

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	Chris Howard	W0EP	(970)493-2309	chris@yipyap.com
Technical Chair	Dan Magro	W7RF	(970)295-4200	w7rf@radiodan.com
Hamfest Chair	Matt Kassawara	KG0W	(307)220-3110	battery@writeme.com

NCARC Repeaters

W0UPS: 145.115 MHz – (144.515 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone (1* on, 0* off) Autopatch Echolink Node 4236 (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 Node 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	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: Paul – KD0BER, Butch - K0CSU
The NCARC thanks you for your support.

Meeting Minutes

NCARC Officer Meeting
August 15, 2008

Location: Golden Corral

Called to order by Steve Henry (N7GN) at 7:30

Attendees:

* Bill Beach * Steve Henry * Mike Bates * David Langenberg * "Radio" Dan Magro

Minutes were approved as read from July

Treasurer Report: Current balance \$9779 in checking. Savings remains unchanged.

OLD BUSINESS

Mass Mailings -- Bill needs a new copy of the database from Mike. Mike will send Bill a new database as soon as he can get his Linux computer up. Bill passed around a draft card. There was some concern about it being too big. Bill will re-size the card for postal regulations.

NCARC Picnic -- Boyd Lake is running low on water. Plan is now to keep picnic at Boyd Lake & if there's not enough water in the lake then we'll just skip the boating. Dan is going to get \$200 worth of prizes. Larry is going to get the food. Mike, Steve, and Dave will bring coolers. We'll encourage club members to bring an optional dessert. Dave will handle the money / tickets at the door. Dave will bring a table. Door cost is \$5/family and that will get you 5 tickets.

Horsetooth Tower repairs -- Dan talked to Scott a week ago. All the hardware is in Dan's place. We're going to replace all 8 connectors on the hard-line. Dan recommended that Scott replace the bottom connectors first. The antenna is at Dan's house. August 21-22 is the target date for the replacement. Dan plans to go up and monitor the work if he's free. Mike will test the system after Scott is finished. The 220 and 440 will be put back on the air after the repairs are complete.

Events Center Repeater -- Eric is still trying to get a firm date in place with the Center to put up our antenna.

Rawhide Repeater -- Steve will contact K0JEF about getting in touch with the folks at Rawhide about possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS

HamFest -- Mike contacted Matt this past week. Matt has moved up around Wellington. Matt is still going to be the chair and Radio Dan will take care of prize procurement. Steve will contact Matt about publicity.

HamCon 2009 -- Asking for seed money. Willis recommends we contribute \$500.

MOTION: Bill. The club will give \$500 to HamCon as seed money. Seconded by Mike. Motion Carried. Motion was later ratified at the general membership meeting (Motion by Willis, second by Dwight)

Membership Expiration -- Dan brought up that there's a lot of confusion about a member's end-date. The idea would be that after the first 6 months of the year we'd pro-rate the club dues. We'll table this until next officer meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 AM

NCARC Meeting
August 15, 2008
Location: Golden Corral

There were 25 members and 6 guests present

Called to order by Steve Henry N7GN at 9:00 AM

REPORTS:

Secretary read the minutes from the officers meeting

Steve summarized the treasurers report from the officers meeting

Tech Committee -- Dan summarized the upcoming work which will happen on horsetooth later this week. He also gave an update on the Events Center Repeater.

Membership/Newsletter -- Chris has a copy of the Mayor's book K0DTK. Suggestion was made to invite the Mayor to the meeting to give a presentation.

Control Op -- Mike has setup some additional features for echolink as well as reset the messages. Email n7dq@arrl.net if you notice any issues. In a few weeks the BARQ Jrs will be using the repeaters during a field trip, so just be aware of that. We're shooting for Labor Day weekend to install the 7330 repeater controller.

HamFest -- Matt is planning next month to start passing out sign-ups.

Picnic -- Sept 20th there will be a picnic at Boyd Lake St Park in lieu of the meeting. There will be a \$5 entry fee which will get you 5 tickets for door prizes. Please bring your favorite dessert if you want, otherwise don't worry about food/drinks. When you enter the park, make a left at the T. Talk-in on the 115.

HamCon -- The officers have approved spending \$500 in seed money for HamCon Colorado, and as such according to the By-Laws it needs to be ratified. MOTION: Willis that the club spends \$500 in seed money for Hamcon. Seconded by Dwight. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Rob is now the head of ARES -- had face 2 face in July. It was overshadowed by some speeding on Vine Drive and ARES has now been banned from the Ft Collins facility outside of business hours. There's a Yahoo Group. If you want to join send mail to W0FT@arrl.net.

K0OJ is having a test session today at 1:00 in the Greeley Library

Larimer CO Emergency Manager has offered to help us get the events center repeater setup.

RECENT EVENTS

Tour De Cure -- Next weekend. If you're interested in helping out contact Mike N7MR or Ron Thomas

Short QSO (Introducing a Ham of Note)

Name: Kerry Miller N0WIQ License: first as Technician in 1993, currently General Class

How he got into Ham Radio: Kerry's father, Dale Miller (K0TNQ – SK) was a farmer in eastern Nebraska and owned a radio and TV repair shop. Kerry enjoyed repairing televisions also and enjoyed having many of them to “test drive” in his room growing up. Kerry got his license in 1993 (not enjoying the dreaded morse code requirement).



Favorite Modes of Operation: VHF/UHF-FM, and 40 meter phone. Kerry is a regular on the High Noon Net (formal, 7240 kHz at Noon local) and the Wyoming Jackalope Net (informal, 7260 kHz 12:15 local).

Current Projects: Kerry is working on a tower installation these days. He hopes to have an omnidirectional VHF/UHF antenna up on his new tower soon.

Notes: Kerry's career as an electronics technician has brought him in touch with a number of the hightech businesses in the Fort Collins/Loveland area. Kerry is the instigator of, and net control for, the Tech Net on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on the 145.115 repeater. Kerry is a woodworker and he eschews MicroSoft computer products in favor of Linux whenever possible.

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. 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

September 5-7 High Plains Roundup(Cheyenne/Laramie, WY)

September 6 Fall Fest 2008 (Kingman, AZ)

September 28 BARCFEST (Longmont, CO) <http://www.qsl.net/w0dk/barcfest.html>

Editor's Corner : Odds and Ends

After my note last month about using the repeater autopatch, wouldn't you know it, somebody asked me if I could locate the "cheat sheet". And of course I couldn't find mine. I have been rescued by Michael (N7MR) who has electronic copies at hand. Thanks!

I did take my Willamette 20 mtr QRP CW transceiver on the camping trip and I made a couple of contacts from a dipole hanging at 6 feet. (For more on the Willamette see <http://www.nt7s.com>.)

Mike (N7DQ) and others have been working on the repeater antennas up on Horsetooth Mtn. The antenna patterns of all three repeaters at that site may have changed. He is looking for reports.

Lately I've been downloading to my MP3 player a podcast called Soldersmoke. Bill Meara, N2CQR, is an interesting fellow, a QRPer, homebrewer, diplomat, Green Beret, and author of a book about 1980's Central America called *Contra Cross*. He has a blog at <http://soldersmoke.blogspot.com> and produces the Soldersmoke podcast every couple of weeks.

I'd love to have someone do a write-up on **Logbook of the World**, ARRL's free electronic logging application. For that matter, the whole topic of logging is interesting. Many new hams aren't in the habit of keeping a log of their station setup and QSOs. Do you use a log? Do you use a computer logging program or do it the old fashioned way with pencil and paper?

But back to LotW. You don't have to be a member of the ARRL to use LotW. LotW isn't so much a log of your station as it is a potential shortcut of the expensive DX QSL-card hunt. Or at least that's how I use it. Upon entering my QSO information into LotW, the LotW system matches my entries with those already in the database. I then have certified QSLs generated by the matching entries which can be used toward DXCC or WAS, or potentially other awards and certificates. As you can imagine, this scheme will work best if a lot of hams use it! I have entered all of my HF contacts since 2000, about 1400, and I have over 300 matches in the system. It really pays off when there's a DX contest. I can upload my contest QSO file to LotW toward DXCC. Every once in awhile some DX station will upload historical log files and I'll get a few more matches.

There are some tricky parts of LotW. You have to download free software from the ARRL LotW website (<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>) which you use to digitally "sign" your logbook files before they are uploaded. And to run the signing software you have to get a digital certificate from the ARRL. It is free of cost, but it takes a little bit of back-and-forth with the ARRL to get it all done. You also need to open an LotW account on the website, which involves the usual think-up-a-name-and-password game you usually encounter in such instances. I made the mistake of using my callsign as my LotW username. That worked fine until I got a new callsign! (A couple of phone calls to the LotW people got me straightened out.) Give LotW a try. Let me know what you think.

High Plains Roundup

Sept. 5-7, 2008 Curt Gowdy State Park

(Located off of State Route 210 between Laramie and Cheyenne)
Sponsored by University Amateur Radio Club – Contact: nq7q@arrl.net

FRIDAY

12:00 Noon

- **Registration** at Sherman Hills Shelter **\$5 Fee includes 1 ticket for door prizes**
- **Additional tickets for door prizes \$1 each or 6 for \$5.**
- Grand Prize: 2m Mobile Xcvr**

Friday evening:

- **Hotdog cook out.** We'll have some tube steaks, buns, fixins, beans, chips & cookies.

SATURDAY

Free coffee!

8:00 am: **Tailgate swapping** – Ham Radio & Related Gear

- Bring your own table

NO LARGE COLLECTIONS OF COMPUTER GEAR!

Noon: Chile cookoff combined with a potluck meal. Enter your favorite chile in the contest... Prizes for the three best chiles. If you don't bring chile, please bring a side dish (vegetables, chips, salad, crackers, bread, etc.) or a desert.

Early Afternoon: Business meeting following the Saturday meal

- Volunteers accepted to sponsor the 2009 High Plains Roundup
- **Prize Drawings**
- Evening meal on your own

SUNDAY

Free Coffee!

Early Morning:

- **Breakfast** on your own
- Cleanup

Please follow all State Park Rules and keep a clean camp.

Curt Gowdy State Park fees apply to all visitors.

Daily Use Fee: WY Resident \$2.00; Non-Resident \$4.00.

Overnight Camping Permit (1 Night): WY Resident \$6.00; Non-Resident \$12.00.

Annual Daily Use Permit: WY Resident \$25.00; Non-Resident \$40.00.

Annual Overnight Camping Permit: WY Resident \$30.00; Non-Resident \$60.00.

RadioShack Recalls Power Supplies Due to Electrocution and Fire Hazards

July 2, 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with RadioShack, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. (To access color photos of the following recalled products, see CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.)

Name of Product: 13.8V DC Power Supplies

Units: About 160,000

Importer: RadioShack Corp., of Fort Worth, Texas

Hazard: The recalled power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The recall involves RadioShack 13.8V DC Power Supplies, catalog numbers 22-507 and 22-508 with date codes from 08A04 through 01A08. Date code format is MMYY where MM is the month and YY is the year. The catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply. Power Supplies with a green dot on the product and the product's packaging have already been repaired and are not included in the recall.

Sold at: RadioShack stores nationwide from October 2004 through January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any RadioShack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact RadioShack at (800) 843-7422 anytime, or visit the firm's website at www.radioshack.com/recall.



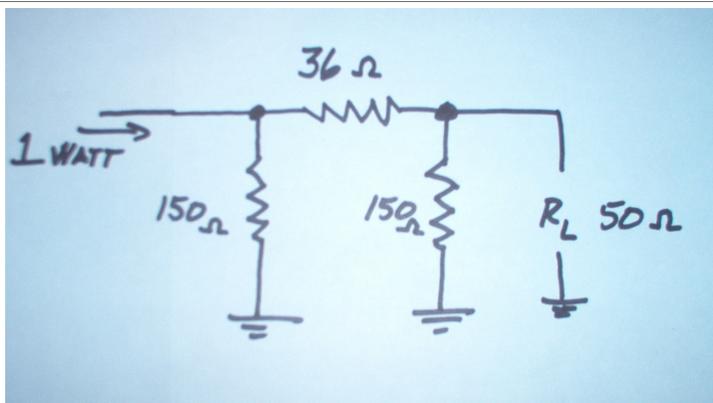
13.8V DC 3-Amp Power Supply Catalog #:22-507



13.8V DC 15-Amp Power Supply Catalog #:22-508

Short Circuit

Here is a little circuit. What does it do? Given power input of 1 watt, how much power will be dissipated by each resistor?



! FOOD !

NCARC PICNIC

Saturday

September 20

in lieu of September club meeting

10 AM

Boyd Lake State Park in Loveland.

Be prepared to pay to enter the park (per vehicle) and

\$5 for the door prizes; extra tickets available.

Bring a dessert if you like.

