



THE ROUND TABLE

Monthly Newsletter Of The Denver Radio Club

Since 1917

January 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GERRY VILLHAUER, W0GV

Hello DRC Members,

Happy New Year to all members and your families. Cathy and I wish all of you a great 2025!

As we get the DRC year started, look for upcoming activities and a continuation with our DRC Saturdays. They have proven to be popular to many members and guests. We will be working on a schedule of activities and post them as soon as possible. Our December Holiday Party was successful, but attendance was not what we hoped for.

If you missed the Holiday Party, you missed a wonderful presentation by Dave and Rita Baysinger on their recent trip to Africa. Rita's talk was very well prepared and delivered and the pictures of animals, some of them really up close, were breathtaking along with the beautiful background of Africa. Thanks Rita, for a very well done presentation.

At this time we do not have a program nailed down for January. Stay tuned to the weekly Sunday and Wednesday nets for more information. January meeting will be Jan 15, 2025.

On a sad note, we lost long time member Bill Hester, N0LAJ in December. Bill had been very active with the club and was editor of the Round Table for several years. Bill will be missed by all of us who knew him. Please keep his family in your prayers.

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



WHO'S NEW IN THE DRC?

PROVIDED BY DORON BEN CHAIM, K1DBC

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:

Gregory Black	W0EPK
Dave McKane	AA0DM

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.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

Why is "Juice Jacking" so important to know about these days?

The answer can be found on page 4 of the Dec 2022 issue of the Round Table:

[https://w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2022-RoundTables/RT202210\(OCT\).pdf](https://w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2022-RoundTables/RT202210(OCT).pdf)

MH370

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

"Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight One Step Closer To Being Found 10 Years After Vanishing Thanks To Ham Radio Breadcrumbs" - Originally on Jalopnik, reference below.

A potential breakthrough has emerged in the decade-long mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 (MH370), which disappeared on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board. Ocean Infinity, a maritime robotics company, is employing an innovative technique using Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) technology to potentially track the flight's final path in the southern Indian Ocean.

WSPR, originally developed for amateur radio communications, utilizes low-power radio signals that can be detected globally. The theory behind using WSPR for aircraft tracking is that when an aircraft crosses a radio signal, it creates a detectable disturbance. By analyzing these disturbances, researchers hope to reconstruct MH370's flight path more accurately.

Richard Godfrey, a member of the MH370 Independent Group, claims to have identified 130

disturbances in WSPR signals on the night MH370 disappeared, potentially indicating the plane's final trajectory. Based on this analysis, Godfrey suggests he has a "good idea" of the crash site within a 30km radius.

The search area for MH370's wreckage is vast, comparable in size to the state of Connecticut. Previous search efforts, including a \$200 million operation, failed to locate the aircraft. Ocean Infinity's approach using WSPR technology offers a new avenue for narrowing down the search area and potentially solving one of aviation's greatest mysteries.

While the WSPR method shows promise, it's important to note that its effectiveness in tracking aircraft over long distances is still being investigated by scientists at the University of Liverpool. The upcoming search by Ocean Infinity, conducted on a "no find, no fee" basis, represents a renewed hope for finding answers and closure for the families of those aboard MH370.

Reference

<https://jalopnik.com/missing-malaysia-airlines-flight-one-step-closer-to-bei-1851727542>

FLASH DRIVES, THUMB DRIVES, RAM, SSDs AND HDDs

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

For hams, understanding the lifespan and reliability of various electronic components is crucial for maintaining and optimizing their equipment. While hams often focus on antennas, transceivers, and power supplies, the storage and memory components in their computer systems play a vital role in supporting the hobby. These components, including thumb drives, flash drives, Random Access Memory (RAM), Solid-State Drives (SSDs) and Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) are essential for tasks such as logging contacts, storing digital modes software, and managing radio control applications (Figure 1).

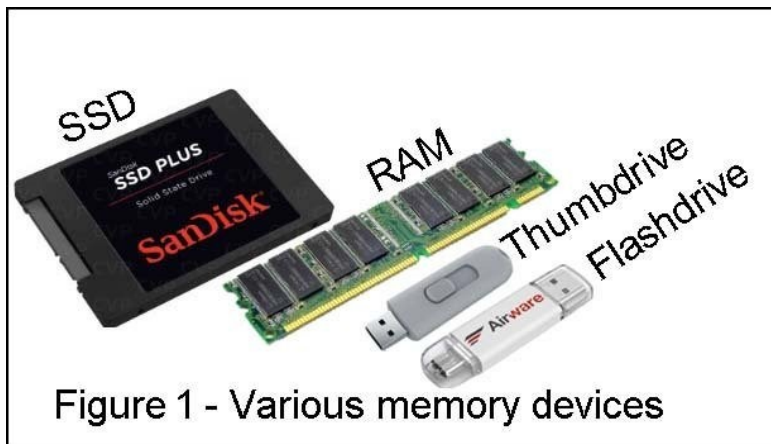


Figure 1 - Various memory devices

Several questions often arise when considering data storage options, such as: "Is a thumb drive suitable for long term backups?" or "Should I choose an HDD or an SSD for my PC?" This article discusses the characteristics and lifespan differences among various storage devices, aiming to help hams make informed decisions about their equipment setup.

Characteristics of Flash Drives, Thumb Drives, RAM, and SSDs

Flash drives, thumb drives, RAM, and SSDs are all storage devices used in computing, but they have distinct characteristics and purposes (HDDs will be discussed later in this article).

Flash drives and thumb drives are used interchangeably in everyday conversation, but they actually have some distinct characteristics that set them apart. Both are portable storage devices that utilize solid-state technology, but their specific implementations and typical use differ.

Flash drives, also known as compact flash (CF) drives, employ a type of memory that uses magnetic force for reading and writing data. This technology allows for higher storage capacities and faster data transfer speeds compared to typical thumb drives. Flash drives can often store between 512GB to 2TB of data, making them suitable for transporting large files or for use in high-performance applications. They usually incorporate more advanced USB standards like 3.1 or higher, further enhancing their speed capabilities. Besides the thumb drive format, flash memory can be in the form factor of SD Cards, credit card drives, and external portable SSD drives.

Thumb drives, also known as USB flash drives, memory sticks, or pen drives, are compact, portable data storage devices that utilize flash memory to store information. They are designed to connect directly to a device's USB port—typically USB-A or USB-C—without the need for additional cables. This design makes them highly convenient for data transfer and storage. Thumb drives typically range from 16GB to 512GB in storage space. They often utilize USB 2.0 or 3.0 interfaces, which, while not as fast as the latest standards, are widely compatible with most computers.

In terms of versatility, flash drives often have the edge. They can be used with a wider range of devices, including tablets, smartphones, and cameras, in addition to computers. Thumb drives, while universally compatible with computers, are primarily designed for simple data storage and data transfer between PCs.

RAM differs significantly from thumb drives and SSDs. RAM is volatile memory, meaning it loses data when power is cut off, while thumb drives and SSDs are nonvolatile and retain data without power. RAM acts as a short-term memory bank that allows computers to store and quickly access data needed for immediate processing. It provides a temporary storage location where data can be rapidly retrieved or rewritten to support real-time computer and mobile application.

SSDs share similarities with flash drives in using NAND flash memory, but they serve different purposes. SSDs are designed as primary storage devices for computers, offering much larger capacities and significantly faster read/write speeds compared to flash or thumb drives. They typically use SATA or NVMe interfaces, unlike the USB interfaces of flash and thumb drives. SSDs are also generally more durable and have a longer lifespan than portable flash storage devices.

In terms of long-term storage, neither flash drives nor thumb drives are ideal. For extended data preservation, more robust solutions such as HDDs, SSDs, or cloud storage services are rec-

ommended. These alternatives offer better durability and longevity for preserving data over time.

Life Span of Flash Drives, Thumb Drives, RAM, and SSDs

The lifespan of thumb drives, flash drives, RAM, and SSDs varies significantly due to their different technologies and usage patterns.

Thumb drives and flash drives, which are essentially the same technology, typically have a shorter lifespan compared to RAM and SSDs. These portable storage devices use NAND flash memory and are rated for a limited number of write cycles. Their lifespan is often measured in write cycles rather than years, with most consumer-grade devices capable of withstanding 3,000 to 5,000 write cycles per cell. However, their actual lifespan can vary greatly depending on usage patterns and quality of the device. They *should not* be used for long term backup.

RAM generally has the longest lifespan among these storage technologies. Modern RAM can last for decades under normal use, with some estimates suggesting a lifespan of over 100 years. RAM's longevity is primarily due to its design for frequent read and write operations without degradation. However, it's important to note that RAM is volatile memory, meaning it only retains data while powered on, so its "lifespan" refers to the physical components rather than data retention.

SSDs have a lifespan that falls between flash drives and RAM. Modern SSDs have significantly improved longevity compared to earlier models. The average life expectancy of an SSD is about 5-10 years, depending on usage patterns and quality. SSDs are often rated in terms of Total Bytes Written (TBW) or Drive Writes Per Day (DWPD). For example, a consumer-grade SSD might have a TBW rating of 150-300 TB, meaning it can write that much data before potentially failing.

It's worth noting that the lifespan of these devices is often longer than the practical use of the computer in which they are installed. For instance, a study by Google and the University of Toronto found that SSD failures increased with age, but they still needed to be replaced 25% less often than HDDs. Additionally, advancements in technology mean that by the time these devices wear out, newer, faster, and higher-capacity alternatives are likely to be available at lower costs.

In practical terms, for most users, the lifespan of these storage devices is not a significant concern. Regular backups and proper usage practices are more important for data preservation than worrying about the theoretical lifespan of the storage medium.

The chart below summarizes the typical lifespans of various storage devices. High-quality drives can last longer, while frequent use may shorten their lifespan (Except for RAM due to its structure).

Storage Type	Typical Lifespan	Notes
Thumb Drives	10+ years	3,000 to 5,000 write/erase cycles
Flash Drives	10+ years	3,000 to 5,000 write/erase cycles
RAM	Decades	Near unlimited write/erase
SSD	5-10 years	10,000 to 100,000 write/erase

HDD or SSD?

A question often heard is “Should I go with an SSD or HDD?” The references below may help answer that question.

SSDs generally have a lifespan of 5-10 years while HDDs typically last between 3-7 years. The longer lifespan of SSDs is primarily due to their lack of moving parts, which reduces failure over time. However, it's important to note that the actual lifespan of both SSDs and HDDs can vary significantly based on usage, environmental factors, and manufacturing quality. Some HDDs have been known to function for over a decade, while others may fail within a year. Similarly, SSDs can last longer or shorter than their expected lifespan depending on various factors.

In practice, both SSDs and HDDs can last for many years with proper care and usage. The key difference is that HDDs are more susceptible to physical damage due to their moving parts, while SSDs are more resilient to shock and vibration. Ultimately, regardless of the type of drive, it's crucial to maintain regular backups of important data, as both SSDs and HDDs can fail unexpectedly at any time.

The following chart summarizes the differences between SSDs and HDDs.

Factor	SSD	HDD
Speed (File Transfer)	500 MB/s to 3,500+ MB/s	30-150 MB/s
Boot Time	10-15 seconds	30-40 seconds
Application Load Time	10-15 seconds	30-40 seconds
Typical Lifespan	5-10 years	3-7 years
Durability	High (no moving parts)	Lower (mechanical parts)
Failure rates after 4 years	1.05%	1.83%
Energy Efficiency	Higher	Lower
Noise	Silent	Some noise from moving parts
Cost per GB	Higher (but decreasing)	Lower
Best Use Case	Primary drive, speed-critical applications	Large storage needs, budget constraints

References:

Thumb Drives VS. Flash Drives:

<https://www.psmpartners.com/blog/thumb-drives-vs-flash-drives/>

How Reliable are SSDs?

<https://www.backblaze.com/blog/how-reliable-are-ssds/>

SSD or HDD: Which Is Right for You?

<https://www.avg.com/en/signal/ssd-hdd-which-is-best>

Drive Life Expectancy at-a-Glance:

<https://www.enterprisestorageforum.com/hardware/life-expectancy-of-a-drive/>

SSD vs HDD Lifespan:

<https://www.easeus.com/storage-media-recovery/ssd-vs-hdd-lifespan.html>

EDITOR'S NOTE: I've used the following software for SSD management and has saved people's data many times. <https://www.grc.com/sr/spinrite.htm>

BLUETOOTH VERSUS WI-FI

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

This article compares Bluetooth versus Wi-Fi technologies, in response to a discussion on this topic heard on a DRC repeater.

Range: The typical ranges of Bluetooth and Wi-Fi depends on a several factors:

Bluetooth

- Class 1: Up to 330 feet – Used for industrial automation, smart buildings, long-range audio streaming.
- Class 2: Up to 33 feet - This is the most common class used in smartphones, headphones, and other consumer devices.
- Class 3: Up to 3.3 feet - This is the lowest class and typically used in small devices like smartwatches and fitness trackers.

Wi-Fi

- 2.4 GHz: Offers ranges reaching up to 150 feet indoors and 300 feet outdoors.
- 5 GHz: Offers faster speeds but a shorter range, reaching up to 50 feet indoors and 100 feet outdoors.

Interference: Bluetooth is relatively immune as it uses spread spectrum frequency hopping across 79 channels at 1,600 times a second. Wi-Fi can suffer interference from microwaves, wireless intercoms, cordless telephones and neighbor's Wi-Fi signals in the 2.4 GHz band. Interference in the 5 GHz band usually is not an issue due to the shorter Wi-Fi signal range in this band (and high signal losses when penetrating walls).

Security: Bluetooth uses various encryption algorithms to protect data from eavesdropping. Wi-

Fi networks typically have higher security levels with WPA2 or WPA3 encryption, safeguarding data transmission from unauthorized access.

Connectivity: Bluetooth connections are typically limited to a few devices at a time and are not suitable for sharing internet access. Wi-Fi networks can connect multiple devices simultaneously, enabling internet access for various devices within range.

Power consumption: Bluetooth uses significantly lower power consumption, making it ideal for battery powered devices like smartphones and wearables. Wi-Fi adapters require more power, potentially impacting battery life on portable devices.

Cost: Bluetooth technology is generally cheaper to implement, both in terms of device cost and network setup. Wi-Fi networks may require additional hardware and configuration, potentially increasing the overall cost.

Applications: Bluetooth is used to connect personal devices like headphones, keyboards, and wearable devices. Wi-Fi's is used to connect devices to the internet, streaming media, gaming, and transferring large files.

The chart below summarizes Bluetooth verses Wi-Fi.

Bluetooth Verses Wi-Fi		
Feature	Bluetooth [2]	Wi-Fi [3] [4]
Technology	Short-range radio frequency communication	Wireless networking technology
Frequency Bands	2.4 GHz	2.4 GHz and 5 GHz
Max Xmit Power	100 mW	2.4 GHz: 100mW, 5 GHz: 1W
Range Indoors	Up to 30 feet	2.4 GHz: 150 feet, 5 GHz: 50 feet
Number of Channels	79, each displaced by 1 MHz	2.4 GHz: 11 overlapping, (use 1,6 or 11), 5 GHz: 34 clear
Speed	Up to ≤ 3 Mbps	≤ 866 Mbps, based on version of 802.x
Security	Good: Encryption, authentication, and pairing	Better: WPA2 or WPA3 encryption
Number of devices connected	Limited to a few devices	Supports multiple network devices simultaneously
Power consumption	Very low	Moderately high
Cost	Relatively low	Varies depending on device and network configuration
Typical applications	Connecting devices like headphones, speakers, keyboards, and mice	Connecting devices to the internet, streaming media, gaming, and transferring large files

References:

[1]. Bluetooth vs Wi-Fi - What's the difference?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPMGRILsOVk>

[2]. An Overview of Bluetooth Technology

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276251559>

[An Overview of Bluetooth Technology and its Communication Applications](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276251559)

[3]. Guide for Channel & Transmit Power on Wi-Fi Networks

<https://www.engeniustech.com/go-guide-channel-transmit-power-wi-fi-networks-2/>

[4]. WLAN: Maximum Transmission Power (ETSI)

[https://wlan1nde.wordpress.com/2014/11/26/wlan-maximum-transmission-power-etsi/#:~:text=2.4%20GHz,\(63%20mW\)%20for%20CCK](https://wlan1nde.wordpress.com/2014/11/26/wlan-maximum-transmission-power-etsi/#:~:text=2.4%20GHz,(63%20mW)%20for%20CCK)

The DRC needs you!

Please contact W0GV (president@w0tx.org) if you are interested in helping with the open positions.
See the list at the end of the newsletter.

~Editor's Note: We would love to publish a monthly column profiling DRC members' stories about how they got into the ham radio hobby, their interests and backgrounds. You may be boring but your story is probably interesting! Please submit your story to roundtable@w0tx.org.

The Denver Radio Club
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PAST ROUND TABLE PAGES

PROVIDED BY WOODY LINWOOD, W0UI

From the September 1960 edition.

TROUBLE . . .

(Continued from Page Five)

(b) did not introduce another malfunction.

Not much to it, eh?

Well, for an unspecified number of months we'll be exploring the highways and byways associated with the above four steps. For instance, some of you may question my inclusion of the first step. Since troubleshooting can be a long drawn-out process, there must be a definite basis for beginning it. Admittedly, some malfunctions present you with symptoms that are quite catastrophic in nature. If your transmitter should ever go up in a blinding flash and a multicolored mushroom cloud of smoke, you have been presented with a very definite *corpus delicti* upon which you can base a troubleshooting procedure. On the other hand, there are malfunctions in a receiver or transmitter whose symptoms are so subtle that they can easily be ignored or overlooked.

(To be continued)

The "Ham"

Ed. note—Last month we gave you the origination of "The Shack." This month we are pleased to pass along the origination of the "HAM." This was a teletype broadcast by W6YJG taken from "Northern Lights Carrier" and intercepted by W0AJL. Our thanks to all.

The word "HAM" as applied to amateur radio dates back to 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations, operated by some members of The Harvard Wireless Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy, and Reggy Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for revision and they changed the name to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name. Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so the boys decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, amateurs picked their own frequency

2 (SPQR) *

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DRC's Emergency Response Info

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](#)

Kings Soopers Reward Program - Help the DRC.

kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards

citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards



RANDOM SITE OF THE MONTH

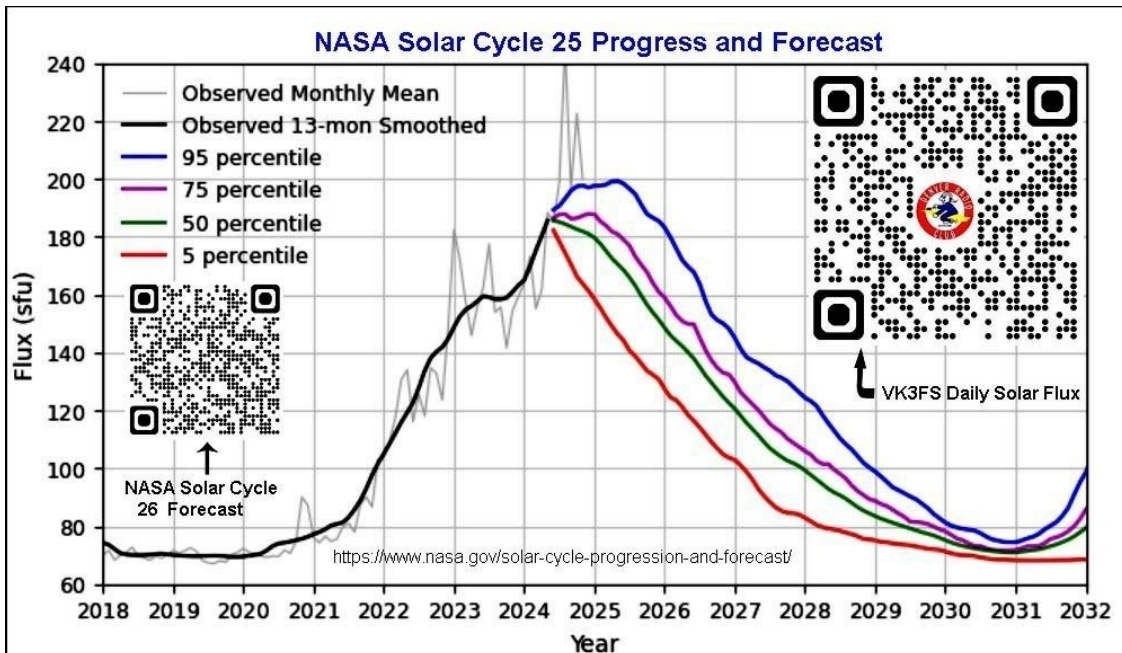
[CX1AA - Uruguay](#)

THE ROUND TABLE ARCHIVE AND ARTICLE INDEX

w0tx.org/roundtable

PROPAGATION FORECAST

By Bill Rinker, W6OAV



UPCOMING EVENTS
HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

Event	Date	Location	Sponsor Website
Winter Hamfest 2025	1/18/25	McKee 4-H Youth & Community Bldg	ARRL page
The Swapfest	2/16/25	Adams County Fairgrounds	ARRL page
LARCfest 2025	04/05/25	Longmont	W0ENO page

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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Source: qsoparty.eqth.net/index.html See contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html for a larger QSO parties list.

ATTENTION

The DRC Board of Directors meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month via Google Meet and are open to any member. If you wish to attend, please contact a board member prior to the meeting night for specific information.

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.
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






DRC's Trading Post

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

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JANUARY 2025		DRC Net Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on 145.490 / 448.625 (no PL)				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Learning Net 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)	2	3	4 Kids Day RTTY Roundup
5 RTTY Roundup	6  First Quarter	7	8 Learning Net 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)	9	10	11
12 10 meter	13  Full Moon	14	15 DRC Lunch 11:30 @ Valley Inn Restaurant, Lakewood DRC Meeting Elmer 6 p.m. General 7 p.m.	16	17	18 January VHF
19 January VHF	20 January VHF 	21  Last Quarter	22 Learning Net 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Learning Net 7:30 p.m. 145.490 / 448.625 (No PL)  New Moon	30	31	

See arrl.org/contest-calendar for additional details about contests.

DRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	W0GV	Gerry Villhauer	303-467-0223	president@w0tx.org
Vice-President	K0KPS	Kevin Schmidt	303-475-9234	k0kps@arri.net
Secretary	WW0LF	Orlen Wolf	303-279-6264	secretary@w0tx.org
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Club Librarian	WG0N	Dave Baysinger	303-987-0246	wg0n@arri.net
Digital Committee	W6OAV	Bill Rinker	Check Roster	digital@w0tx.org
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EmComm Coordinator	KE0HFH	Michael Vespoli	303-215-8862	emcomm@w0tx.org
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Public Relations	K0AXP	Dave Verlinde	248-515-2371	publicrelations@w0tx.org
RT Managing Editor	AD0UZ	Brennan Pate	Check Roster	roundtable@w0tx.org
RT Associate Editor	W6OAV	Bill Rinker	Check Roster	Check Roster
Hamfest Manager	KE0YKV	Bill Worthington	720-626-5485	drcfest@w0tx.org
Tech. Committee Chair	Open			tech@w0tx.org
Trustee	WW0LF	Orlen Wolf	303-279-6264	trustee@w0tx.org
VE Team	K0RAP	Robert Pickett	720-336-0114	k0rap@w0tx.org
Website & YouTube	K1DBC	Doron Ben Chaim	720-254-1561	websiteadmin@w0tx.org

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.

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. The submission deadline is the 25th of the Month. ~ Editor