

**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

<b>President</b>	<b>Steve Henry</b>	<b>N7GN</b>	<b>(970)226-2817</b>	<a href="mailto:n7gn@arrl.net">n7gn@arrl.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bill Beach</b>	<b>K0UT</b>	<b>(970)224-1958</b>	<a href="mailto:k0ut@earthlink.net">k0ut@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Dave Langenberg</b>	<b>KC9FOO</b>	<b>(773)612-8435</b>	<a href="mailto:dave@thelangenbergs.com">dave@thelangenbergs.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Willis Whatley</b>	<b>WA5VRL</b>	<b>(970)407-6599</b>	<a href="mailto:whatley@frii.com">whatley@frii.com</a>
<b>Interference Coordinator</b>	<b>Mike Bates</b>	<b>N7DQ</b>	<b>(970)219-3225</b>	<a href="mailto:n7dq@comcast.net">n7dq@comcast.net</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Chris Howard</b>	<b>W0EP</b>	<b>(970)493-2309</b>	<a href="mailto:chris@yipyap.com">chris@yipyap.com</a>
<b>Technical Chair</b>	<b>Dan Magro</b>	<b>W7RF</b>	<b>(970)295-4200</b>	<a href="mailto:w7rf@radiodan.com">w7rf@radiodan.com</a>
<b>Hamfest Chair</b>	<b>Matt Kassawara</b>	<b>KG0W</b>	<b>(307)220-3110</b>	<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 <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

<b>ARES District 10 Information Net</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>145.115 MHz</b>
<b>ARES Statewide Net</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 pm</b>	<b>145.310 MHz</b>
<b>Central Colorado Traffic Net</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>145.310 MHz</b>
<b>220 MHz Informal Net</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>220.520 MHz</b>
<b>Tech Net</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>145.115 MHz</b>

## Web Page

<http://www.ncarc.net>

**New and renewing members for the current month:** K0OJ - O.J., N0KNK - Hal, KI0IO - Rob, KD0EGE - Chris, N7DQ - Mike, W7LRY - Larry, N0AIA - Chuck, KC0VXK - Randy

**The NCARC thanks you for your support.**

## Meeting Minutes

NCARC Officer Meeting  
July 19, 2008

Location: Golden Corral  
Called to order by Steve Henry at 8:00 AM

Attendees:

Willis Whatley      Larry Arvae      Mike Bates      David Langenberg      Steve Henry      Dan Magro

Minutes from April were approved -- Mike moved to approve the minutes Dave seconded and the motion carried

### OLD BUSINESS

Willis reported that our insurance was renewed and the Lincoln center has been paid for our swapmeet.

Mass Mailings -- Mike gave Bill a recent copy of the FCC database. Awaiting on Bill for a status report. Dan has the post cards ready as well as the business cards. Dan will send the officers a PDF of the postcard. Steve will test the email address

NCARC Picnic -- Dan has his boat at Boyd Lake. Since we'd now have to work on first-come-first-served we'll need to have someone show up super early to reserve a spot. Costs involved would be picnic supplies, gas for the boat. Thought was to have door prizes and keep the budget for door prizes \$150 and \$200 / food. We'll schedule the date for September 20 10:00AM - 2:00PM++ in lieu of the club meeting. Dan will check on pavilion availability, and will present this idea to the club.

MOTION: Mike -- The club will spend \$400 on food and door prizes. Seconded by Dan. Door prize tickets will be \$5 for 5 tickets and 12 tickets for \$10. Motion Carried

Horsetooth Repeaters -- Dan talked to Scott yesterday. Dan will use existing feed line and we'll buy new connectors for the feed line.  
Events Center Repeaters -- There's a mount all ready to go we just need to put the repeater in place.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 AM

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NCARC Meeting  
July 19, 2008

Location: Golden Corral

Called to order by Steve Henry at 9 am  
There were 19 members and 2 guests present

### REPORTS

Treasurer -- Savings unchanged since last report. Checking balance is \$10994.91

Membership -- We had 2 renewals and 1 new member this past month.

Newsletter -- Chris will be on vacation 1st week of Aug and would like folks to try to get articles in for the newsletter as soon as possible.

Control Op -- Mike is making minor changes to the repeaters so don't be worried if you hear him testing

Interference -- Only interference is coming from the Control Op.

HamFest -- Our 2009 HamFest is this coming Jan in the Lincoln Center. Look for a call for volunteers at the next meeting.

Tech Committee -- Repeater / Antenna at Horsetooth: We're gonna change the connectors on both ends of the feed line and we're going to change to a 2 bay antenna on 2 meters.

Events Center Repeater -- We've finally have phase 1 of the installation complete. We plan to do phase 2 next week.

### PAST EVENTS

Dan talked about the upcoming picnic. See officer meeting minutes for details. Willie gave an overview of the Kids Day event. 2 kids showed up to talk on the radio. Colorado Cycling Fest -- Chris reported it went OK. There was one emergency requiring a helicopter. The event was happy with our service. MS150 -- No report. Ham Class -- We had 8 people pass the recent class and one of them went on to get their general.

## Notes on Repeater Autopatch

Repeater Autopatch has come up as a subject of interest recently. At least one member of NCARC specifically joined to maintain communication while in the mountains. In my years of commuting down US-34 from Estes Park I found the 145.115 repeater's autopatch to be the only emergency communications method that worked between Sandy's Conoco (west of Loveland) and Olympus Lodge (in Estes Park). First requirement for using the autopatch is to have a good signal into the repeater. So a handheld may not do the trick. You will also need a DTMF microphone or touchpad available. Most new VHF radios come with that feature. To make an emergency call to 911, just dial "911" on your touchpad while transmitting. Make sure you tell the 911 dispatcher that you are a ham using a radio autopatch. For other calls generally you:

1. Pull over to the side of the road in a spot with good repeater signal
2. Announce your intention to use the autopatch and give your callsign
3. Dial the access code, the phone number and a '\*'
4. When your party answers, let them know you are on a radio (It is not like a regular full-duplex telephone conversation. I find it handy to say 'over' like in an HF radio contact.)
5. When finished, hangup the autopatch by sending a '#'
6. Give your callsign, let people know you are "clear of the autopatch".

At one time we had a write-up that was given to new members explaining how to use the autopatch. If you would like one of those let me know, I think I can find one somewhere.

## Short QSO (Introducing a Ham of Note)

Name: Doug Hutchinson K0DTK (formerly KN0DTK)

License: Novice - 1955 (age 13), currently Amateur Extra Class

Station: My home HF station is a Kenwood TS-570D and a Butternut 9-band vertical on top of our house. I also have a superb HF mobile setup in our 1990 Subaru station wagon: a Kenwood TS-50 and Hustler antennas. I love operating CW with the mobile, and have a Bencher paddle and MFJ keyer dedicated to that mobile.

Modes of Operation: CW is my true passion. I do a little bit of VHF-FM.

Notes: Doug spent 23 years in the US Air Force (Lt Col Ret.) then 10 more as a civilian contractor. He worked in military intelligence. After retiring in 1999 he decided to get into politics and now he is the Mayor of Fort Collins. He has produced a very readable book: *The History of a Radio Amateur* in which he details his experience as a young man and an active ham in Fort Collins during the years 1955-1963. At 14 Doug was elected president of the Larimer County Amateur Radio Club, which he tells me is the ancestor of the NCARC. He also does homebrewing, with his killer CW transmitter now in it's third generation. Doug's book also contains names and pictures of '50s era Fort Collins (including some of his girlfriends -- so even for CW ops there is hope.)

Other interests and hobbies: photography, woodworking, reading

Family: wife Cathy (her picture is in the book), 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 standard poodles.

Doug has given the NCARC a copy of his book, which I have in my possession, and he inscribed it: "To NCARC - a lot of fond memories to share! Vy 73, Doug July 2008"  
(If you would like to borrow it, contact this editor.)

**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. Willie also has shirts, patches, mugs and other NCARC goodies available.

**Upcoming Area Swapmeets**

**August 2 Jackson Hole Area ARC Swapfest (Jackson, WY)**

**August 17 Denver Radio Club Swapfest (Golden, CO)**

**September 28 BARCFEST (Longmont, CO)**

**Editor's Corner : Hot Summer**

This month I've added a newsletter feature that I hope to continue as space allows: **Short QSO** will be an interview or biography of a ham in our club or a ham of interest. Fort Collins Mayor Doug Hutchinson, K0DTK, was very gracious in sharing some of his time with me.

In my own shack I've been working on building a QRP CW transceiver, The Willamette, designed by Jason Milldrum, NT7S. Construction details are on his website <http://www.nt7s.com>. It is a group project operating around the [grp-1@grp-1.org](mailto:grp-1@grp-1.org) e-mail reflector. I hope to have it ready to take on a camping trip in early August.

Short items in the news:

- Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired from the FCC in early July.
- The ARRL got a good ruling from federal court on it's case against the FCC regarding BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) and the FCC's lax application of their own rules and standards in measuring potential interference. The issue goes back to the FCC for re-evaluation.
- Speaking of BPL, Xcel Energy is reported to be working on a BPL project in the Boulder area, or so I am told. Fortunately the BPL equipment vendor Xcel is proposing to use, Current Technologies, is one that has worked with the ARRL and has a fairly good track record. Time will tell.
- Still no sunspots. The experts are saying that maybe because we had two "peaks" in the last upswing that means we should have two "dips" now.

**For Sale:** Excellent Tower and parts in Estes Park.

- one hygain T2X Rotor and control box.
- assorted grounding nuts/bolts
- two lengths of 8 wire rotor cable.
- yeseau thrust bearing.
- one polyphazer rotor cable lightning protector.
- one polyphazer coax lightning protector.
- custom top and bottom rotor plate
- stainless nuts and bolts for the tower sections.
- manual for rotor and rotor control box.
- tower sections approx 40 feet total. (three 10 foot sections and custom top section that is half)
- custom mast with rotor and boom to mast holes to pin the antenna and the rotor. (heavy duty)

Package price of \$500 (a steal).

come see. or holler up on the .115 repeater. Aaron n0war

## Kids Day in Eaton

June 21, 2008

We got set up about 10 am and heard some children calling CQ. I listened at their calls as Grandpa was telling them what to say in the background and they tried their best to repeat it. They made about 15 contacts before I made contact with Grandpa and his two grandchildren. One was 5 yrs old the other 6 yrs old. I think it is neat to hear little ones talk on the radio. I kept tuned to 20 meters and listened to several other conversations.

I had two hams from Eaton come by and spend some time listening and just talking. One of the hams wants me to help him set up echo link and PSK 31. The one was a member of our club but has never been to a club meeting. I will work on that.

The most fun I had was making contact with hams from Saipan.

As for our station, we had two radios, battery power supply for both, I had a generator if needed to charge the batteries. The antennas were 80 meter G5RV, 40 meter G5RV, 20 & 40 meter ham sticks. We used our motor home as shade and to support the antennas. We also had handouts for the Kids that talked on the radio, and soda pops or water for all.



For those that did not come by, you sure missed a good time. We will try again next year.

W5WIW and KE5INP

## Colorado 14er Operating Event

Chris Ormsby, KC0ACO, spoke to the NCARC meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 about the Colorado 14er operating event coming up Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The idea is to activate as many of Colorado's 14,000+ ft high peaks as possible. Most of the 54 candidate peaks are accessible only by foot but a very few can be tackled by automobile. There is also a certificate available for us flatlanders if we contact 10 or more 14ers from down below. The event is mostly VHF-FM on 147.42 Mhz and up, between 9am and 12 noon local time.

Complete details for the event can be found at <http://www.14er.org>, or through the Yahoo email reflector at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ham14er/>

**PERSEID METEOR SHOWER:** The 2008 Perseid meteor shower peaks during the dark hours before dawn on Tuesday, August 12th, and forecasters say it should be a good show.

**! FOOD !**

**NCARC PICNIC**

**Saturday**

**September 20**

**in lieu of September club meeting**

**Tentatively planned for**

**Boyd Lake State Park in Loveland.**

**Watch the next newsletter for details.**

