

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	Bill Beach	K0UT	(970)224-1958	k0ut@earthlink.net
Secretary	Dave Langenberg	KC9FOO	(773)612-8435	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	Dan Magro	W7RF	(970)295-4200	w7rf@radiodan.com
Hamfest Chair	Matt Kassawara	KG0W	(307)220-3110	battery@write.me

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, 7229 ft) Horsetooth Mountain, west of Fort Collins, CO
W0UPS: 224.520 MHz – (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
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) (40-25.341N, 104-44.182 W) Greeley, CO
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	Wednesday	7:00 pm	145.115 MHz

Web Page

<http://www.ncarc.net>

New and renewing members for the current month: KC0RBT – Jim N0FZD – Jer W0LEV – Dave KB0WWA – Dick W0EP – Chris K0UT – Bill WA7BNG – Rick N1AOK – Charlie KG0HM – Lud KG0W – Matt

The NCARC thanks you for your support.

TECH NET

This is a reminder that the 145.115 TECH NET is held on **Wednesday evening at 07:00 PM.**
It is hosted by **N0W1Q, 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

220 MHz Net

There is an informal net that is being held every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm on the 224.520 Repeater.
This is the newest **W0UPS** 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).

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

Upcoming NCARC Meeting Presentations:

January 19: Virgil Leenerts will be doing a presentation on Switch Mode Power Supplies.

Aurora Repeater Association - SWAPFEST

02/10/2008

Adams County Fairgrounds in Brighton At 9 AM
Table Cost: \$10.00 Admission: \$4.00

Contact: For more information contact: Wayne Heinen N0POH at 303-699-6335 (metro) or email to n0poh@arrl.net

Mail reservations to Aurora Repeater Association, P.O. Box 471802, Aurora, CO 80047-1802

Bumper Sticker for a Ham's vehicle:

**As A Matter Of Fact I Don't Have
Enough Antennas On My Car**

Bumper Sticker for his XYL's vehicle:

**Pray For Me. My Husband Is A
Ham Radio Operator.**

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 2:00 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.

<http://www.ncarc.net>

On-site ARRL VEC EXAMS 9:30 am Prompt !

Coffee, donuts and catered lunch !



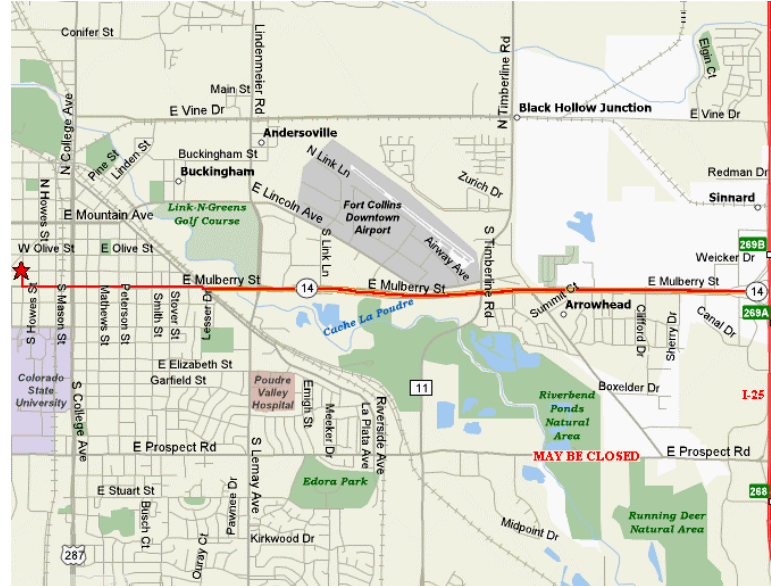
1st Prize: Icom IC-7000 !!!



2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-7800 !!



3rd Prize: Yaesu VX-6R !



From I-25, take the CO Hwy 14 Exit (exit 269) west into Fort Collins. After crossing Riverside Avenue, CO Hwy 14 becomes Mulberry Street. Continue west on Mulberry Street three blocks past College Avenue. Turn right onto Meldrum Street. The Lincoln Center is on the west side of Meldrum between Mulberry and Magnolia. The formal address is 417 West Magnolia Street.

GPS: 40.34.94N 105.04.99W

Hourly door prizes...
Main Drawing at NOON
You MUST be present to win.

See you there !
73, NCARC

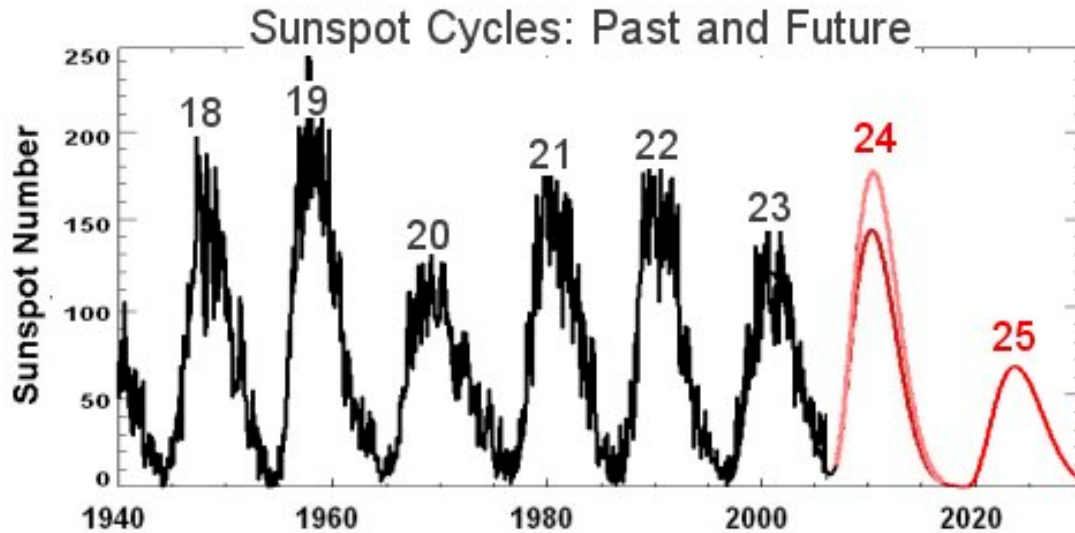
For Advance Table Reservations contact:

--- Willis Whatley, WA5VRL
(970) 407-6599

Make checks payable to NCARC
P.O. Box 272956 Fort Collins, CO 80527-2956

The Next Two Sunspot Cycles:

Solar physicists believe the speed of a massive circulating current of hot plasma within the Sun control the amplitudes of sunspot cycles. In recent years that speed has become lower than ever before observed. Based on the “plasma-speed / future-cycle-amplitude” theory, a team at NCAR is predicting that Solar Cycle 24 will be intense. NASA solar physicist David Hathaway agrees with this, but also predicts Cycle 25 will be extraordinarily weak. The image below shows the results of numerous previous cycles along with the predictions for the next two cycles. The NCAR team prediction for Cycle 24 is shown in pink. Hathaway's Cycle 24 and 25 predictions are shown in red. The rate of increase in each cycle is usually faster than the rate of decrease. This means that the peak of Cycle 24 may be just 3 to 4 years away (late 2011 or early 2012). Get your antennas for 15 to 30 MHz ready...



The Top 10 Excuses for not following the Amateur Radio Service rules:

- Excuse 1. THE "I HAVEN'T READ THEM" HAM: But everyone who knows the rules says that what I am doing is perfectly legal.
- Excuse 2. THE CONNECTED VIP HAM: Some guy who works at the FCC told me that what I am doing is legal.
- Excuse 3. THE "USED AN INTERPRETER" HAM: I don't read the FCC rules. I just ask a VE.
- Excuse 4. THE PONTIFICATED HAM: Some expert in our club tells us what the "real" rules are.
- Excuse 5. THE PIED PIPER OF HAMDOM: Follow me and the FCC will eventually change its rules.
- Excuse 6. THE STEALTH HAM: No one will ever notice what I get away with.
- Excuse 7. THE BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONED HAM: Some Extra around here said I could operate anywhere when using his station.
- Excuse 8. THE DAREDEVIL HAM: I will continue doing what I am doing until I get a letter from the FCC advising me that I am in conflict with the rules and subject to disciplinary action.
- Excuse 9. THE CLAIRVOYANT HAM: That was not the FCC's intent.
- Excuse 10. THE NOBODY'S HOME HAM: A lot of hams are doing it my way and no FCC inspectors are knocking on their doors.

Many of the above excuses are based on the assumption that the FCC does not have the staff or time to deal with every operator who chooses to ignore the Amateur Service rules. Even excuse #3 will not save your license. The statement below is a direct quote from Riley Hollingsworth that was delivered during his presentation at the 2007 Dayton Hamvention:

"And to those of you who have been continual problems and we just haven't gotten to you yet: you now have a problem yourselves. Your renewals are coming up. YOU have the burden of proof in showing that you should have a license and YOU have to come to Washington D.C. to make your case and we are going to have a LOT of questions for you."

The majority of Amateur radio operators who lost their licenses in the last decade have done so when they attempted to renew their license, not from any FCC inspector knocking on their door or a notice in the mail. There is no "Statute of Limitations" requiring the FCC to act promptly on documented violations and it is the responsibility of EVERY licensed Amateur to read and understand Part 97 for themselves.

Part 97 of the FCC Rules for the amateur services is available at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>, under U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Title 47.

NCARC Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2007

Steve, N7GN started the meeting at 9:00 am. There were approximately 35 members including 6 officers attending. There were no new visitors at this meeting.

Reports:

Treasurer's report: Willis, WA5VRL, reported that checking had a balance of 9831.36. Savings were unchanged.

Membership report: Willis also reported that we had 4 renewing members. The membership renewal roster was circulated around the meeting room to remind people to renew their memberships.

Secretary minutes: Dave Langenberg, KC0FOO, was unable to attend as his XYL was graduating from CSU. We will get the minutes read from the November meeting at the January meeting.

Technical report: Eric, K0EUS, was unable to attend so Steve asked for any updates from the general membership. Dan, W7RF, reported that APRS was bothered by the 145.115 output due to the proximity of the two antennas. Bill, K0UT has modified the Loveland APRS to serve as a backup for anytime that the NCARC APRS station is temporarily blanked out by the 145.115 transmissions. The 145.115 seems to be doing very well in providing coverage with the exception of a lot of multi-path in Greeley due to the lowered height of the antenna.

Control op report: Minor KY7G, reported there have been no changes. Steve, N7GN indicated that we now have a new SCOM 7330 beta unit ready to go up when the road clears and when we have a modem in place.

Hamfest report: Matt, KG0W, reported that the flyers are available. Matt strongly needs helpers for the fest. This was the last meeting before the fest and we need volunteers!

A signup sheet went out to those attending the meeting. Dan, W7RF, reported that HRO would be giving us some prizes for the fest. He also reported that we have a good lead on the three prizes and Dan expects we should get a good price from his various sources. Bill, K0UT volunteered to help with food as did Raquel, Dan's better half. Willis indicated that any expenses would be promptly reimbursed.

Interference Committee Report: Mike, N7DQ reported no interference on the repeaters.

Old business:

Silent auction: Chris Howard, W0EP and Matt, KG0W were the winners in the silent auction. Chris picked up four different rigs and two frequency counters while Matt picked up an external DSP.

Event center repeater: The club has had no update from Randy, W0AVV, on the status of the repeater. Randy took over from Richard, K0RAW in getting the fairgrounds management to get the repeater installed. Steve volunteered to check in with Randy on the progress of installation.

New business:

Loveland Repeater Association status: Rob Strieby (W0FT, LRA president), reported that LRA currently has 30 members, and they are moving to an informal breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at Dorothy's (just east of Wilson on W. First in Loveland, the old Schmidt's bakery). All are welcome to attend. They will have a single annual official meeting to meet Colorado incorporation requirements.

Demonstration of 3-axis accelerometer: Glen Akins, KC0VXL, demonstrated his PIC-based accelerometer. He will be doing a tech talk on this at an upcoming meeting. He has this mounted in his off-road vehicle and he gets a bar-graph indication of his orientation. This was very cool!

January presentation: Virgil, W0INK, will be giving he tech talk in January on Switching Power Supplies.

Idea for board meetings: Dan, W7RF, recommended that the club move to a more active board of directors style organization where the board meets frequently to take care of much of the club business. Discussion on this idea will occur at a future meeting. Dan made his home available for potential board meetings.

January meeting: We WILL have an NCARC meeting on the third Saturday in January – January 19. This is one week after the hamfest.

Adjourn: Steve, N7GN adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.

Echolink presentation: We had an echolink presentation by Jim Wilson, KC0RBT. This was well attended, and Jim gave a very helpful and informative overview of echolink and described his node setup. A local echolink node is available at 447.450 (-) 123 Hz PL. See www.echolink.org for additional information.

