

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	<a href="mailto:n7gn@arrl.net">n7gn@arrl.net</a>
Vice President	Bill Beach	K0UT	(970)224-1958	<a href="mailto:k0ut@earthlink.net">k0ut@earthlink.net</a>
Secretary	Dave Langenberg	KC9FOO	(773)612-8435	<a href="mailto:dave@thelangenbergs.com">dave@thelangenbergs.com</a>
Treasurer Membership Chair	Willis Whatley	WA5VRL	(970)407-6599	<a href="mailto:whatley@frii.com">whatley@frii.com</a>
Interference Coordinator	Mike Bates	N7DQ	(970)219-3225	<a href="mailto:n7dq@comcast.net">n7dq@comcast.net</a>
Newsletter	Willis Whatley	WA5VRL	(970)407-6599	<a href="mailto:whatley@frii.com">whatley@frii.com</a>
Technical Chair	Eric Slutz	N0EAS	(970)282-3752	<a href="mailto:eric@redginger.com">eric@redginger.com</a>
Hamfest Chair	Matt Kassawara	KG0W	(970)232-5215	<a href="mailto:battery@writeme.com">battery@writeme.com</a>

## NCARC Repeaters

<b>W0UPS: 145.115 MHz</b> – (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
<b>W0UPS: 447.275 MHz</b> – (442.275 MHz input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone Autopatch (40-32.926N, 105-11.898W, 7229 ft) Horsetooth Mountain, west of Fort Collins, CO
<b>W0UPS: 224.520 MHz</b> – (222.920 MHz input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone IRLP 3902 (40-32.926N, 105-11.898W, 7229 ft) Horsetooth Mountain, west of Fort Collins, CO
<b>W0UPS: 146.625 MHz</b> – (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
<b>W0UPS: 146.850 MHz</b> – (146.250 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone (1* on, 0* off) (40-25.341N, 104-44.182 W) Greeley, CO
<b>W0UPS-5: 144.390 MHz</b> – 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	Wednesday	7:00 pm	145.115 MHz

## Web Page

<http://www.ncarc.net>

**TECH NET**

This is a reminder that the 145.115 TECH NET has been **changed back to Wednesday evening at 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

## 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.

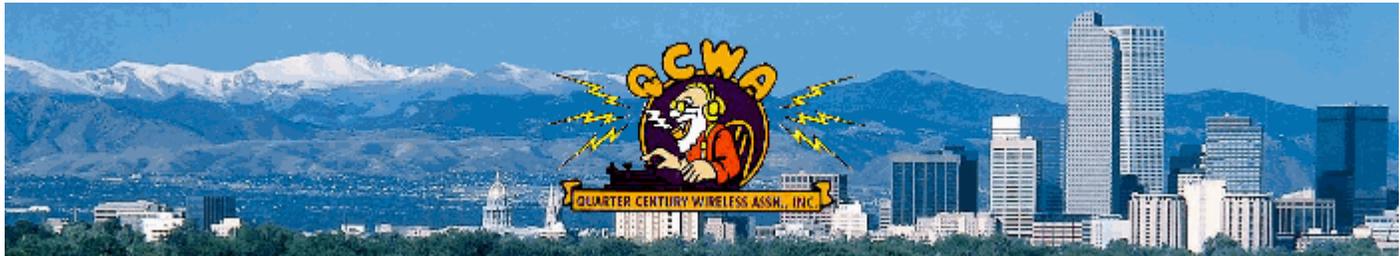
Aurora Repeater Assn. Swaplist: <http://www.qsl.net/n0ara/swaplist.html>

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

Wyoming Swap Shop: <http://www.qsl.net/n0ara/wss.htm> (not usually updated during summer months)

New Mexico Swaplist: <http://bc-ares.org/swapnet/listings.html>

**New and renewing members for the current month:** WB4ZDL – Gerald K0BYU – Alan W0OHP - George  
**The NCARC thanks you for your support.**



## Denver, Colorado

Site of the

# 2007 QCWA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

4 - 7 October 2007

Hosted by:

[Colorado Chapter 58](#)

At

**The Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207 USA**

<http://qcwa-58.rmhc.org/convention/>

**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL [MAP]:** Single or double rooms are available for \$113.70 (\$99.00+taxes). For reservations, call the Hotel toll-free at 1-800-222-TREE (8733) or 303-321-3333 (locally) and mention **QCWA2007** for this special rate.

**Reservations must be made BEFORE Tuesday, September 11, 2007 to guarantee this rate. Reservations requested after this date will be accepted based upon availability.**

**ACTIVITIES:** Informational and entertaining presentations and seminars on Friday and Saturday, including: Station Grounding Procedures, the QCWA Forum, Health and Safety Tips in the Shack, Amateur Radio Operations from the South Pole, an IARU Update, and much more! Click [here](#) to see the schedule as it develops. Friday night's Meet & Greet will feature The 4th U.S. Artillery Regimental Brass Band for your listening pleasure while you mingle!

**PRIZES:** Look forward to an assortment of awards and door prizes at the Convention. We are grateful for the support of our many [supporters and contributors](#) who are helping to make the QCWA 2007 Convention a memorable one, and will kick off the **QCWA 60th Anniversary** year with a bang!

**REGISTRATION:** Registration is available now! Follow this link to the [Registration Form](#) (in Adobe PDF format). You can download it (shift + right-click) then print out a blank copy to fill in with your favorite pen or pencil, or you can fill it in on your computer and print a nice, legible copy to send in with your payment.

Minutes from July 21st NCARC meeting:

Meeting called to order by Steve Henry, N7GN at 9:00 am. There were approximately 26 NCARC members, 2 new members, and 3 visitors.

## Reports

June minutes approved as read by Mike N7DQ

Treasurer/Membership report by Willis, WA5VRL; checking funds slightly down, 4 new members

Control op; no report

Interference report by Mike N7DQ; slight interference on 447 machine, nothing major

Hamfest report by Matt KG0W; we've secured the Lincoln Center Ludlow room for next January 12th

## Old business:

1. MS 150 - need volunteers
2. Event Center repeater: Electricity now schedule to be installed so we can power up the repeater
3. Officers Meeting: Officer's meeting was held and new directions proposed. The 3 key directions for the club this next year include:
  - Repeaters- Events Center Repeater installation and resolving sensitivity issues with the 145, 440, and 220 machines.
  - Recruitment- Training classes for non-hams and membership drives for the folks who've completed the classes and non-members who use our repeaters.
  - Public Visibility- Moving the clubs Field Day activities to a very public place like City Park or Old Town Square and finding other opportunities to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the general public
4. Field day - Rob Strieby provided a summary of the field day event.

This was well attended by both clubs and was very successful. Official thank you to NCARC for providing funding to help with the event.
5. Colorado QSO party - Mike, N7DQ indicated that band conditions were terrible but short skip allowed lots of 10M contacts. The club will be getting some QSL cards soon.

Steve summarized the minutes from the officers meeting and will host a brainstorming session after the regular club meeting to collect any additional ideas.

## New business

Dan, W7RF is looking for Rohn 45 or 25 tower sections. He also presented some good promotional ideas. NCARC should look into being listed in the World Radio Magazine. Dan also motioned to spend up to \$50 for business cards that could be handed out to new or prospective club members with information about the club meetings. This was seconded and approved unanimously. Steve was going to send Dan the logo to put on the cards and Dan will pull together some sample cards.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
-Steve Henry, N7GN

## After meeting presentation

Steve led a brainstorming session after the meeting adding some additional ideas to the list. New ideas include:

- \* Meeting place--- club house w/ station? Meet where more relaxed, show projects. Red Cross Chapter house
- \* Get station at the chapter house re-established. Remote control over internet
- \* LDS meeting houses are available, bigger place is available.
- \* Projects to share
- \* Expand tech net and hold meeting for tech projects.
- \* Hook up with grade schools and boys/girls clubs and scouts -rejuvenate
- \* Sponsor another class-- let schools know about it
- \* Club station would be handy when new members come in. Valuable demonstration ability
- \* Designate a high school as a shelter, get teacher involved, make a connection for emergency communications
- \* Civil air patrol connection and Larimer county search and rescue connection
- \* KORF as a clubhouse
- \* Mini portable station-- gazebo and chairs, handouts, parking lot of Home Depot, kids coming by, encourage ham radio participation—show communications VHF and HF
- \* Mailing to all hams in our local area based on FCC database – do scrubbing
- \* Set up a station at events like career day, student projects when parents were there. PSK31, repeater, HF rig. Lots of people were interested. Got new hams - get membership list distributed; [jrvanshaar@yahoo.com](mailto:jrvanshaar@yahoo.com)--- will work on this.
- \* Need e-mail reminder of activities, get people on reflector for the news plus an email reflector list -- Mike will work with Willis on list, plus will work on a mailing list.

NCARC Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2007

Location: Golden Corral

Called to order at 9:00 AM by Bill Beach K0UT

There were 22 members and 5 guests present.

## REPORTS

Secretary -- Minutes Approved as read

Treasury -- Savings unchanged. Checking \$9183.43 and the club gained 3 new members. The web form on the website needs to be updated to mention that funds must arrive within 30 days at the PO Box or the electronic submission will be deleted.

Tech Committee -- Hung up with sprained ankle.

Control Op -- Nothing new

Interference -- Still hearing 440 noise. Have not observed a lot of 2 meter noise. The 220 machine is still "messy".

Events Center Repeaters -- No Report

NCARC HamFest -- January 12th. Next month volunteer sign-up sheets will be passed around.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MS 150 was successful.

Tour De Cure -- Next week. Ron Thomas from Longmont is taking over. Ron is looking for volunteers. Still need a lot of folks. See Mike N7MR if you want to sign up.

Training Classes -- No Report

Membership Drives -- The committee is looking for a comprehensive list of Zip Codes for the area.

Dan Magro still needs tower sections.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ed Lawrence hosts our 146.625 machine and will be retiring to Idaho. We'll need to find a new home for the 146.625.

# **2007 High Plains Roundup –September 7, 8 &9**

Sponsored by the ShyWy Amateur Radio Club

**Curt Gowdy State Park – Happy Jack Road**

**(24 miles west of Cheyenne and 23 miles east of Laramie on State HWY 210)**

Come to Granite Reservoir for a laid-back hamfest with –

- Friday night campfire, Tail-gate swapping, Saturday noon meal, (Milk can dinner), drawing for a Yaesu 1802M 2m Mobile
- An opportunity for new hams (and old ones too) to set up and operate HF and VHF rigs from a remote location,
- Kite flying, a Saturday afternoon program on high altitude balloon flying, lake fishing (Wyoming license required)
- Lots of time for visiting, sightseeing, bird watching

The site is the South Shelter (Summit Hills) at Granite Reservoir. This is a change from last year when the event was held at the North Shelter. Activities start Friday afternoon and end Saturday night. The Swap meet is Saturday.

Registration fee is \$5 per adult to pay for shelter rental. Saturday noon meal fee is \$1 per person. Raffle tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

All vehicles must pay daily use fee (\$2 resident/\$4 nonresident) and a camping fee if you camp overnight (\$6 resident/\$12 nonresident –camp fee includes daily use fee). There are no other facilities at Curt Gowdy State Park. Water is available but no hookups. The nearest motel accommodations are at Laramie or Cheyenne.

For more information contact Don Miller K7TFW at [K7TFW@arrl.net](mailto:K7TFW@arrl.net).

Other sites [www.wyoparks.state.wy.us](http://www.wyoparks.state.wy.us) , [www.uwyo.edu/uarc](http://www.uwyo.edu/uarc) , and [www.wy7fd.com](http://www.wy7fd.com).

## Common Sense Conduct when using NCARC and other Amateur Repeaters

### 1. Always identify according to the Part 97 regulations.

The use of good operating procedure is a distinguishing characteristic of Amateur Radio. It is the responsibility of the repeater users to convey to all listeners that Amateur Radio operators are skilled communicators. A friendly style is certainly acceptable but a deliberate attempt to operate professionally should be made. Keep in mind that new and prospective hams are listening (as well as the general public). Keep the communications clear and concise. Identify your station at the beginning and then at a minimum of 10 minute intervals as well as at the end of the conversation. While it is a fact that the regulations do not require identification at the beginning of the conversation, failing to do so or using acronyms of the callsign are prime examples of lousy operating skills. This type of operation sets a poor example for newer hams.

### 2. Avoid lengthy conversations.

Try to limit conversations to 15 or 20 minutes, especially during morning and afternoon commute times. Take good long breaks or move to another frequency if you feel the need to continue your diatribe. Other hams may be waiting to use the repeater who are not interested in the subject that is being discussed and whose need is not important enough to interrupt the conversation. Monopolizing a repeater is another example of poor operating practice and the other users may be in a location that precludes their use of other repeaters at the time.

### 3. Do not engage in political soapboxing or controversial communications.

Soapboxing goes along with overly long conversations. Sometimes it becomes a conversation on the repeater that is actually a thinly disguised broadcast. The subject is often a put down of a group, organization or individual intended for a wide audience. Just because a topic is not in violation of the Part 97 regulations does not mean that it is appropriate for discussion on an Amateur Radio repeater. A user could discuss in graphic detail what they did down in the red light district last night and as long as they did not use profane language, it would not be a violation of the regulations. That type of communication may be appropriate for the local pub, but certainly not on any Amateur Radio repeater. The same situation applies to any discussion that touches on other sensitive subjects such as religion, politics, firearms, sexual activities, abortion, etc, etc. These are all prime examples of inconsiderate operation. Many repeater control operators will shut down the system for this type of operating activity. This is not censorship at all. Any person has a right in this country to stand on a public street corner and express their opinion but that right does not extend to doing so as a guest in someone else's house. All NCARC repeater users are guests of the NCARC when using our repeaters and must use the system in a responsible manner at all times.

### 4. Do not use CB language, "Q" codes or excessive phonetics.

Most all Amateur Radio operators find the sound of CB language more offensive than fingernails on a blackboard. When communicating on any repeater, just talk normally as you would to someone sitting in the same room. Use of "Q" codes are helpful on CW to shorten transmissions and phonetics provide clarity during certain phone operating conditions but they are not usually needed for operating on repeaters. Their use may actually impair communications when used with newer operators who are not familiar with the terminology. Speaking in a clear voice and using normal vocabulary always provides the best intelligibility.

### 5. Always yield the frequency to a breaking station.

This applies to all calling or breaking stations because there is no way to know whether they have an emergency until you yield the frequency to them. It is not only very poor operating practice to only acknowledge the station and continue with a conversation, it is also a violation of the Part 97 regulations if the breaking station has an emergency that requires use of the repeater. All breaking stations should immediately be given a chance to make an initial transmission to ascertain the reason for their coming onto the repeater. The reason may be to join the conversation, make a short call for another station or declare an emergency but the breaking station should not "hijack" the conversation by discussing unrelated topics. To do so is another example of sloppy operating practice.

### 6. Remember that the NCARC repeaters are "G-rated" at all times.

There is no way to know who is listening to a repeater system. Even late night or early morning, there are probably people listening to the repeater, especially the wide area coverage machines such as those on the Horsetooth site. It is important to remember this for several reasons. The NCARC as well as other repeaters serve many purposes. One of the most important besides emergency communications is the exposure it gives our craft to the community. Even the cheapest scanners can be used to listen to our repeaters. That is one of the most effective forms of publicity for Amateur Radio. We want non-hams to know that Amateur Radio is a clean, interesting and educational hobby made up of a responsible group of operators. We want them to recognize Amateur Radio as the type of activity that they or their children would want to get involved with. Anytime we use the repeater system; we are ambassadors for our craft.

7. Do not use obscene, indecent or profane language at any time.

The NCARC repeaters are open for all to use, provided that the user follows the Part 97 regulations and exercises consideration toward other users and listeners at all times. Our repeaters, as well as all other Amateur repeaters are not a public utility and no one has any "right" to use them. All users, including the president of the NCARC, are guests on the repeater system and should conduct themselves accordingly. Abuse or inconsiderate use of any Amateur repeater system gives the repeater control station the right to shut down the system as expressed in the Part 97 regulations.

The NCARC welcomes everyone who is willing to abide by the Part 97 regulations and use considerate operating practices. If you ever hear deliberate interference, profane transmissions or other forms of inconsiderate operation, please contact any of the NCARC club officers with as much detail as possible regarding what occurred. The NCARC officers' contact information is included in each newsletter and is also available on the NCARC website. DO NOT ever acknowledge or engage in a conversation with an interfering station unless directed to do so by an NCARC Control Operator. (Direction finding or recording equipment may be in operation at any time.) Increase your power level if possible to override the interference. Sometimes the time-out timer will be activated by the interference and interrupt your communications. A control operator may also shut down the repeater for a period of time until the problem is resolved. An attempt to announce this will be done if possible to make other users and listeners aware of the situation. 73 and thanks...

### 220 MHz Net

There is a new informal net that is being held every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm on the 224.520 Repeater.  
This is the newest **W0UPS** (formerly AB0SF) machine  
located at the Horsetooth Mountain site along with the 145.115 and 447.275 NCARC Repeaters.  
This repeater uses the standard offset for the 220 MHz band (input on 222.920) and a 100 Hz CTCSS.  
Hosted by **KG6TDB**, the topics will change each week and all licensed operators are invited to check in.  
For those who are interested, it also features IRLP capability (it is node 3902).

## Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club (NCARC) Presents

# WINTER HAMFEST 2008

Admission \$5 (children under 12 free)  
6 ft Tables \$5 ea. (includes 1 admission)

**Saturday, January 12, 2008**  
**Open to public 8:00 am to 1:00 pm!**

Talk in: 145.115 (-offset 100 Hz CTCSS)  
146.520 Simplex

**Vendors Setup beginning at 6:00 am**  
**The Lincoln Center – Canyon West Room**  
**417 W. Magnolia, Ft. Collins, Co.**

**More info to follow in upcoming newsletters!**

<http://www.ncarc.net>

## BARC FEST

### Boulder Amateur Radio Club

**09/23/2007**

Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont - Doors Open at 8 AM  
Table Cost: \$10.00 Admission: \$5.00

Note: Table price DOES NOT include admission  
For information <http://www.qsl.net/w0dk>

