

Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 272956

Fort Collins, CO 80527-2956

The Tribander

The monthly Newsletter of the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club

**Club Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month
At the Golden Corral, 901 E. Harmony Rd, Fort Collins, CO.**

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Bring yourself and your appetite at 8:00 am.
The Meeting begins at 9:00 am.**

NCARC Club Information

Club Officers

President	Steve Henry	N7GN	(970)226-2817	n7gn@arrl.net
Vice President	Eric Slutz	N0EAS	(970)282-3752	eric@redginger.com
Secretary	Dave Langenberg	KC9FOO		dave@thelangenbergs.com
Treasurer Membership Chair	Willis Whatley	WA5VRL	(970)407-6599	whatley@frii.com
Interference Coordinator	Mike Bates	N7DQ	(970)219-3225	n7dq@comcast.net
Newsletter	Willis Whatley	WA5VRL	(970)407-6599	whatley@frii.com
Technical Chair	George Salzmann	AB0SF	(303)961-0841	ab0sf@yahoo.com
Hamfest Chair	Michael Robinson	N7MR	(970)225-7501	michael@frii.com

NCARC Repeaters

W0UPS: 145.115 MHz – (144.515 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone (1* on, 0* off) Autopatch (40-32.926N, 105-11.898W, 7229 ft) Horsetooth Mountain, west of Fort Collins, CO
W0UPS: 447.275 MHz – (442.275 MHz input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone Autopatch (40-32.926N, 105-11.898W, 7230 ft) Horsetooth Mountain, west of Fort Collins, CO
W0UPS: 146.625 MHz – (146.025 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone (40-50.266N, 105-3.017W, 5600 ft) SW of the Rawhide Power Plant, 17.5 miles north of Fort Collins, CO
W0UPS: 146.850 MHz – (146.250 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone (1* on, 0* off) (Various locations around N. Colorado)
W0UPS-5: 144.390 MHz – APRS Digital Repeater (40-32.926N, 105-11.898W, about 7229 ft) Horsetooth Mountain, west of Fort Collins, CO

Nets

ARES District 10 Information Net	Wednesday	9:00 pm	145.115 MHz
ARES Statewide Net	Sunday	8:30 pm	145.310 MHz
Central Colorado Traffic Net	Daily	7:30 pm	145.310 MHz
Tech Net	Tuesday	7:00 pm	145.115 MHz

Web Page

<http://www.ncarc.us>

TECH NET Announcement!

This is a reminder that the 145.115 TECH NET is held Tuesday evening 07:00 PM.
It is hosted by N0WIQ, Kerry. All amateur radio operators (with 2M privileges) are welcome to check in. It is an open forum net with Questions, Answers and Topics of interest.

If the 145.115 repeater is not available, the net will be held on the 447.275 repeater

CW Practice Session!

This is a reminder that the 145.115 CW Practice Session is held Friday evening 06:00 PM.
It is hosted by W0EP, Chris. All amateur radio operators (with 2M privileges) are welcome to check in or listen.

Longmont Amateur Radio Club – LARCFEST**04/01/2006**

Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont at 8AM
Admission: \$5.00 (Buyer or Seller)

Friday Night Setup beginning at 5 PM (March 31st)
Saturday Morning Setup beginning at 6 AM

Bring your own table – Optional rental at the door (No reservations)
Tables rented with one chair - \$15.00 while they last. Limited supply!
Space available on first come – first served basis.

VE Testing at 10:00 AM - \$14.00 (Check to ARRL/VEC or cash – checks preferred)
Testing location to be announced.

BRING PICTURE ID! (and current License or Certificates of Successful Completion for upgrades)

For more information: www.larclub.org

Other upcoming SwapFests:

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. Ham Radio MegaFest
On Saturday July 8th, 2006 at Lewis-Palmer High School in Monument, Colorado

Denver Radio Club's 2006 HamFest
On Sunday August 20th, 2006 at Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden, Colorado

Details will be posted beginning in May and June Newsletters...

Local Area Swaplists:

For those who can not wait or can not attend the area swapmeets, below are the websites for some of the regional swaplists found on the internet. These are updated weekly.

Aurora Repeater Assn. Swaplist: <http://www.qsl.net/n0ara/swaplist.html>

Colorado Repeater Assn. Swaplist: <http://www.w0cra.org/swap/craswaplist.htm>

Wyoming Swap Shop: <http://www.qsl.net/n0ara/wss.htm>

New and renewing members for February:

N7COR – Jane W0FT – Rob N0LZR – Richard W7ALA – Larry KG0PF – Chuck W9LUO – Marilyn N7MR – Michael
K0CSU - Butch

The NCARC thanks you for your support.

Some Horsetooth Mountain Information:

The history of Horsetooth Mountain dates back as far as 10,000 B.C. when Native Americans used the area as a hunting and gathering ground. According to Native American legend, Horsetooth Mountain is the body of a giant that was slain by a brave warrior. The death of the giant brought peace and tranquility to the “Valley of Contentment”.

Fur trappers and traders began to move into the area as early as 1825 and settlers soon followed with the discovery of nearby gold in 1858. By the 1870's Horsetooth Mountain had already become a popular recreation area. In the 1880's, the quarrying of sandstone in the Spring Canyon area created a demand for lumber, which was harvested from the mountain slopes. Over time, regular land use practices on the mountain and surrounding land have included cattle grazing, timber harvesting, quarrying and farming. Some of the early landowners of the mountain and surrounding lands were the Herringtons, Culvers and Soderbergs. By 1952, the Soderbergs owned the majority of the Horsetooth area land.

In the early 1980's, Horsetooth Mountain came under a threat of impending residential development. It was at that time that two CSU students began a petition for Larimer County to purchase the Soderberg Ranch and create a 2000-acre county park preserve. The ballot issue passed in 1981 and in 1982, Larimer County took ownership of the land that was later developed into Horsetooth Mountain Park.

The Horsetooth Rock formation is a 7255-foot high pegmatite monolith that was geologically elevated above the other sedimentary rock structure that forms Horsetooth Mountain. Pegmatite is a textural term used to describe exceptionally coarse- to gigantic-grained igneous rocks. Most pegmatite formations consist of granite that contains quartz, feldspar and mica. Horsetooth Mountain is considered a rugged mountain having been created by metamorphism, igneous intrusions, folding, faulting and erosion. Milner Mountain to the south would be a continuation of Horsetooth Mountain if the Buckhorn Creek Fault, Horsetooth Fault and other erosion had not separated them over time.

Contained within the county park preserve area is a five-acre “inholding” located at the top of the mountain. This property is restricted in its use to the operation of communications towers as well as related structures and equipment. The property is currently leased by the inholders to numerous radio tower operators, including the NCARC. The inholders of the property as well as the radio tower operators have access right of way for bona fide business purposes via a road that is “maintained by the county to a level considered passable by fourwheel drive vehicles”. The specific details of the conditions that would constitute that level of maintenance are conveniently obscure. It is also documented that the inholders of the property must perform any further maintenance, which obviously has not happened in recent history.

The primary NCARC repeaters were recently upgraded from older converted commercial Motorola equipment to solid state Vertex Standard VXR-7000 machines. While this should increase the reliability of the repeaters, there is still work to be done on the noise issue which continues intermittently on the VHF repeater. George Salzmann (AB0SF) is continuing to analyze the issue and it may be necessary to replace the aging antenna for the VHF repeater to resolve the problem. If the repeater antenna needs to be replaced, it will most likely be contracted to professional tower crew (as was done when one of the repeaters was relocated to another tower on the Horsetooth site as part of a significant long term cost savings).

Even on contracted work, there is always a need for an NCARC work party to be present at the site for verification testing of our systems. A trip up to the repeater site is an interesting and educational experience that provides a better understanding of the NCARC repeaters and the environment in which they operate as well as some spectacular views of the area. If you do not have any issues with getting bounced around like a ping pong ball in a clothes dryer on the way up the hill, consider volunteering for one of the work parties that occur on a fairly regular basis (as the weather permits). The personal experience and benefit to the club is worthy of any NCARC member's consideration.

**Horsetooth Rock
viewed from the
west side.**



