

**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	Dan Magro	W7RF	(970)295-4200	<a href="mailto:w7rf@radiodan.com">w7rf@radiodan.com</a>
Hamfest Chair	Matt Kassawara	KG0W	(307)220-3110	<a href="mailto:battery@write.com">battery@write.com</a>

## NCARC Repeaters

<b>W0UPS: 145.115 MHz</b> – (144.515 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone (1* on, 0* off) Autopatch <b>Echolink Node 4236</b> (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 <b>IRLP Node 3902</b> (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	Thursday	7:00 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
220 MHz Informal Net	Tuesday	7:00 pm	220.520 MHz
Tech Net	Wednesday	7:00 pm	145.115 MHz

## Web Page

<http://www.ncarc.net>

**New and renewing members for the current month:** N0NXC – Arthur KBOGAE – Tom N0FRT - Joe  
**The NCARC thanks you for your support.**

## Longmont Amateur Radio Club

### LARCFEST

**04/05/2008**

Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont at 8 AM  
Admission: \$5.00 Table Cost: \$15.00

VE Testing at 10 AM – Cost \$14.00  
E-mail to [admin@w0eno.org](mailto:admin@w0eno.org)

### Other Upcoming Area Swapmeets

- April 26 Central New Mexico Spring Tailgate (Albuquerque, NM)**
- April 27 Mesilla Valley Radio Club Bean Feed & Swapfest (Las Cruces, NM)**
- May 24-25 Wyoming State Convention (Casper, WY)**
- June 7 Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Assn Megafest (Monument, CO)**
- August 2 Jackson Hole Area ARC Swapfest (Jackson, WY)**
- August 17 Denver Radio Club Swapfest (Golden, CO)**
- September 28 BARCFEST (Longmont, CO)**

### WD0CKP Carlos Seegmiller Jr. - SK

Carlos, aged 72, who lived previously at 700 W. Mountain Avenue in Fort Collins, passed away peacefully on March 2nd, 2008, at Sunbrook Hospice in Salt Lake City, UT.

After working for many years in educational television and moviemaking, Carlos became a computer programmer and technician. His life-long love of trains led to his participation in the restoration of the historic Fort Collins trolley, where he volunteered his time for many years. He was an avid ham radio operator and spent time each week gathering weather information for the National Weather Service. After retirement he moved to Denver and volunteered as a Hospitality Ambassador at Denver International Airport. Donations may be made in his name to the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society, P. O. Box 635, Fort Collins, CO 80522.

### Upcoming NCARC Meeting presentations:

April: "Radio Mobile" – A free software tool used to predict the performance of a radio system using digital terrain elevation data.  
July: Colorado 14'er Event – Information about this annual event (scheduled for Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> this year).

## Amateur Radio Technician Class

**Beginning April 17<sup>th</sup> Ending May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Thursdays evenings from 7 to 9 pm

**Location: LDS Church 3800 Mountain Lion Dr. Loveland, CO 80537 (North side in the rear)**

**Cost: \$20.00 includes the manual. \$14.00 for exam. Exam to be held on last class date.**

Pre-registration required ! --- Class limited to 30 students

Contact Information: Tom Levendusky, Jr ACØCH 970-744-1072 [ac0ch@arrl.net](mailto:ac0ch@arrl.net)

### NCARC sponsored Amateur Radio Kid's Day

**Coming up in June in Eaton, CO**

**Contact Willard Williams W5WIW at 970-454-3821 for details if you can help with this activity.**

"Top Ten ways to sound like a LID on your local repeater"  
written by W5RFY of Aransas Pass, TX, circa 1979

- Use Q signals whenever possible. They are intended for CW and are inappropriate for voice communications, but they're fun, entertaining and an easy way to gain LID points.
- Call CQ on the repeater instead of announcing that you are monitoring. You can earn almost as many LID points for this as using Q signals on the machine.
- Whistle CW over the repeater to give your call, Q signals or other information. This is a great alternative to the first two methods to get your LID points.
- Never laugh when you can say "Hi Hi". This will give the impression that you are a long time CW operator who has been operating since the days of Marconi.
- Always say W5xxx "for I.D" or "because (fill in a reason here)..." or some other mindless statement that is not required or needed (just for extra LID points).
- Make up your own phonetics. You probably had your fill of memory work to get your Amateur license. No point in spending time on more memorization stuff.
- The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the repeater. Be sure to pick subjects that should be discussed in the local pub and not on Amateur frequencies. This is a good way to gain bonus LID points.
- Use excessive microphone gain and be sure to hold the mic in a position so that everyone can hear you breathing against it between words. When you are operating mobile, also be sure that the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick out your words.
- Never give your call at the beginning of a transmission or conversation because it is not legally required. This keeps everyone except those who know you and the FCC from knowing the source of the transmission (until the 10-minute rule forces you to identify).
- Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. Always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" even when you are by yourself. If someone asks who is with you, just make up someone important like a U.S. president or a popular actor.



**It's that time... Have you reviewed your WX Spotter training materials yet?**

## OOPS...



On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the new partially built KFI radio tower crashed to the ground. No one was killed and only one construction worker, who was on a platform next to the tower, incurred minor injuries. The reason for the collapse is believed to be construction-related. Engineers and insurance crews are working to determine the cause. (You know the drill: mistakes have been made... others will be blamed.)

Clear Channel, which operates KFI-AM radio, had contracted with Seacomm Erectors Inc. to build the new 684-foot-tall tower. Construction, which was expected to take about four weeks, just began on March 15 and had reached about 250 feet when the tower came down at about 2:30 p.m on March 18.

The tower was being built to replace a 760-foot-tall tower that was toppled in December 2004 when a small plane crashed into it on approach to Fullerton Municipal Airport (less than two miles southeast of the tower). The pilot and his wife were killed in that incident. Fullerton Airport and city officials had joined local pilots over the last several months in protesting plans for the new tower's construction, saying it was too tall and would pose a hazard to pilots. The 2004 incident was obviously forgotten by the myopic La Mirada City Council, who unanimously approved the tower in January. Gotta wonder if they are having second thoughts about now...

### On another note...

Beginning in June, Chris Howard W0EP will be taking over the monthly newsletter. I have been doing the newsletter since August of 2005, so it is time for a change. I will probably still submit items for publication and I will still be handling the membership and treasury activities going forward this year. Please give him your support and submit newsletter items to him beginning in June.

Thanks and 73,  
WA5VRL  
Willis

First NCARC Officer Meeting - Feb 26, 2008  
Location: Dan Magro's (W7RF) residence  
Called to order by Steve Henry N7GN at 7:12 pm

Attendees:

Steve Henry  
Willis Whatley  
Bill Beach  
Dan Magro  
David Langenberg  
Bob Schmid  
Mike Bates

2007 Year in review

- \* Presentations were good & diverse
- \* Field Day was good & fun
  - \*\* Would like to see more \$\$ involvement
  - \*\* Would like to hold it in a more public place (City Park?)
- \* Successful HamFest -- making folks stay to the end seemed to work with fewer complaints
  - \*\* Thinking we could get even better prizes for next year
  - \*\* Possibly give away memberships to individuals who volunteer to assist
  - \*\* Perhaps shut-down the fest at noon rather than 1 pm
  - \*\* We should add some presentations to the fest
- \* APRS Digi-peater & 115 antenna movement was a plus
- \* We spent a ton of \$\$ on the 115 tower-mounted antenna and should get it working
- \* Newsletters were good

THINGS TO IMPROVE ON

- \* We have a problem with getting members to volunteer for things (officers, committee chairs, etc).
- \* The linking project in Fort Morgan -- it died.

BUDGET REVIEW

- \* There was some discussion about whether to keep the auto-patch. General consensus was to keep the patch for 2008 and review whether it's necessary for 2009.

MOTION: By Bill Beach that the Club would a lot \$1000 for the Tech committee in the budget, which they could spend as the committee sees fit. Seconded by Mike Bates -- motion carried.

MOTION: By Mike Bates that the Club support Ham Con Colorado as a budget item for \$200. Seconded by Willis -- motion carried.

MOTION: By Bill Beach that the Club create a budget item for promotional outreach \$100. Seconded by Radio Dan. motion carried.

CHANGE PROPOSAL BOARD-DRIVEN CLUB

MOTION: The board will start holding monthly meetings at 7:00 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Golden Corral -- Moved by Mike Seconded by Willis. Motion carried.

MOTION: Steve Henry -- Table previous motion -- Seconded by Mike -- carried by unanimous consent

TIME OF NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Next board meeting will be held at 7:00 AM on March 15, 2008 at the Golden Corral

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Second NCARC Officer Meeting - March 15, 2008  
Location: Golden Corral

Attendees:

- \* Steve Henry
- \* David Langenberg
- \* Bill Beach
- \* Dan Magro
- Larry Arave

(\*) Officers

Called to order by Steve Henry N7GN at 7:43 AM

MOTION: By Bill for \$200 to HamCon. Seconded by Dave and passed.

MOTION: By Dave Meeting today at 7 am. Seconded by Bill and passed.

Review of Minutes -- Minutes from February Meeting approved with above changes

OLD BUSINESS

2008 Budget -- Motion to approve 2008 budget for ratification. Moved by Bill and 2nd by Dan. Approved.

Bylaw changes -- Discussion highlights

- \*\* go ahead with board meetings, but any big dollar amounts should be approved at the general meeting.
- \*\* perhaps the only thing we bring up to general membership for votes is to get the "pulse of the club".
- \*\* Create a guideline for items not specifically approved in the budget or over \$500 would need approval by the general membership.
- \*\* Emergency spending would not be covered by this rule.
- \*\* Bylaw changes (of any type) should be pre-approved.
- \*\* Composition of the board -- Should we add interference & control op as elected positions.

MOTION: Present to general membership that Control Op and Interference Coordinator become elected board positions/officers of the club  
Moved by Bill and seconded by Dan. Approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mass mailings -- There are over 1800 HAMs living within 50 miles of Fort Collins. Perhaps we should send some postcards listing all of the clubs, nets and repeaters in the area. Bill will come up with the mailing list and Dan will come up with a postcard idea for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Steve will find a location for the next meeting. Date and time for the next meeting is 7:00 AM before the next NCARC meeting.

Bill moved to adjourn at 8:14 AM. Seconded by Dave. Passed.

NCARC Meeting - March 15, 2008

Location: Golden Corral

There were 26 members and 2 guests present

## REPORTS

Secretary -- minutes approved as read.

Treasurer -- We had one membership renewal. Checking is at \$12747.78, savings unchanged.

Control Op -- made one change to the announcements for the ARES net on Thursday at 7pm.

Ham Fest -- no report.

Interference -- no report.

Upcoming Presentations -- Next month "Radio Mobile" service will be demo'd. For July there will be a presentation about the 14ers event.

## OLD BUSINESS

Jacket Patches -- Willie demo'd his jacket patch again as well as several samples of name tags. He also passed around some ideas for vests and hats.

Business Cards -- Dan has printed up a bunch of business cards. The idea is to hand out the card to individuals who are interested in Ham Radio to give them some idea of what's available from NCARC.

Training Class -- Will be starting on the 17th of April at the LDS facility on Hwy 34 in Loveland. Working on setting up a curriculum which can be used anytime someone wants to have a ham class. HRO is willing to give us a discount on the Tech manuals if we make a purchase of 30 or more.

MOTION: Rick -- Club will buy 30 manuals for the tech class and Rick will reimburse the club as he sells the manuals. Seconded. Motion Carried.

Events Center Repeater -- due to go up in the next couple of days. Listen on 448.025 MHz, standard offset and 100 Hz CTCSS.

March of Dimes -- It's back on for April 26 and we'll need volunteers. Will be held in Fort Collins.

Bylaw Changes to board-run club:

MOTION: Dan -- we modify the bylaws as discussed (board run club, add Control Op and Interference Coordinators as officers) Seconded by Willie. Dave will write-up the new by-laws and will send them to Willis for inclusion in the newsletter. The vote on this will be taken at the April meeting.

MOTION: Willis -- Club to buy 30 blue vests and 50 patches for use at club events. Seconded by John.

AMENDED BY Dan: The club to also buy hats -- Motion failed no second.

AMENDED By Larry: Club buys 30 vests and 50 patches for use at club events. Seconded by Eric.

MOTION: By Bill to table previous motion and amendments until cost was verified. Seconded by Dan. Motion carried.

Kids Day -- Willie received permission from the City of Eaton to proceed with Kids day.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 AM.





# Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club Information/Application Form



I would like more information on Amateur Radio.

I want to join the NCARC. My payment is enclosed.

I want to renew my membership. My payment is enclosed.

**Annual Dues:**

**Family Membership: \$25.00**

**Full Time Students: \$5.00**

BEFORE FILLING THIS OUT, READ THIS MESSAGE -----



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Callsign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**License Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Receive Newsletter by E-mail? YES NO

Student? YES NO

ARRL Member? YES NO

You only need to fill in your name or callsign and anything that has changed. Any items left blank will be assumed to be correct in the NCARC database.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by E-mail, please indicate so here.  
←

Please mail this form to: NCARC  
P.O. Box 272956  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2956