

**Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club**

P.O. Box 272956

Fort Collins, CO 80527-2956



**Memorial Day 2008**

# **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	Chris Howard	W0EP	(970)493-2309	<a href="mailto:chris@yipyap.com">chris@yipyap.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@writeeme.com">battery@writeeme.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:** N0KKU – Marcus      WBOYTT – Philip  
KCOFWB – Kent      **The NCARC thanks you for your support.**

### **Other Upcoming Area Swapmeets**

**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)**

### **Upcoming NCARC Meeting presentations:**

July: Colorado 14'er Event – Information about this annual event (scheduled for Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> this year).

### **CAST For Kids Event**

**Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

This annual event is held at Horsetooth Reservoir on the west side of Fort Collins.

The local Bass Fishing Club brings many of their boats and takes lots of area handicapped kids out for a morning of fishing.

The NCARC provides the communications to coordinate the loading and launching of the boats as well as ship-to-shore communications. NCARC volunteers are needed beginning about 7 am and the event ends with a Noon Picnic (Free Food!!!).

Contact Rick (W0RCY) at [ricky@hueb.net](mailto:ricky@hueb.net) or 482-7004 if you can help out with this fun event.

### **The NCARC Kids Day is moving along !**

**June 21, 2008**

If any one wants to donate anything to go in the hand out bags or can help with this event, please contact

**W5WIW Willie Williams, 434 Magnolia Ct, Eaton, CO 970-454-3821, [W.I.Williams@msn.com](mailto:W.I.Williams@msn.com)**

We are making up 50 bags for passing out to the kids that talk on the radio.

### **Notice: NCARC Name Badges are now available for only \$10 each.**

Just send your name; as you want it on your badge to **W5WIW Willie Williams, 434 Magnolia Ct, Eaton, CO 80615, [W.I.Williams@msn.com](mailto:W.I.Williams@msn.com)**. It can be your full name, your first name, or your nickname and your call sign. Mail your payment for the Name Badge(s) to the NCARC P.O. Box (or bring it to the club meeting) and allow 3 to 4 weeks for processing. To view a sample of the name badges, just come to the club meeting.

### **Alpha-Delta and Kent products now available locally**

**DZKit**, the locally run reincarnation of Heathkit, is now an authorized Alpha-Delta and Kent Precision Key dealer. Prices are 10% lower than HRO and can be picked up at their QTH in Loveland to save on shipping costs. DZKit is located outside of the Loveland city limits too, so you also save by not paying city sales tax.

DZKit will be stocking the most popular wire antennas (DX-CC and DX-EE), lightning arrestor (ATT3G50U), and coax switches (DELTA-2B, DELTA-4B), but lead times are short on all their products. They will also be adding Outbacker mobile antennas, Heil microphones and ARRL products to their selection soon.

Check it all out at [www.dzkit.com/A-D.htm](http://www.dzkit.com/A-D.htm). If you're considering any Alpha-Delta or Kent products, please give DZKit a try. They accept Mastercard, Visa, Discover and Amex, as well as cash and checks.

**DZKit is also nearing production release on the Sienna all-mode HF transceiver!** Local hams will get great local support on a state-of-the-art rig. See [www.dzkit.com](http://www.dzkit.com) for details on this radio.

They have other kits in the planning stages too. If there's something you want that no one else is making, please let them know!

Brian Wood, W0DZ

Founder and President,

The DZ Company, LLC, dba "DZKit"

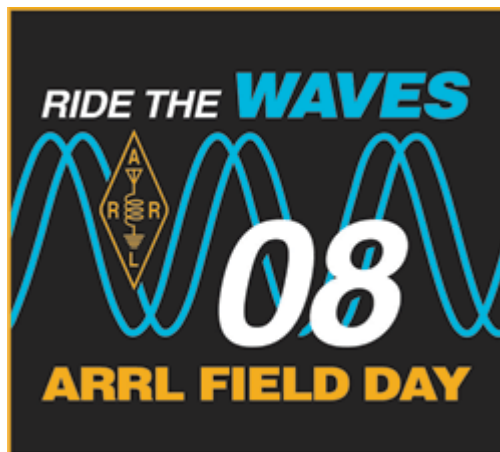
## **For Sale: Mosley Pro-57-A High Performance HF Beam 5 Bands, 7 Elements**

This Pro-57-A antenna has NEVER been used and is has been stored out of the weather in Loveland, CO The antenna covers 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters and will handle more that the full legal power on all bands.

The longest element is 29.9 feet long. It has a 2-inch boom that is 24 feet long (turning radius ~ 19 ft).

It was assembled and SWR tests done, but never put it up.

If interested, contact **N7CG, Clyde Glass** at: [ceglass@wwdb.org](mailto:ceglass@wwdb.org) or 970-667-7415



**Field Day: June 28-29, 2008**

(Always the Fourth Full Weekend In June)

### **Horsetooth Antenna Problems**

During the first few days of May, extremely high winds caused some significant damage to part of the tower structure and antennas at the Horsetooth Mountain site. When a number of NCARC members attended the Severe WX training class in Greeley on 03 May, Randy (W0AVV) mentioned that his weather station that was set to alarm when winds exceeded 100 mph had been going off consistently the previous day.

George Salzmann (AB0SF) contacted some of the NCARC club officers by e-mail on 05 May to report the problems after workman from United Tower Service had contacted him regarding the damage. United Tower Service is a company out of Fort Morgan that does tower and antenna work for the Advanced Wireless installations at the Horsetooth site. There was a structural failure on the cross-member section of Rohn 45 tower that supports our VHF and 220 MHz repeater antennas. The workman temporarily lashed the antennas to the tower to prevent them from sustaining further damage or falling off of the structure.

George turned off the 224.520 MHz repeater and the VHF antenna has not been used on the 145.115 MHz repeater for some time now due to the previously reported noise issues. (For quite some time, the 145.115 repeater has been operating off of a temporary antenna located on top of the equipment building at the site.) Rick (W0RCY), who can see the site from his house, reported that the antenna for the 447.275 MHz repeater appeared to be intact. Only part of the lower cross-member failed and that part held the two NCARC antennas (and possibly other commercial antennas).

Scott Burkhardt (who is also a licensed ham) is the site manager who works for Crown Castle, the site owners. He is working to get the cross-member replaced. Because of the previous noise issues with the 145.115 MHz antenna system and the probable damage that it has now sustained, the NCARC is looking at replacing both the antenna and hardline.

A decision was made at the May NCARC meeting to invest in new hardline and a 2-bay antenna to replace the one that was damaged. Information received in the meeting minutes indicated that the tower management will handle replacement of the cross-member and the hardline (see minutes in this newsletter).

Further updates will be provided in subsequent newsletters, as information becomes available.

The images below show the main tower structure and the damage that occurred. They also show some of the changes to antennas systems located on the structure between 2005 and 2008.





**Horsetooth Tower – October 2005**  
**As viewed from the SW side**  
**Image by WA5VRL - Willis**



**Horsetooth Tower – May 2008  
As viewed from the SW side  
Image by KC0VXL – Glen**





**Damage to lower cross-member – May 2008**  
**Images by KC0VXL – Glen**



NCARC Meeting - May 17, 2008

Location: Golden Corral

Called to order by Steve Henry at 9:00

There were 22 members and 3 guests present

## REPORTS

Secretary -- Minutes approved

Treasurer -- no report

Tech Committee -- no report

Newsletter -- If you have ideas or articles for the newsletter -- see Chris Howard w0ep@arrl.net.

Control Op -- Mike is trying to update some configurations around echolink so our broadcast messages aren't sent over the links. Message changes should go to Mike Bates (N7DQ).

Interference -- No report

Events Center Repeaters -- Steve took over management of installation. He has the equipment and is going to meet with the Events Center Staff this week about installation times.

Ham Fest -- no report

## OLD BUSINESS

Membership Drive -- We're going to send out 100 cards to the newest hams in the FCC database and see what the response is. The card is a 4x6 postcard with general information on the club and the repeaters.

CAST for Kids -- Rick is still looking for Volunteers. Watch the e-mail list for more information

Ft Collins Marathon -- Went well there were about 15 hams in the event. The organizers were pleased with the performance of our HAMs. There was still some problematic communications in the canyon.

Nametags & Shirts -- See Willie if you need to order a nametag. Willie demonstrated the new NCARC shirts. Shirts are \$35. Willie also demonstrated some coffee mugs, which are \$10. We also have plates, which can be used as desk-plates for \$9. To order: W.I.Williams@msn.com.

MOTION: Bill -- the official club logo does not need to have a circle around it. Seconded by Mike Bates. MOTION CARRIED

Presentations -- If you'd like to make a presentation to the club for a meeting or have ideas for presentations or knows someone who may like to give a presentation. We'll give you a NCARC mug. If you're not a member we'll also buy you breakfast.

## NEW BUSINESS

By Law Changes: The new bylaws have been circulated in the newsletter.

MOTION: Mike Bates -- approve the new bylaws. Seconded by Willie. MOTION CARRIED

Horsetooth Tower -- we believe our 4-bay antenna took too much wind-load and our crossbeam failed. The tower owner is willing to add a new feed-line and put a new crossbeam up. One thing we're going to do is move from a 4 bay to a 2 bay antenna.

MOTION: Mike the club will purchase the new hard-line and spend up to \$1000 on the hard-line. Seconded. MOTION CARRIED



