



# THE ROUND TABLE

September 2026

Monthly Newsletter of the Denver Radio Club

Since 1917

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings and Salutations,

September's meeting, to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup>, is the club's annual meeting. Elections take place on this meeting for Board of Directors. The club will have an opening for one position. We need nominations for the position. Criteria is that a nominated member has been a member for the previous year in good standing and will remain a member for the duration of their position. Any interested members can email their candidacy intention to [President@w0tx.org](mailto:President@w0tx.org) to be placed upon the ballot. The club has many members who would be ideal in the position, so don't hesitate in considering running.

Many thanks to Pete, AB8WN, for all his hard work on the Board.

Thinking of volunteers, have you considered be a net controller one Sunday night a month? We provide the script and instructions for running the net. If you are interested, please send your name to [Net@w0tx.org](mailto:Net@w0tx.org).

Take a look at the Club's WØTX QRZ site (<https://www.qrz.com/db/W0TX>). It has been updated and has new information on the bio page. Thank you Doron, K1DBC.

Currently, the club has two repeaters out of service. The 449.350 repeater, located on lower Mestaa'èhehe, (previously Squaw) has gotten some digital interference. Members have spent time troubleshooting the issue(s). Using a service monitor, this repeater and another 449.050 both check to be fully function and within specifications. Tracking interference and finding the source can take a painstakingly long time. Since the 449.350 hosts the Echolink connection, it has been disabled so that users don't keep trying to make connections and expecting a RF reply. We will let you know when the issue is resolved.

The other repeater, 147.330, is down. The club has the replacement repeater which needs some additional programming before installation. Since the 449.350 repeater has greater coverage and hosting Echolink, that is the higher priority in fixing.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, 12 September. The club will be holding a DRC Saturday event in conjunction with the Colorado QSO party. The location is Prospect Arena, 13805 W 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Arvada. This is the same location as our yearly field day. The contest only allows one transmitter. This is another opportunity for Technicians to try their hand at HF under the club's call sign. I hope to see you there.

Kevin – KØKPS

**DRC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

SUBMITTED BY BOARD MEMBER, DORON BENCHAIM, KIDBC

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Time: 7:00–8:43 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time

Location: Virtual meeting

Meeting type: Board meeting

Attendees / Participants identified from the discussion included:

- Bill – KE0YKV
- Brian – KF0AWC
- Bruce – KE0VR
- Dick – N6WHV
- Doron – K1DBC
- Kevin – K0KPS
- Orlen – WW0LF
- Peter – AB8WN
- Ronnie - K4RNY

*Approval of Previous Minutes* : The minutes from the June 24, 2026 meeting were presented for approval. Bruce moved to approve the minutes. Dick seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

*Financial Reports*

## May 2026 Report

Orlen presented the May financial report.

Key points included:

- The club made its final \$113 monthly payment to SBA, ending the agreement for the former Squaw Mountain site.
- Total May expenses were approximately \$533.
- One certificate of deposit renewed at 3.65% for six months.
- Field Day food expenses were not included because they were paid in July.

Ronnie moved to accept the May report, and Kevin seconded the motion.

Decision: The May financial report was approved, subject to correcting the dates shown at the bottom of the report.

## June 2026 Report

Key points included:

- The remaining approximately \$135 was withdrawn from PayPal.
- New membership payments were received through Stripe, by mail, and in cash at Field Day.
- Field Day donations totaled \$48.
- June income totaled approximately \$396.
- The only June expense was the regular \$27.30 Mailchimp charge. ☒ The bank balance at the end of June was approximately \$7,717.
- Year-to-date certificate dividends totaled approximately \$1,668.
- One certificate renewed at 3.65%. Another 12-month certificate will be divided into two six-month certificates when it matures.

The board discussed whether combining certificates could produce a higher interest rate. No change was approved; maintaining staggered maturity dates preserves access to funds.

Decision: The June financial report was accepted.

### *Membership Involvement Committee*

The committee reviewed feedback received during Field Day and discussed ways to strengthen the club's visual identity. Club Apparel

The committee is exploring print-on-demand club merchandise, including:

- T-shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Golf shirts
- Possibly embroidered hats

TJ will investigate print-on-demand vendors, graphic-design costs, merchandise options, and pricing. Initial estimates were approximately \$100 for graphic design and \$20–\$25 for basic shirts. No decision was made regarding whether club clothing should use one standard color or multiple colors.

### *Technical-Help Event*

The technical-help activity planned for the upcoming weekend was canceled and moved to October.

The October activity is expected to provide members with assistance involving radios, antennas, station setup, and related technical questions.

### *Technical Committee*

The Technical Committee reported that:

- Old or inactive users were removed from the website administrator group.
- Stripe was reconfigured using API keys, preventing the membership plugin from charging an additional 2% transaction fee.
- PayPal access still depends on receiving a verification message through Kathy's telephone number.
- The club's DMR repeater has been intermittently losing its connection. ☒ The committee has contacted system operators but has not yet determined whether the problem involves power, internet connectivity, or controller software. ☒ The committee is trying to regain access to the BrandMeister self-care account so the controller can be reviewed and updated.
- A Denver Radio Club Meshtastic channel has been established, with its QR code posted on Groups.io.
- The website may need clearer instructions explaining how remote members can check into nets through the YouTube livestream.

A Meshtastic repeater at Station 4 was suggested as a possible future project, but no purchase or installation was approved.

### *Field Day Review*

The club completed:

- 179 CW contacts
- 272 digital contacts
- 271 phone contacts
- 722 total contacts

The submitted claimed score was **2,346** points.

The board agreed that the operating-station and tent layout worked well and should be considered again next year.

Ideas for improving future participation included:

- Promoting Field Day through the Colorado School of Mines campus bulletin ☒ Contacting other colleges and high schools
- Increasing outreach to non-amateur-radio participants
- Continuing hands-on opportunities for young and inexperienced operators

### *Member Technical Assistance*

The board discussed helping members who need assistance selecting or installing antennas.

Bill volunteered to contact Elizabeth, assess her station and antenna needs, and demonstrate a portable antenna system. He will report the outcome to Kevin.

The board also discussed a request from another member who needs assistance removing a rotor from a tower. No volunteer or formal tower-climbing team was assigned because of the safety risks involved.

The October technical-help activity will be promoted as a place where members can bring questions and portable equipment.

*DRC Saturday Location*

The previously considered fall location is likely unavailable because its fields and parking areas are heavily used for athletic activities.

Brian and Kelly will investigate alternative locations in the south or southeast Denver metropolitan area. Other members were encouraged to suggest suitable sites.

*Emergency and Field Equipment*

The board discussed preparing club equipment for rapid deployment with organizations such as the Salvation Army.

The goals include:

- Placing radios and accessories in protective cases
- Inventorying the equipment
- Keeping required cables, connectors, tools and power equipment together
- Storing deployment equipment at Station 4 when practical

The donated Yaesu radio used for Field Day will receive a club property tag. Orlen will check whether he has a suitable protective case and foam.

*Donated Radio Equipment*

The club intends to test donated radios and offer usable equipment to club members at below-market or “garage-sale” prices.

The Yaesu FTDX1200 was tested and found to be operational.

Bruce volunteered to assist with testing additional equipment, including the FTDX5000 radios. Orlen will contact Noel regarding missing microphones, power cords, cables and other accessories.

Decision: Tested donated equipment may be offered to members as a membership benefit at prices intended to move the equipment rather than maximize revenue.

*Field Day Computer Equipment*

The computer used for the FT8 station was considered too old and slow. Options discussed for next year included:

- Using the club’s newer membership laptop
- Purchasing or configuring a Raspberry Pi
- Keeping the radio, computer and related FT8 equipment together as a configured station

No equipment purchase was approved.

*Station 4 Repeater*

The new Kenwood repeater has not yet replaced the existing GE repeater. Orlen needs to:

- Build the required connection cable
- Reconfigure the controller
- Arrange for a temporary outage while the change is completed

*Club QSL Cards and Logging*

The board supported developing updated Denver Radio Club QSL cards. Suggested card content included:

- The W0TX club call sign
- The Denver Radio Club name
- The club’s founding year, 1917
- A reference to being Colorado’s oldest radio club
- The Sparky club logo

Orlen and Ronnie agreed to work on possible card designs. Sample designs and printing costs will be presented at a future meeting.

The board also discussed establishing or updating club accounts with QRZ and Logbook of the World, but no specific assignment was made.

*Club Event Banner*

The existing Field Day sign is worn out and will not be reused.

The board favored a durable, full-color banner that could be used at multiple activities rather than only Field Day. Possible wording included "Denver Radio Club" and "Amateur Radio Event," with interchangeable event labels.

Orlen will:

- Contact Bob Lindell regarding the vendor used for a previous banner
- Review available sizes, materials and prices
- Investigate modular or Velcro-based event labels
- Present options to the board

*Groups.io Content*

A video about the history and development of radio filters will be posted to Groups.io. It may also be used as supplemental content for the club's learning net.

*August Speaker*

Pete confirmed that a speaker is scheduled for the August club meeting. Pete will reconfirm the speaker's availability one to two weeks before the meeting.

*Board Vacancy*

The board is continuing to look for a candidate to fill an upcoming board vacancy. No candidate was selected during this meeting.

*Colorado 150 Activity and August 1 POTA Event*

The club received information about an ARRL Colorado 150 activity on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Conducting an on-air net or qualifying club activity could earn participants a certificate.

Doron will investigate registration through Schedule My Club. Ronnie agreed to organize a Parks on the Air activity, tentatively at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, on August 1. The activity may use one of the club call signs and may also serve as an additional DRC Saturday event.

Ronnie will publicize the activity through Mailchimp, email and Groups.io and will invite interested newer operators.

*Communications*

Ronnie will take a larger role in club communications.

For future events, he plans to:

- Prepare announcements approximately two weeks in advance
- Schedule Mailchimp messages for timely delivery
- Coordinate with Pete and event organizers
- Post appropriate information to Groups.io

*Key Decisions*

1. The June 24 meeting minutes were approved.
2. The May financial report was approved after correcting its dates.
3. The June financial report was accepted.
4. The club will continue using staggered certificates of deposit.
5. The planned July technical-help event was moved to October.
6. Print-on-demand club apparel will be investigated before a final decision.
7. The successful Field Day operating layout should be considered again next year.
8. Tested donated radio equipment may be sold to members at discounted prices.
9. The existing Field Day sign will be replaced with a more versatile club-event banner.
10. Updated club QSL cards will be designed and priced.
11. The club will pursue an August 1 POTA and Colorado 150 activity.

The transcript did not contain a formal announcement of the next board meeting. Based on the club's fourth-Wednesday pattern, the next board meeting is expected to be: Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time. This date and time should be confirmed by the club.

The next planned club activity discussed was the Parks on the Air/Colorado 150 event on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Its exact time and location had not yet been finalized, but should be at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:43 p.m.

**DRC - BLAST FROM THE PAST**

PROVIDED BY WOODY LINWOOD, W0UI



1985 - DRC club station (W00UI) at Steele Street Red Cross

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

BY BILL RINKER, W6OAV

Why are Load Coils Never at the Ends of an Antenna Element?

The answer can be found on Page 14 of the February 2018 of the Roundtable.

[https://w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2018-RoundTables/RT201802\(FEB\).pdf](https://w0tx.org/RoundtableArchive/2018-RoundTables/RT201802(FEB).pdf)



**MONTHLY DRC LUNCH - REMINDER**

By PETE SOBANSKI, AB8WN AND KEVIN SCHMIDT, KOKPS

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at Sunrise Sunset. The address is 1424 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80232. No reservations are required. If you are interested in meeting and talking about radio, or other topics, don't hesitate in coming by. [w0tx.org/2024/06/09/denver-radio-club-lunch](http://w0tx.org/2024/06/09/denver-radio-club-lunch)



## HELP OUR CLUB

*Write and Submit an Article*

Write about:

- Enjoyable experiences
- Memorable QSOs
- New equipment experiences
- Technical amateur items
- Etcetera

Articles need not be perfect.  
We'll help with the editing.

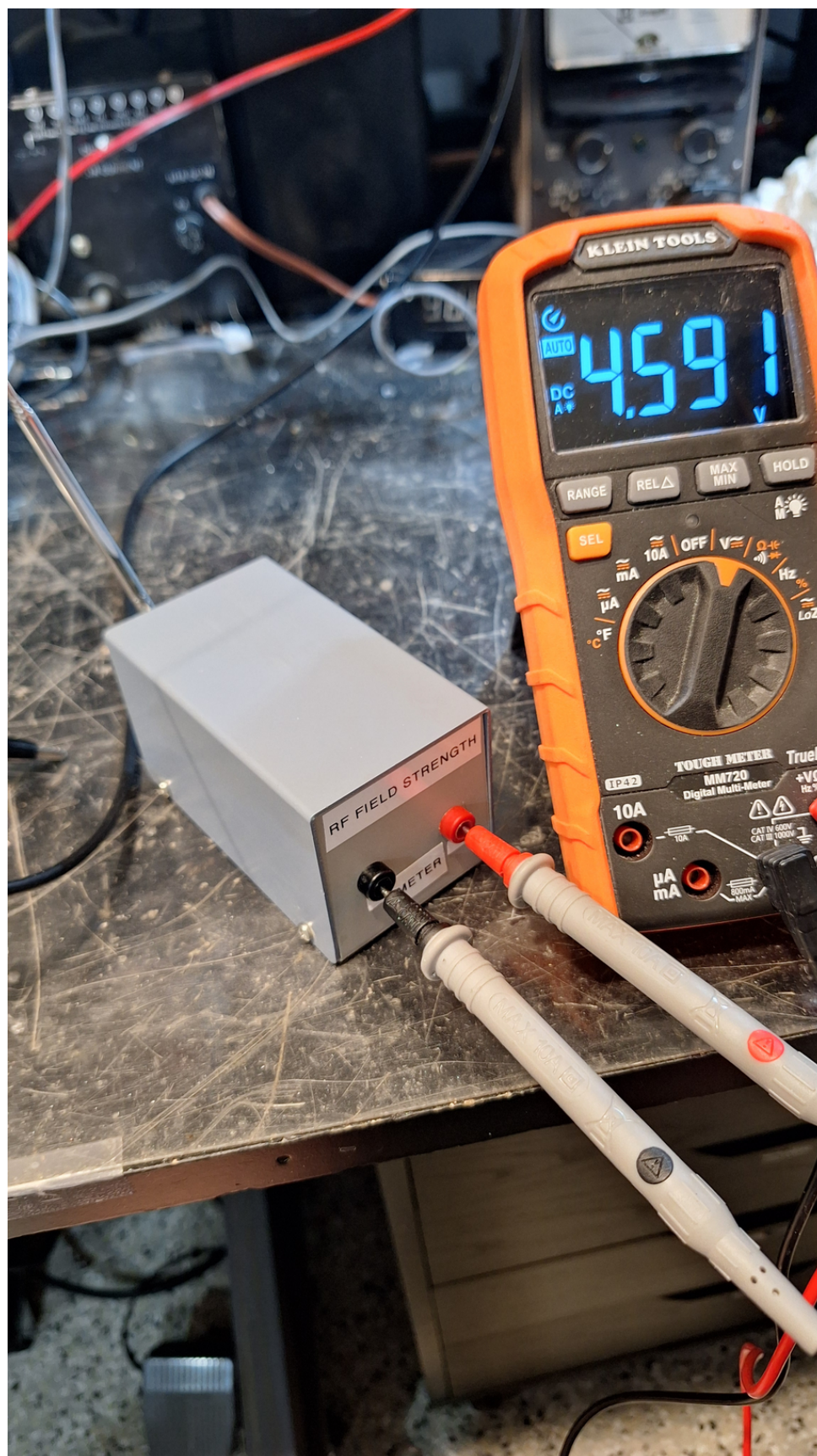


Submit to: [roundtable@w0tx.org](mailto:roundtable@w0tx.org)

**FIELD STRENGTH METER**

SUBMITTED BY BOB MESENBRINK, NBOBN

After reading the field strength article, Bob built this unit. Nicely done.



## YOUR SWR METER MIGHT BE LYING TO YOU!

By BILL RINKER, W6OAV

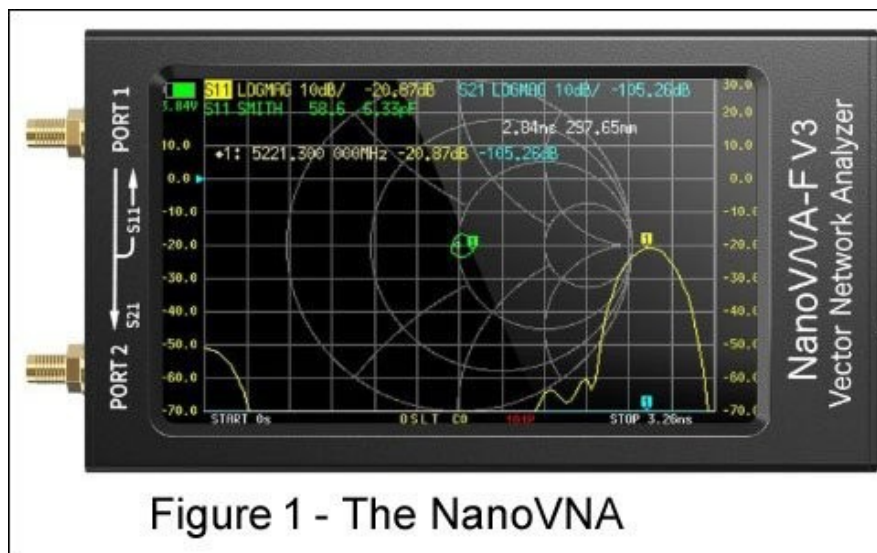
Hams love seeing that SWR needle rest gently at 1:1 when transmitting. However, a low SWR reading can sometimes provide a deceptive comfort. While it is wise to test installed coax periodically for general maintenance, it is absolutely critical for detecting the "silent killers" of station performance: moisture, corrosion, and physical damage.

The danger lies in the physics of transmission lines. When a coaxial cable is compromised, the resulting loss attenuates signals in both directions. The forward power is eaten up on the way to the antenna, and—crucially—the reflected energy is weakened on its way back to the shack. As a result, the SWR meter sees very little reflection and indicates a perfect match, even though the signal is actually being dissipated as heat in a waterlogged braid or a bad connection.

I learned this the hard way years ago. My SWR meter showed a perfect match, but my signal reports were down, and incoming stations sounded unusually weak. Subsequent testing revealed the culprit: a failed connector seal on the tower had allowed moisture to accumulate in a horizontal section of the feedline. I was effectively transmitting into a dummy load, but my SWR meter told me everything was fine. It does happen!

So, periodically testing installed coax is the only way to ensure true system integrity. Many hams do not have any test equipment other than an SWR meter. No problem. There's the NanoVNA.

Compared to traditional vector network analyzers or lab grade VNAs, a NanoVNA is extremely low cost yet accurate enough for most amateur radio uses, making it an easy addition to a station toolkit. See Figure 1.



A NanoVNA is the answer for easily maintaining an antenna system. This analyzer is essentially a tiny, inexpensive (\$50 to \$80 at Amazon) lab instrument that lets a ham "see" what antennas, feedlines, and RF components are really doing. It gives far more information than a simple SWR meter and makes antenna work faster, more accurate, and more educational. Its small, rechargeable battery powered form factor means it can go to the antenna site, field day, SOTA/POTA activations, or club workshops, and many hams use it as a "gateway" device into deeper RF measurement and experimentation.

What the NanoVNA can do:

- With simple measurements, the NanoVNA can show abnormal SWR/return loss when the coax is terminated in a good 50  $\Omega$  load (antenna), indicating damage, water ingress, bad connectors, or a hard fault like an open or short.
- Using its time-domain (transform) functions, the NanoVNA can serve as a low-cost TDR, letting you estimate the distance to a defect such as a short, open, or sharp impedance discontinuity.
- A NanoVNA can sweep an antenna (HF, VHF, UHF depending on model) and show return loss, SWR, and resonance dips, which makes trimming, matching, and reconfiguring antennas much easier than trial and error on the air.
- It helps quickly identify problems like bad connectors, waterlogged coax, or a mistuned trap or matching network by showing how the impedance and SWR change with frequency.

- The device can measure cable loss and impedance versus frequency, so you can verify feedline quality, check unknown coax, and see the effect of jumpers, baluns, and adapters in the line.
- It can characterize common-mode chokes and baluns, letting you confirm that they provide the expected attenuation over the bands you care about instead of guessing from datasheets.
- For homebrew or modification work, a NanoVNA lets you tune low-pass, high-pass, band-pass, and notch filters, checking where they start to roll off and how deep the rejection is.
- It can also be used to explore and measure small RF components and resonant circuits (coils, crystals, matching networks), which is valuable for anyone building their own amplifiers, preselectors, or transverters.

The NanoVNA turns feedline and antenna checks from guesswork into simple, repeatable measurements, exposing problems that an SWR meter alone will happily hide. For the price of a handheld accessory, hams gain a window into what their system is really doing and a practical way to protect their investment in feedlines, antennas, and tower work while keeping signals strong and reliable on the air. Every ham should have one!

#### References:

- NanoVNA Coax Measurements: Stop Guessing and Start Testing  
[youtube.com/watch?v=nqtqC9aqRnE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=nqtqC9aqRnE)
- Nano VNA tutorial and overview  
[youtube.com/watch?v=D-eOEDdS-FY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=D-eOEDdS-FY)
- NanoVNA for HAM Radio Introduction  
[youtube.com/watch?v=8kx9SWbEcXI](https://youtube.com/watch?v=8kx9SWbEcXI)
- 1001 uses for a NanoVNA  
[engineeringradio.us/blog/2021/09/1001-uses-for-a-nanovna/](https://engineeringradio.us/blog/2021/09/1001-uses-for-a-nanovna/)
- NanoVNA software (Extends features to a pc- not required)  
[nanorfe.com/nanovna-v2-software.html](https://nanorfe.com/nanovna-v2-software.html)
- User Manual - NanoVNA V2  
[nanorfe.com/nanovna-v2-user-manual.html](https://nanorfe.com/nanovna-v2-user-manual.html)
- THE MISSING MANUAL  
[nanorfe.com/images/V2Plus4\\_Manual\\_NC4BR.pdf](https://nanorfe.com/images/V2Plus4_Manual_NC4BR.pdf)
- How to properly use a NanoVNA V2 Vector Network Analyzer & Smith Chart (Tutorial)  
[youtube.com/watch?v=\\_pjcEKQY\\_Tk&list=PLgjmsd910cj53p667\\_7OqOOP-o6GbDQ0q&index=98](https://youtube.com/watch?v=_pjcEKQY_Tk&list=PLgjmsd910cj53p667_7OqOOP-o6GbDQ0q&index=98)

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

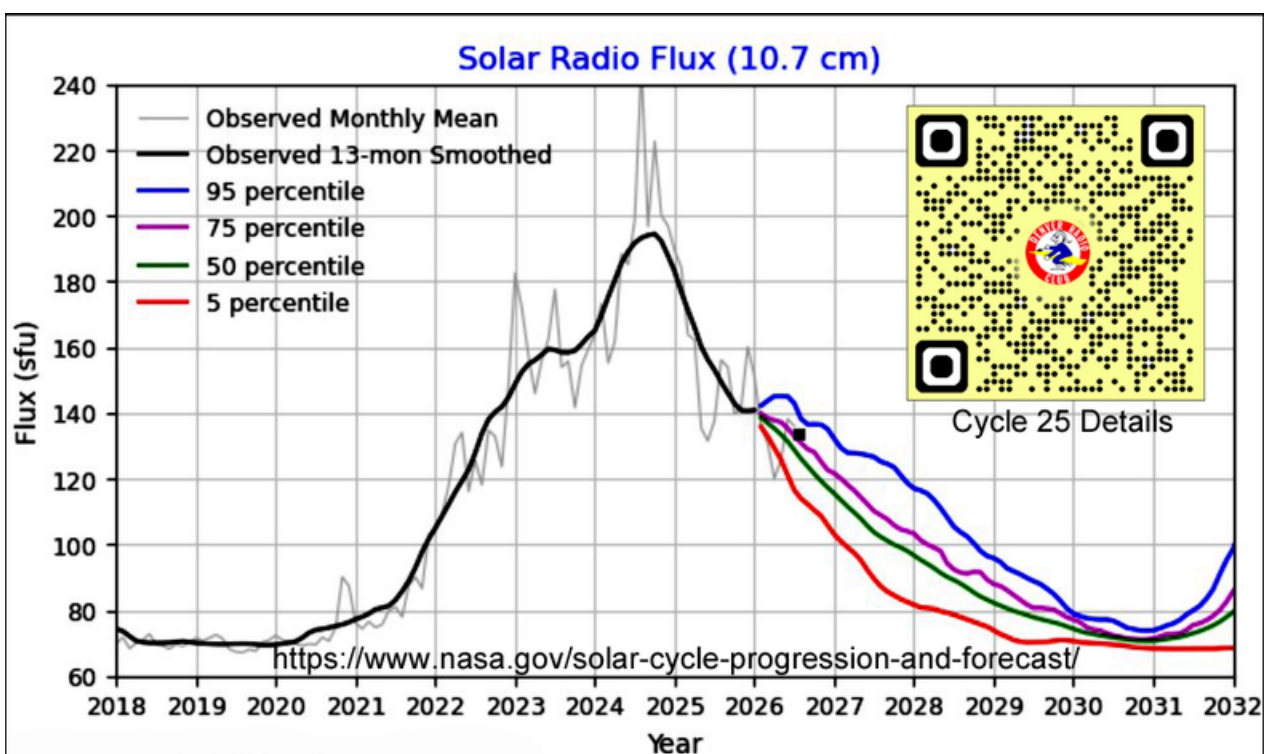
APRIL 1958

## IS TIME A VARIABLE?

Time signals by radio from a satellite this year may possibly throw light on one of the biggest questions in science. Was Einstein right when he predicted scientists would find that the time scale would become shorter, or faster, as the gravitational potential becomes weaker? Listen for the answer on Radio Satellite Number "X"! An atomic "watch" is being planned for the Satellite. Cost? an atomic clock at Boulder reportedly cost over \$50,000.00

## PROPAGATION FORECAST

By BILL RINKER, W6OAV



| <b>DRC Board of Directors</b>   |        |                   |              |                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                       | K0KPS  | Kevin Schmidt     | 303-475-9234 | <a href="mailto:president@w0tx.org">president@w0tx.org</a>             |
| Vice-President                  | N6WHV  | Dick Nelson       | Check Roster | <a href="mailto:n6whv@w0tx.org">n6whv@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| Secretary                       | WWOLF  | Orlen Wolf        | 303-279-6264 | <a href="mailto:secretary@w0tx.org">secretary@w0tx.org</a>             |
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| Board Member                    | KFOAWC | Brian Diem        | 970-218-5543 | <a href="mailto:kf0awc@w0tx.org">kf0awc@w0tx.org</a>                   |
| Board Member                    | K1DBC  | Doron Ben Chaim   | 720-254-1561 | <a href="mailto:k1dbc@w0tx.org">k1dbc@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| Board Member                    | AB8WN  | Peter Sobanski    | 720-884-7470 | <a href="mailto:ab8wn@w0tx.org">ab8wn@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| Board Member                    | K4RNY  | Ronnie Bock       | 303-519-8510 | <a href="mailto:k4rny@w0tx.org">k4rny@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| Board Member                    | KE0VR  | Bruce Kirkpatrick | Check Roster | <a href="mailto:ke0vr@w0tx.org">ke0vr@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| <b>DRC Staff and Volunteers</b> |        |                   |              |                                                                        |
| Benevolent                      |        | Carolyn Wolf      | 303-279-1328 | <a href="mailto:benevolent@w0tx.org">benevolent@w0tx.org</a>           |
| Club Librarian                  | WG0N   | Dave Baysinger    | 303-987-0246 | <a href="mailto:wg0n@arrl.net">wg0n@arrl.net</a>                       |
| Digital Committee               | Open   |                   |              | <a href="mailto:digital@w0tx.org">digital@w0tx.org</a>                 |
| Education Coordinator           | Open   |                   |              | <a href="mailto:elmer@w0tx.org">elmer@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| EmComm Coordinator              | Open   |                   |              | <a href="mailto:emcomm@w0tx.org">emcomm@w0tx.org</a>                   |
| Field Day Chairman              | N6WHV  | Dick Nelson       | Check Roster | <a href="mailto:fieldday@w0tx.org">fieldday@w0tx.org</a>               |
| Hamfest Manager                 | KE0YKV | Bill Worthington  | 720-626-5485 | <a href="mailto:drcfest@w0tx.org">drcfest@w0tx.org</a>                 |
| Membership                      | KB8OGP | Kelly Sobanski    | Check Roster | <a href="mailto:membership@w0tx.org">membership@w0tx.org</a>           |
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| Trustee                         | WWOLF  | Orlen Wolf        | 303-279-6264 | <a href="mailto:trustee@w0tx.org">trustee@w0tx.org</a>                 |
| VE Team                         | K0RAP  | Robert Pickett    | 720-336-0114 | <a href="mailto:k0rap@w0tx.org">k0rap@w0tx.org</a>                     |
| Website & YouTube               | K1DBC  | Doron Ben Chaim   | 720-254-1561 | <a href="mailto:websiteadmin@w0tx.org">websiteadmin@w0tx.org</a>       |

**DRC Repeaters**

| September 8  | Freq / Shift / PL Tone                   | Additional Information                                                                   |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 23 | 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. 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. WOTX 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](http://w0tx.org/trade)

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

|              |                                              |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| September 12 | <u>The Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado</u> |
| September 26 | <u>Wireless Society of Southern Maine</u>    |
| October 4    | <u>BARCfest Hamfest</u>                      |

**UPCOMING DRC ACTIVITIES**

|                     |                                                |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Learning Net        | Wednesday's (except 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) | @ 1930                             |
| DRC Lunch           | 3rd Wednesday                                  | Sunrise Sunset, in Lakewood @ 1130 |
| DRC Monthly Meeting | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday                      | Elmer @ 1800 & Meeting @ 1900      |

**RANDOM SITE OF THE MONTH**

KATY, TX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
KATYARS.COM

