



# THE ROUND TABLE

Monthly Newsletter Of The Denver Radio Club

Since 1917

January 2023

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GERRY VILLHAUER, W0GV

Hello DRC Members.

As I write this, I just finished snow blowing about 10 inches of snow from the walkway and drive. Sorta confirms that winter is here. The snow is sure better than the below zero temperatures we survived last week. Come on Spring!

Our Holiday Dinner Party was a success even with the below zero temperatures. When we were unloading the car about 1 p.m., the temperature was a balmy 46 degrees. When we started to eat at 6 p.m., it was MINUS 2 degrees. The weather did keep a few members from attending but we still had a good crowd. The food was fantastic! Our caterer and member Mark, KD0IQW and family, did a wonderful job with the food. We proceeded with our program by Dr. Ebru Bozdog. She told of her experiences using 3D numerical wave simulations to explore and model Earth's planetary interiors from the crust to the core. Very interesting presentation! We had many smiling faces when we did the prize drawing. Congratulations to our winners.

The NCARC will be having their Winter Hamfest at the Larimer County Fairgrounds at the Ranch on January 21, 2023. Address is 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, Colorado. The DRC will have a couple tables at the event. Please stop by and say hello!

Our January 18, 2023 meeting program will be presented by John Portune, W6NBC. Few hams have a clue of how to select a toroid and wind it to make a 1:1, 4:1 or 9:1 balun and the well-known radio books can be confusing. This presentation shows the three very easy steps to successful ferrite toroid design with very little math and a free on-line calculator. John has given us several very interesting presentations. He is an excellent speaker and I am sure we will enjoy learning about toroids.

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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## WHO'S NEW IN THE DRC?

FROM CATHY VILLHAUER, N0CRZ, DRC MEMBERSHIP

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 welcome them to the club and repeaters. Welcome to our newest members:

Donn Fishbein AB8OH  
Doug Comer -KEØDC  
Brian Menges -KFØJKU  
Tyler Heini -KE8TRQ

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.

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## MEMBER RECOGNITION

BY GERRY VILLHAUER, W0GV

Lyle Strachan, KE0ZNV is a 16 year old ham and the son of DRC member Mark Strachan, KD0IQW. Lyle is a 4th. generation ham and is home schooled. Lyle placed first place in the ARRL sponsored School Club Round-up for 2022; with 678 contacts and a score of over 160,000 points. Lyle is also an active Skywarn spotter and loves to take pictures of lightning. He is Net Control for several youth radio nets and will be a featured Youth presenter at Hamvention 2023. He also loves the great outdoors and enjoys camping and any outdoor activity. Lyle is an excellent example of what our ham radio hobby needs for future growth.



## INFLATABLE ANTENNAS

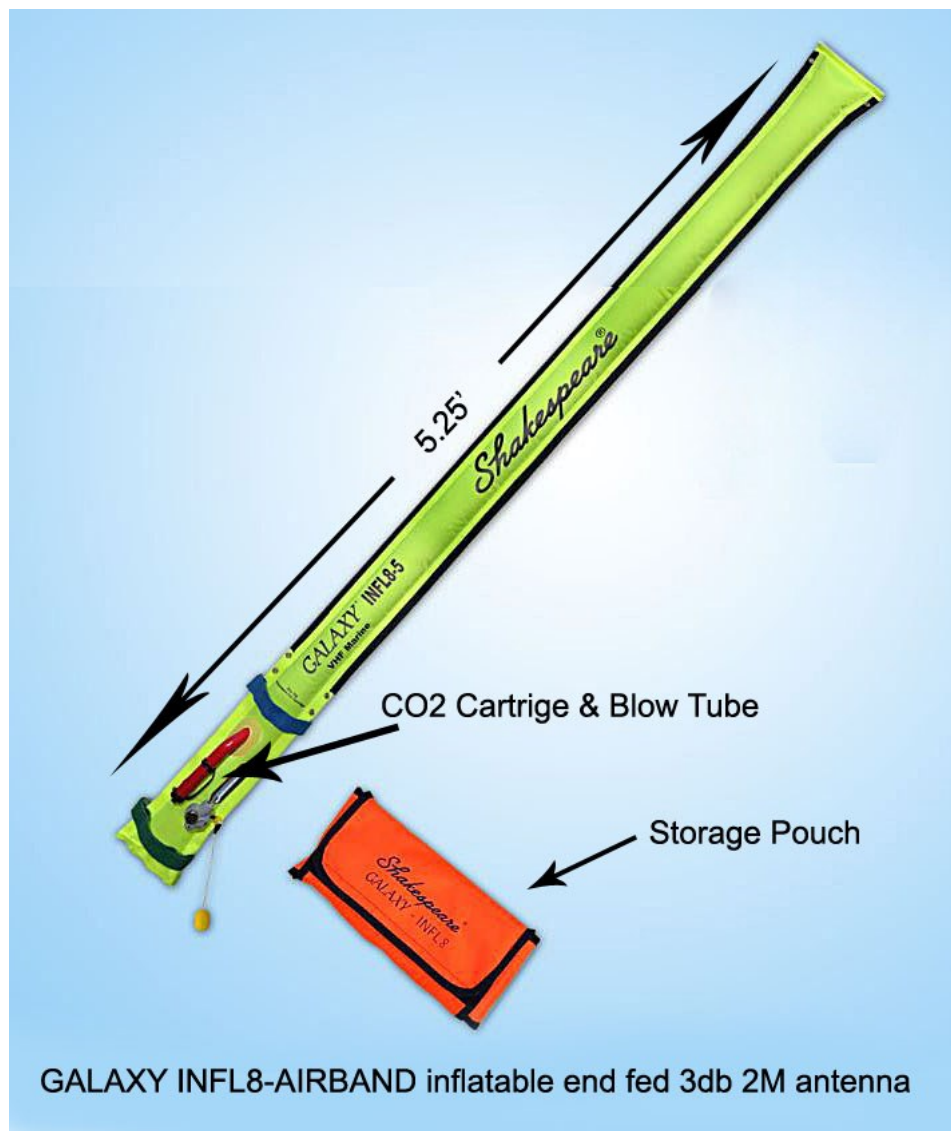
BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

Here are several unique portable antennas. They are unique because they are “blowup” antennas. (See Figure). When not in use they can be deflated and placed in very small storage bags. These antennas also feature grommets on the top and bottom to facilitate hanging and securing to external supports. The purpose of this article is not to endorse these antennas but to introduce a novel concept. If you are interested in easily portable antennas, check out the following sites.

Shakespeare INFL8-HAM Inflatable Dual Band Antenna - Sota - Emergency - Portable  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXwjo-0JF14>

A review of The Ham Air 2m Half-Wave Vertical Inflatable Antenna  
<https://www.radioenthusiast.co.uk/articles/the-ham-air-2m-half-wave-vertical-inflatable-antenna/>

The Inflatable AntennaAIR on 20 Meters HF  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9eZa3NIdQM>



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## Q-CODES IN VOICE

BY ONNOBENSCHOP, VK6FLAB

This week I'm going to have a look at something called a Q-code. Last week I talked about a few aspects of operating. One of the inventions associated with human speech is the short-cut, a way to quickly say something rather than use the whole story. Before Amateur Radio this started on the telegraph with shortcuts called Q-codes. Think a three letter combination, starting with Q, followed by two letters. QTH, QSL, QRZ, QLF are examples.

Language, just like Amateur Radio is an evolving feast. You'll find people writing articles about the abuse of Q-codes in speech going back to the early days of voice operation. The Q-code started with Morse Code as a way to quickly say something without needing to key the whole thing. This has flowed over into voice. You'll hear people use Morse-Code-isms in day to day language, 73, QSL, QTH and others are all examples of shortcuts that have no actual place in speech, but none the less have taken hold.

Having said that, of course there is difference of opinion how you should conduct yourself. I know that there are things I hear on air that make me wince, and I'm sure that I've said things that make others shake their head. So, here's my take on how it should be done and feel free to do the same, or ignore me altogether.

There is no such thing as "QRZ the frequency?". Nobody is calling the frequency. QRZ is specifically for the purpose of asking: "Who is calling me?" I know that there are some who are sharpening their pitchforks about now with all manner of comment, so let me be clear. I know, there are people who use QRZ in a pile-up. They've been calling CQ, had lots of replies, work a station and then after the contact say: QRZ?, with the meaning: "I'm done with the contact and I'm ready for another."

This in my opinion is particularly poor operating, since it means that you're too lazy to say your callsign, disrespectful of all the stations calling you, arrogant enough to assume that everyone knows which station you are and oblivious to the notion that propagation is ever changing with new stations dropping in and out all the time.

Instead of saying QRZ after such a contact, you're much better off saying your callsign instead. If you're in doubt, listen to some actually experienced contesters or DX operators and then you can you can fire off your feedback.

I've been told that I have a habit of overusing QSL, but it means: "Transmission received and understood." and in communications there cannot be too much of that. I use it in day to day on-air language, use it in email and SMS and when I'm proficient in Morse, no doubt I'll use it there too.

There are those that say that Hi-Hi, should not be used in voice, in Morse it's .... .., which sounds a little like someone laughing, which is where it comes from. Personally I think it's cute that you say Hi-Hi, even if someone who's not an Amateur doesn't share the joke.

As a stick in the mud, I dislike 73's. If you're going to abuse a code, then at least use the correct one. It's nice in Morse, ---... ---, symmetric, the end of a contact, all fine. But there's not more than one of them and we're not sending off the number 3, seven times, so drop the 's'.

I've been using language associated with broadcasting for a long time and I confess to wincing when I hear "Car-ah-be-an", rather than "Ca-rib-be-an", or "ad-ver-tise-ment" vs. "ad-ver-tis-ment" - no doubt some of my pronouncements will make you wince and some will find you agreeing.

I'm Onno VK6FLAB

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If you'd like to participate in discussion about the podcast or about amateur radio, you can visit the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/foundations.itmaze>

Feel free to get in touch directly via email: [onno@itmaze.com.au](mailto:onno@itmaze.com.au), or follow on twitter: @vk6flab (<http://twitter.com/vk6flab/>).



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## DRC's Trading Post

Don't forget you can find **locally-sourced, ham-grown** merchandise at:  
[w0tx.org/trade](http://w0tx.org/trade)

### ATTENTION

The DRC Board of Directors meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month and are open to any member. Due to scheduling of meeting space, the board does not always meet at the same location and on occasion meetings are held via Skype. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact a board member prior to meeting night for specific information.



**PAST ROUND TABLE PAGES**

PROVIDED BY WOODY LINWOOD, W0UI

From the November 1960 edition.

**Mars . . .**

(Continued from Page 1)

World War Two Army Amateur Radio System established by the Signal Corps in 1925 and continuing until the start of World War II.

a. The Military Affiliate Radio System then known as the Military Amateur Radio System, was established on 26 November 1948 on authority of the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force. The system operates on a joint basis for the determination of over-all policy but separately for operational control. Use of the term MARS in this article refers only to the Air Force MARS Program unless MARS (Army) is specified.

b. The MARS Headquarters Radio Station, WAR-AIR (K4USA/K4AF), located on the Main Concourse of the Pentagon Washington, D. C., was dedicated and placed in operation on October 10, 1960. The station is visited by many thousands of interested persons yearly.

c. When organized, MARS was restricted to active duty military members and inactive reservists. However, on September 26

1960, the program was opened to civilian members. These civilians need no military affiliation to join or to maintain membership in the program.

d. To more accurately describe its joint military and civilian nature, the name Military Amateur Radio System was changed to **Military Affiliate Radio System** on September 2, 1962. As a result of the enthusiasm and interest of the new civilian members, the age limit was lowered from 21 years of age to 16 years of age (with parental consent) on November 26, 1953. This change has enabled many members eligible for future military service to become acquainted with military communications procedures and practices prior to induction or enlistment. To further assist the prospective military trainee a program has been established that will insure the MARS Air Force enlistee assignment within the communications field.

e. During the past few years, membership in MARS has grown to well over 6,000 members (the number of total hams in 1917). MARS members have made substantial contributions to the Single Sideband and

(Continued on Page 10)

**HY-GAIN ANTENNAS**

Model 12AVS—Vertical ..... \$21.95	Model TH-3—Beam ..... 89.95
Model 14AVS—Vertical ..... 27.95	Model 65B—6M Beam ..... 18.95

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### 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).

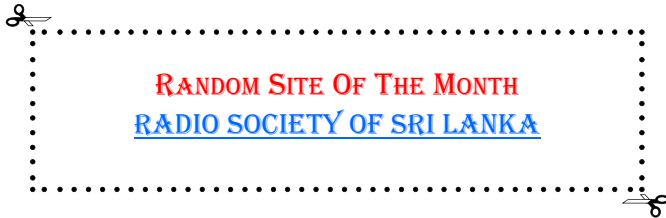
The emergency Net Control Operator will provide information and/or requests to members for assistance.

[W0TX Repeater Directory](#)



#### 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



**RANDOM SITE OF THE MONTH**  
[RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA](#)

#### THE ROUND TABLE ARCHIVE

Go to: [w0tx.org/roundtable](http://w0tx.org/roundtable)

#### THE ROUND TABLE ARTICLE INDEX

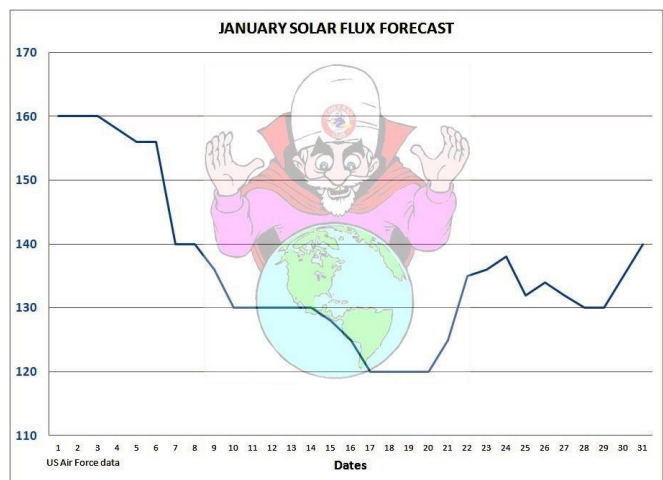
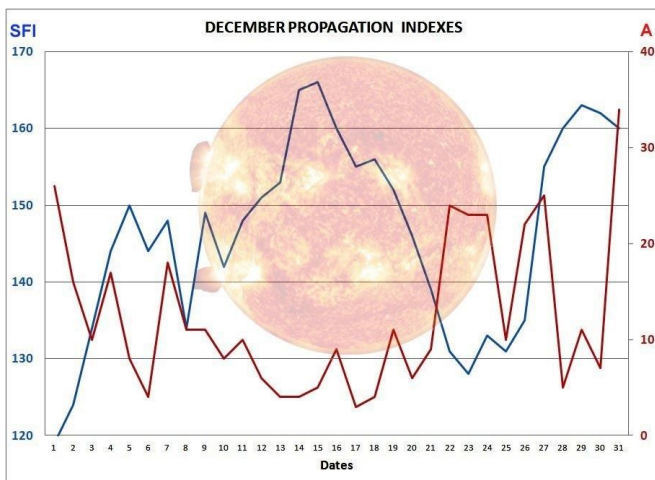
Go to: [w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/-RoundTables-Index.pdf](http://w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/-RoundTables-Index.pdf)

## 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 *Round Table* for more complete information on interpreting these charts, which is available at: [http://www.w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2010-RoundTables/RT201009\(SEP\).pdf](http://www.w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2010-RoundTables/RT201009(SEP).pdf)



**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**

Event	Date	Location	Sponsor Website
NCARC WinterHamfest	1/21/23	Loveland, CO	<a href="http://ncarc.net/node/68">ncarc.net/node/68</a>
The Swapfest	2/19/23	Brighton, CO	<a href="http://mham.org/swapfest">mham.org/swapfest</a>

**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
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None listed.

See [contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html](http://contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html) for a larger QSO parties list.

**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](http://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	Metro Denver Area Coverage
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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<b>JANUARY 2023</b>		<i>DRC Net Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on 145.490 / 448.625 (no PL)</i>				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  New Moon 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Learning Net</b> 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Kids Day -</b> 1800 UTC - 2359 UTC  <b>RTTY Roundup -</b> Begins 1800 UTC
<b>8</b> <b>RTTY Roundup - Ends</b>	<b>9</b>  First Quarter	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Learning Net</b> 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10 Meter - Begins 0000 UTC</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10 Meter - Ends 2359 UTC</b>	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>  Full Moon	<b>18</b> <b>DRC Online Meeting</b> Elmer 6 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>January VHF Contest</b>
<b>22</b> <b>January VHF Contest</b>	<b>23</b> <b>January VHF Contest</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Learning Net</b> 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)  Last Quarter	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

See [arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://arrl.org/contest-calendar) for additional details about contests.

## DRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Member	KB0CHT	Jeff Irvin	Check Roster	Check Roster

## DRC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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Website & YouTube	K1DBC	Doron Ben Chaim	720-254-1561	<a href="mailto:websiteadmin@w0tx.org">websiteadmin@w0tx.org</a>

### Please Let Us Know

Over the years we occasionally hear from hams who have read the Round Table 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 Round Table Round World.

To respond to this request send your information to [roundtable@w0tx.org](mailto:roundtable@w0tx.org).

*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 [roundtable@w0tx.org](mailto:roundtable@w0tx.org). The submission deadline is the 25th of the Month. ~ Editor*