

**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>Dan Magro</b>	<b>W7RF</b>	<b>(970)295-4200</b>	<a href="mailto:w7rf@radiodan.com">w7rf@radiodan.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Tom Jungmeyer</b>	<b>K1TJ</b>	<b>(970)484-8329</b>	<a href="mailto:tom@completetowing.com">tom@completetowing.com</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 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>Larry Arave</b>	<b>W7LRY</b>	<b>(970)206-1281</b>	<a href="mailto:larv@outdrs.net">larv@outdrs.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>Eric Slutz</b>	<b>N0EAS</b>	<b>(970)282-3752</b>	<a href="mailto:eric@redginger.com">eric@redginger.com</a>
<b>Hamfest Chair</b>	<b>Matt Kassawara</b>	<b>KG0W</b>	<b>(970)433-2123</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) (40-18.310N, 104-35.884 W, about 4985 ft) SE of Greeley, CO <b>New location</b>
<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
<b>W0UPS: 448.025 MHz</b> – (443.025 MHz Input) 100 Hz CTCSS Subtone <b>ARES Rptr</b> (40-26.650N, 104-59.370W, about 5192 ft) Budweiser Event Center on I-25 at MM259

## 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>224.520 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:**

w0sbs, kg6mpa, n0urg, w0tjc, w0lev, kg0jl, n0kku, n0gfg, kc0yqp, w0rcy, n0ihb, kn0w, wa7bng, kd0eqq, kd0faf, kb0pjpg, n0mcr, n0ui, nk0r, w0gmj, kd0egj, n0lyi

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

**Notice: NCARC Name Badges are 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, caps, jackets and other NCARC goodies available.

Items for sale

- Collins -R390A receiver - low serial number, with a sideband adapter, manual and various accessories - \$475 (the sideband adapter was a kit from Jan Skirrow)
- Microchip PIC DSP development board and ICD2 incircuit debugger (hockey puck) - \$60
- AC timer thingy - I bought this from CSU surplus. It plugs into the wall and has a regular 3-prong AC plug on it and a knob and a button. Plug your soldering iron or whatever into it, push the button and your soldering iron comes on. After a spell it cuts off power. Length of time is adjustable with the knob. Current capacity unknown. - \$5
- Homebrew variable voltage DC linear power supply, good for half an Amp or so. - \$5
- MFJ-1278 Multimode Data Controller - TNC thingy (with manuals) \$15
- Stereo equalizer - listen to your tunes with maximum groove -- Numark EQ2500A - \$10
- Micronta 12 volt DC supply, maybe good for an Amp or two - \$5
- Equipment rack: door on the back, two removable sides, about four feet high, at least two feet deep, on wheels (can only sell if the R390A goes first) - \$35
- Spools of through-hole 1% resistors of various values -- most of the spools are nearly empty. If you are looking for some 1% resistors I may have what you need. Let me know the values of interest and I will look.

Chris Howard w0ep  
[w0ep@arrl.net](mailto:w0ep@arrl.net)

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**New Location for 146.850 Repeater**

Our longtime NCARC repeater on 146.850 has found a new home on a tower 8 miles east of Peckham (southeast of Greeley) at coordinates [+40° 18' 19.44", -104° 35' 53.16"](#). This site will give service into most front range communities and a little bit into the foothills. It also should serve Ft. Lupton, Keenesburg, Kersey and possibly into Ft. Morgan. Please take the opportunity to explore the service area of this new installation. And forward your comments to our technical committee.

**Contests this month ...and many others ([www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com))**

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 9 to 2400Z, Feb 10
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 23 to 2359Z, Feb 24

## Editors Notes

**Did you make it to the hamfest?** I was there for a little while and had a great time sorting through the tables and the under-table boxes. I bought some rack screws, some switching transistors, a 10-turn pot, and two CW paddles. I sent one of the paddles off in the mail to my Dad in Iowa. He and I try to do a little CW work on 80 meters.

**Thanks and More Thanks** to everyone who volunteered at the hamfest or brought things to sell. I hope the sellers enjoyed good success.

**Weather Has** been great for putting up my little tower and working on the antenna farm a bit. The tower is planted, the guy anchors and guys are in. Thanks to all of the folks on the 145.115 and 447.275 repeaters as I've contemplated the project and sought advice. I hope to have a triband HF beam and something for VHF SSB up before too long.

– w0ep

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## Short News Items

### Laura L. Smith Named to Amateur Radio Enforcement Role

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, [retired](#) in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service. ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org))

### ARRL Expands Member Access to *QST* Archive

ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the [QST archive](#) will be expanded. Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view *QST* -- from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year -- 2005 -- added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available to all ARRL members.

As an added benefit, [ARRL Diamond Club](#) members at the Brass level and above -- as well as [ARRL Maxim Society](#) members -- will be able to get images from the entire *QST* archive, right up through December 2008, an additional three years. ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org))

### Sunspot Note - KN4LF

On Tuesday January 27, 2009 yet another solar cycle 23 sunspot group (S738) formed near S05E40. If numbered by NOAA/SWPC it will be 11012. Solar cycle 23 is now 12 years and 10 months long from first spot to present one, an extension of the already record long solar cycle!!!

KN4LF Daily Solar Space Weather & Geomagnetic Data Archive: <http://www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf5.htm> ([www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com))

### World Radio Magazine

Over the last several decades, a monthly magazine named WorldRadio has devoted many pages to reporting on MARS. At the end of last year, its publisher and our friend Armand Noble retired at age 75. I noted previously that CQ magazine had acquired WorldRadio and was taking it on-line, free of any subscription charge. The February issue is now available on the web. Continuing a long tradition, it includes Bill Sexton's every-other month MARS column, this month's commenting on the significance of events like the Mumbai terrorist raid. The web magazine is accessible at [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com) and click on the WorldRadio flag in the upper left corner. (contributed by k0oj)

(hamfest photos on page 6 are by Matt kg0w)

## VHF + SSB

Due to the popularity of HF rigs that will operate on the 2 meter and 70 cm bands in all modes, I have developed a huge interest in weak signal sideband work. There are several affordable rigs such as the Yaesu FT-857D & FT-897, the Icom IC-706mkIIg and IC-7000 , or the Kenwood TS-2000 that won't break the bank.

There is a growing group that meets on 144.220 MHz on Monday nights at 8:00 pm called the Rocky Mountain VHF +. They can be found on the web at [www.rmvhf.org](http://www.rmvhf.org) for more information. This net starts at 8:00 pm with local Denver metro check-ins and net control's beam pointed north then east at 8:15, south at 8:30, and west at 8:45. It is not uncommon to hear Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, and New Mexico stations on this net. In addition they operate an activity night on all other weeknights as shown.

Monday	144.220 Mhz
Tuesday	222.100 Mhz
Wednesday	432.100 Mhz
Thursday	1296.10 Mhz
Friday	902.10 Mhz

Yes, diehard operators are on all of these bands and even higher frequency bands. My favorite has become the 222 MHz band. For some reason I can talk further on less power and receive better on this than any other of these bands.

It may be difficult finding commercial equipment to operate some of these bands. One solution is a transverter which will use your existing rig as the IF stage and convert to one of these bands. More information on these can be found at Elecraft [www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com) or Down East Microwave [www.downeastmicrowave.com](http://www.downeastmicrowave.com) .

Weak signal sideband above 30 MHz may not be for everybody as it is all about being at the right place at the right time and not like 20 meters at the peak of the sunspot cycle. There are occasional coast to coast openings but mostly communication is within a 500 mile radius.

The majority of operators use horizontally polarized antennas and I have been told that you will

notice approximately a -20 dB difference in signal if you are vertically polarized. Nevertheless, operators are somewhat successful checking in with vertical antennas. Most that are serious on these frequencies operate a long multi-element, high gain beam although some have built omnidirectional loop antennas. One advantage is that the higher you go in frequency, the smaller the antenna and a horizontally polarized 2 meter beam can be easily disguised as a TV antenna. I operate with a 4 element quad on 2 meters, 10 element yagi on 222 MHz, and an 18 element yagi on 70 cm.

This is a great time with a great bunch of people and a good chance to meet somebody new on the ham bands. Hope to hear you all there!

Tom Jungmeyer --- K1TJ





