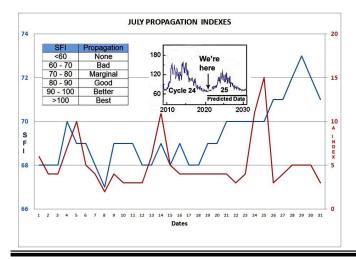
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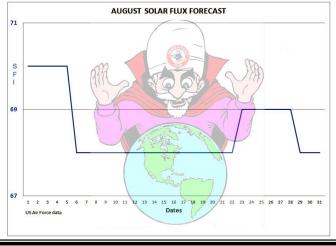
PAST & FUTURE PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

By Bill Rinker, W6OAV

The charts below show the Solar Flux and "A" indexes for last month and the forecast for this month's Solar Flux index.

Refer to the September 2010 *Roundtable* for more complete information on interpreting these charts, which is available at: http://www.w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2010-RoundTables/RT201009(SEP).pdf





UPCOMING EVENTS

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

Event	Date	Location	Sponsor Website

All cancelled.

UPCOMING QSO PARTIES

The following are the Contests not sponsored by the ARRL. Please submit additions for future issues.

State/Province	Start Date	End Date	Sponsor Website	Notes
Maryland-DC	08/08/2020	08/09/2020	Anne Arundel Radio Club	
Hawaii	08/22/2020	08/24/2020	Hawaii QSO Party	
Ohio	08/22/2020	08/23/2020	Ohio QSO Party	
Kansas	08/29/2020	08/30/2020	Kansas QSO Party	
Colorado	09/05/2020	09/06/2020	Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association	
Tennessee	09/06/2020	09/07/2020	Tennessee QSO Party	
Alabama	09/12/2020	09/13/2020	Alabama QSO Party	
Texas	09/12/2020	09/13/2020	Texas QSO Party	
lowa	09/19/2020	09/20/2020	Story County ARC	
New Jersey	09/19/2020	09/20/2020	New Jersey QSO Party	
Washington	09/19/2020	09/20/2020	Western Washington DX Club	
Maine	09/26/2020	09/27/2020	Wireless Society of Southern Maine	
California	10/03/2020	10/04/2020	California QSO Party	
Nevada	10/09/2020	10/11/2020	Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society	

ATTENTION

SUPPORT THE DRC FROM YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES

You can now support your Denver Radio Club when you make purchases from Amazon.com. Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of your purchase to the non-profit (501.c.3) organization of your choice. This is at no additional cost to you. To support the DRC just visit smileamazon.com. Select Denver Radio Club, Inc. as the organization you want to support and proceed with your order as usual. Amazon Smile will credit the DRC automatically. Thank you for your support.

DRC REPEATERS

BAND	Freq / Shift / PL Tone	Additional Information
6m	53.090MHz (-1MHz) 107.2Hz PL	
Packet	145.05MHz<>14.105MHz	2m / 20m gateway. Useable by Technicians on 2m.
2m	145.490MHz (-) 100Hz PL	Linked to 70cm / 448.625MHz. Primary frequency during emergency net.
2m	147.330MHz (+) 100Hz PL	Local area. Has voting receivers. Does not TX a PL.
2m	147.330MHz (+) 131.8Hz PL	Test mode operation. Send signal reports to Tech Committee.
1.25m	224.380MHz (-) 100Hz PL	
70cm	447.825MHz (-) DCS~073; NB 12.5; +/- 2.5	Saint Anthony's. Note: This is a narrow band repeater requiring DCS.
70cm	448.625MHz (-) 100Hz PL	Linked to 2m / 145.490MHz. 1° disaster net freq.
70cm	449.350MHz (-) 100Hz PL	Wide area coverage with Echolink, node # 4140. Secondary frequency during emergency net.
70cm	449.775 MHz (-)	Yaesu digital, C4FM, Wires-X, DN, VW & Data. No analog FM. W0TX Room 40931.
70cm	446.7875MHz (-)	BrandMeister Repeater: Slot 1 – Wide Area Traffic, Slot 2 – Local Talk Group 310804



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AUGUST 2020 DRC Net Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on 145.490 / 448.625 (no PL) Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Saturday 222 MHz & Up Distance Contest -Starts 1800 UTC 7 8 3 6 Learning Net 222 MHz & Up Distance Contest -7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 Ends 1759 UTC (No PL) Full Moon 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 Learning Net 10 GHz & Up - Starts 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 6AM local (No PL) Last Quarter 21 22 16 17 18 19 20 **DRC Online Meeting** 10 GHz & Up - Ends mid-Elmer 6 p.m. night local Meeting 7 p.m. Rookie Roundup - RTTY 1800—2359 UTC New Moon 23 27 28 29 24 25 26 Learning Net 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL) First 30 31 Quarter

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President	W0GV	Gerry Villhauer	303-467-0223	w0gv@hotmail.com
Vice-President	K0KPS	Kevin Schmidt	303-475-9234	ad0gx@arrl.net
Secretary	WW0LF	Orlen Wolf	303-279-6264	owolf@mines.edu
Treasurer	N0CRZ	Cathy Villhauer	303-467-0223	crazycathy56@gmail.com
Board Member	WY0J	Jan Alan Dickover	303-697-0725	jad.wy0j@gmail.com
Board Member	K0TOR	Jim Beall	303-798-2351	k0tor@arrl.net
Board Member	WG0N	Dave Baysinger	303-987-0246	wg0n@arrl.net
Board Member	KB0CHT	Jeff Irvin	Check Roster	Check Roster

DRC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Benevolent		Carolyn Wolf	303-279-1328	Contact owolf@mines.edu
Club Librarian	WG0N	Dave Baysinger	303-987-0246	wg0n@arrl.net
Education Coordinator	AA0JK	Fred Hart	303-420-3536	elmer@w0tx.org
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Please Let Us Know

Over the years we occasionally hear from hams who have read the RoundTable in other states and countries around the world. We appreciate the comments and we would like to know where you are located. So if you live outside the Front Range or Denver Metro Area and read the newsletter either online, email or hard copy please send a short note via email with your *City, State* or *City, Country*.

We will publish it at a later date in our new regular feature called RoundTable RoundWorld.

To respond to this request send your information to deceditor and later date in our new regular feature called RoundTable RoundWorld.

Subject: I'm located in...

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DRC members - this is your newsletter. Please email your club or amateur radio related suggestions to the editor. Members are the heart of The Denver Radio Club, so 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.editor@gmail.com. The submission deadline is the 25th of the Month. ~ Editor