

NCARC

January



TRIBANDER

NORTHERN COLORADO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Officers

President	Bob Schmid	WA9FBO	416-6505	scomind@aol.com
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Local Repeaters

Frequency	Tone	Call Sign	Operated By	Services
144.390 Simplex APRS Digipeaters / No Tone		WØUPS	NCARC	GEN. BACKUP
		WØQEY	CSU	?
		WØLRA	LRA	?
145.115-	100.0 HZ	WØUPS	NCARC	BATTERY / GEN. BACKUP AUTOPATCH
145.205-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	GEN. BACKUP/ LINKED 224.840
146.625-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	NONE
146.850-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	NONE
147.000+	100.0 Hz	KCØKWD	WARS	CONTINUOUSLY LINKED IRLP node 3839 ECHOLINK
147.195+	100.0 Hz	WØLRA	LRA	BATTERY BACKUP AUTOPATCH
147.270+	100.0 Hz	NØENO	LARC	AUTOPATCH
147.360+	100.0 Hz	WØQEY	CSU	NONE
224.520-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	GEN. BACKUP
224.840-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	GEN. BACKUP / LINKED 145.205
447.275-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	GEN. BACKUP AUTOPATCH
448.800-	88.5 Hz	WØENO	LARC	NONE
448.025-	100.0 Hz	WØUPS	NCARC	NONE
448.475-	100.0 Hz	KCØKWD	WARS	CONTINUOUSLY LINKED IRLP node 3839 ECHOLINK
449.575-	100.0 Hz	WØLRA	LRA	BATTERY BACKUP
449.725-	127.3 Hz	KØOJ	KØOJ	AUTOPATCH
449.850-	100.0 Hz	WØQEY	CSU	NONE
927.825-	100.0 Hz	ABØSF	ABØSF	NONE
927.875-	DPL 114	NØZUQ	NØZUQ	NONE
927.950-	100.0 Hz	K1TJ	K1TJ	GEN. BACKUP
1283.550-	100.0 Hz	K1TJ	K1TJ	NONE
Frequency	Tone	Call sign	Operated By	Services

Message from the PRESIDENT

At the December meeting, NCARC members demonstrated that DIY (Do It Yourself) is alive and well by showing off kit and homebrew projects they've built. Since both the homebrew meeting and the antique meeting were so popular, we'll repeat those events from time to time in the future. Thanks to all who participated.

The next big event is our annual hamfest at The Ranch. It's this Saturday with doors open to the public at 8:30 AM and replaces the member meeting normally held that day. See <http://ncarc.net/?q=node/282> for details. Thanks to chairman Dave, KD8BQN, the hamfest committee, and all the volunteers, this should be another fun and educational event.

The board meets this Wednesday, and as always, send us your comments, proposals, etc., on anything you want us to consider.

Don't forget that dues are due. And thank you for your continued support.

All the best in 2014!

73,

Bob, WA9FB

Message from the VICE PRESIDENT

I write this just before the NCARC Hamfest this coming week, lots of excitement about all the goodies we find at these events and ours is one of the best in the Front Range. As the first Hamfest of the new year and about 5 months since the last one, there is always much anticipation about the event.

But operating on the low bands is what intrigues me most at this time of year. 160, 80, 40 and 30 meters are the bands to be on for DX and long distance operating. With short days, long dark times and no thunder storms these bands are especially attractive. In all fairness one needs a decent vertical antenna (with radials, no matter what the maker of your vertical says!) for good DX performance on 160 and 80M. However with a modest dipole at 30 feet or more you can really rack up your country totals on 40 and 30M. A vertical antenna for bands 30M and lower is an especially good performer for low angle radiation since it is hard to put up a horizontal antenna 1/2 wavelength or higher above ground for the low bands. Please DO NOT go out and buy an antenna, this is the one area we hams can still equal or outperform commercial antennas and you get to save money, learn about antennas and have pride in what you have built! Remember, ANY commercial antenna that claims it does not need radials and claims good performance is just expensive junk (a vertical dipole design is excluded from that statement).

Take a look at this URL <https://sites.google.com/site/trapantenna/>

VE3HKY has an interesting twist on a multi-band semi vertical antenna with a novel way of adding the bands. This design is simple and effective on 80-10M. See if this inspires you to build one for yourself! There are some variations on how the feedpoint and insulator can be done. He suggest a wine bottle at the bottom as a support and base insulator, however I have used wood and PVC successfully. It only uses one trap and can be made from easy and cheap to get materials. DX Engineering is a great source for aluminum tubing for antennas. Everything else is available from Home Depot or stuff you have already.

I suggest a minimum of 16 radials on top of or slightly in the ground (various lengths are fine, whatever fits your space).

If anybody wants to talk about this, just email or call me and lets talk antennas!

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

2014

**LET'S GET TO
NEW YEAR
STARTED WITH A BANG**

**LET'S TRY FOR A BETTER YEAR
THAN LAST YEAR**

DON'T
FORGET
THE
HAMFEST
January 18, 2014
AT
RANCH
LOVELAND, CO
OPEN FOR
VENDORS 0700
GENERAL 0830

TO FIND THE FLYER CHECK
NCARC WEB SITE

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ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update -- December 2013 Division website:
www.RockyMountainDivision.org
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(NOTE: Please feel free to forward this Division Update to your club newsletter or ham email listserve)

===== Seasons Greetings! =====

It's that jolly time of the year, and it's been an honor representing you and ham radio within ARRL's Board as your Director and Vice-Director. A glance at the past 12 months within our Division:

--- The monthly Rocky Mountain Division net has continued to allow us to meet you on the air, pass on pertinent information, receive your input/ideas/concerns, and otherwise improve communication across our large Division -- the good ol' ham radio way.

--- We've continued to send monthly or bi-monthly emails, like this one, containing information and announcements to the Rocky Mountain Division membership.

--- Our Division website (www.RockyMountainDivision.org) has continued to serve as a source of Division related information.

--- Our 2013 Rocky Mountain Division award recipients were announced: Bret Mills WX7Y of Castle Dale, Utah (Division Ham of the Year), Leonor Morrow AE5UF of Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico (Division Young Ham of the Year) and Joe Ostrowski KI5FJ of Dona Ana, New Mexico (Division Technical Achievement Award). Nominations for 2014's awards are being accepted now.

--- The 2013 Rocky Mountain Division Convention held in Estes Park, Colorado was a great success, thanks to all those who organized it and made the trip for a great weekend of fun. We look forward to the 2014 Division Convention held next year in Laramie, Wyoming.

--- Numerous clubs and groups organized and successfully offered hamfests and swapfests across our great Division so hams like you and I could buy/sell gear, expand our knowledge at forums, upgrade our licenses, and strengthen relationships with other dedicated hams.

--- Vice Director Dwayne Allen WY7FD and I are grateful for the opportunity to have met and interacted with so many of you to receive your input/ideas/concerns at numerous club meetings, during casual QSOs, on-air nets, as well as the following hamfests and ARRL conventions over the past year: the 2013 Division Convention (Estes Park, CO); the Albuquerque Winter Tailgate (Albuquerque, NM); the Aurora Repeater Association Swapfest (Longmont, CO), the Wyoming State ARRL Convention (Buffalo, WY); the New Mexico State ARRL Convention

(Albuquerque, NM); the Ogden ARC an Weber County ARES Hamfest (Ogden, UT); the 285 TechConnect Radio Club TechFest (Denver, CO); the Socorro Hamfest (Socorro, NM); the Montrose ARC Tailgate Party (Delta, CO); and others.

--- Thanks to you, the clubs you belong to, the volunteer examiners that you know, our Section Managers and their combined 268 member strong field organization, ARRL membership in the Rocky Mountain Division continues its trend of growing membership, currently 6,939 strong. Dwayne and I are grateful for your membership in ARRL.

Above all else, Rocky Mountain Division members like you have been super active. We had a great year on the airwaves, chewing the rag, chasing DX, providing service to our communities in times of need, contesting, chipping away at awards, experimenting with newly built gear, mentoring others, serving within clubs, and more. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays -- see you on the air.

==== January ARRL Board of Directors meeting =====

The ARRL Board of Directors convenes twice a year to represent their Divisions on ARRL policy matters, its first meeting of 2014 taking place next month. Your concerns, questions, and ideas regarding ARRL policies are always welcome. As always, please help us better represent you by sharing your thoughtful feedback on League matters that are important to you.

==== Applications being accepted for ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Scholarship =====

The ARRL Foundation is currently accepting applications from eligible young radio amateurs pursuing higher education. More than 80 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 are awarded annually -- including the annual \$500 Rocky Mountain Division scholarship that's made possible through the financial contributions of individuals, clubs, and hamfests around our Division. Additionally, one applicant is selected for the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Scholarship, awarded to a high school senior pursuing a degree in business, computers, medical, nursing, engineering or science. The recipient of the Goldfarb Scholarship is eligible to receive funding throughout four academic years to earn a bachelor's degree.

All applicants must be active radio amateurs and must complete and submit the online application not later than January 31, 2014.

If you are a young person who is pursuing higher education, or know such a young person in your ham club, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-arrrl-foundation-invites-scholarship-applications> for more information, including links to scholarship descriptions and an online application form.

==== New Assistant Director Appointed =====

Ed James KA8JMW of Albuquerque, New Mexico has been appointed as an Assistant Director of the Rocky Mountain Division. An Assistant Director (AD) is an appointee who provides assistance to the Division's elected Director and Vice-Director through research on certain topics, member engagement, and other tasks as needed. His initial tasking will be related to emerging technologies within amateur radio. Ed actively serves New Mexico ARRL members as an Assistant Section Manager, has been licensed for over 35 years, and has provided clubs, hamfests, and conventions around Colorado and New Mexico with presentations on topics including Raspberry Pi, amateur radio mesh networking, D-STAR, Field Day, and Logbook of the World. Professionally he is entering his 30th year of service as an electrical engineer leading or having led space-based and defense projects.

===== ARRL Helps Manufacturer to Resolve AFCI RFI Problems =====

ARRL's Lab staff recently kicked off a productive working relationship with Eaton Corporation, a manufacturer of arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) breakers, to resolve problems reported by amateur radio operators that caused certain breaker models to trip unnecessarily due to RF, even if the RF source was stood off by a significant distance. Like the more common ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), the AFCI is a safety device that is mandated by code in some household circuits that detect potentially hazardous arc faults due to poor connections in wiring and other factors.

Several amateur radio operators around the country, including George Key W5YZ of Bernalillo, New Mexico and other members of the High Desert Amateur Radio Club, provided reports and test data to Mike Gruber W1MG, ARRL Lab's EMC specialist that kicked off a series of events including Eaton AFCIs being tested in close proximity to W1AW's high power bulletin stations with Eaton representatives present, Eaton engineers prototyping a new AFCI model that is less susceptible to RFI, and verifying its immunity back at W1AW. Eaton and ARRL further agreed that future AFCI models would be tested at W1AW.

A complete write-up about this successful industry partnership and RFI resolution, including steps for anyone who's experiencing similar problems with Eaton AFCIs can be found at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-helps-manufacturer-to-resolve-arc-fault-circuit-interrupter-rfi-problems>

One of the ARRL Lab's (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-lab>) mission areas is to have a comprehensive RFI program in place that helps members with RFI problems and to work with industry standards, organizations, helping to prevent RFI problems before they happen. If you are experiencing RFI problems with other brands of AFCI breakers, please contact Mike Gruber W1MG (w1mg@arrl.org).

===== Rocky Mountain Division Awards - Call for Nominations =====

There are many hams within our great Division who deserve to be recognized for their achievements and contributions to the ham community - and we'd like to honor them. Your Rocky Mountain Division offers the following annual awards:

--- Rocky Mountain Division Ham of the Year Award
--- Rocky Mountain Division Young Ham of the Year Award
--- Rocky Mountain Division Technical Achievement Award

Complete details, rules and a nomination form can be found on the Division website (www.RockyMountainDivision.org). Please give some thought to hams in your area, or within your club and consider submitting a nomination to recognize that person's hard work.

==== Save the Date: 2014 Rocky Mountain Division Convention ====

The good folks in Wyoming are in the midst of planning the 2014 Division Convention, to be held at the Laramie Convention Center in Laramie, Wyoming. Mark your calendars for July 11-13, 2014 for a special convention, packed with many of the activities and events our Division's conventions have become known for next year, the centennial anniversary of ARRL.

Many more details are forthcoming and will be announced in these spaces.

==== ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Net ====

The next Rocky Mountain Division net takes place via IRLP. Anyone with a VHF/UHF radio within range of an IRLP repeater can check in and hear the latest Division news. Here are the details:

DATE: Wednesday, January 8
TIME: 7:30 PM Mountain
IRLP NODE: 9871 (link to this reflector from your local IRLP repeater)

Check out <http://www.irlp.net> (Node Info section) to find an IRLP-capable repeater in your area. Generally all you need to do to link into the reflector is enter "9871" with your DTMF keypad and wait for the voice prompt indicating that the link is open. To unlink, enter "73". However, to be safe, check with your local IRLP repeater's trustee to confirm beforehand. Their contact information is found when searching for IRLP repeaters in your area. If you've never used IRLP before (you'll be fascinated by it) please experiment with linking/unlinking before the net.

This will be an interactive net, as well as an opportunity to ask your Division and participating Section leadership questions, raise any concerns, or suggest ideas. We hope you'll join us.

==== Upcoming Hamfests, Tailgates & Conventions ====

Jan 18	Northern Colorado ARC Hamfest (Loveland, CO)
Jan 25	Albuquerque Winter Tailgate Swapfest (Albuquerque, NM)
Feb 9	The Swapfest (Brighton, CO)
Apr 5	Longmont ARC LARCFest (Longmont, CO)

Jul 11-13 2014 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention (Laramie,
WY)
Sep 13 Pueblo Hamfest (Pueblo, CO)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

If you're organizing a Hamfest, convention, or tailgate we encourage you to apply for ARRL-sanctioning. Sanctioning provides many benefits (including your event being listed above), and details can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application>

==== Upcoming On-Air Activities =====

In addition to chewing the rag with fellow hams, here are some additional on-air activities which await you on the airwaves.

Upcoming special event stations:

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

Upcoming contests: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Operating awards: <http://www.arrl.org/awards>

==== Final Note... =====

Please touch base with your Section Manager if he can be of assistance to you:

Jack Ciaccia WM0G (Colorado): <http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/colorado>

Bill Kauffman W5YEJ (New Mexico):

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/new-mexico>

Mel Parkes NM7P (Utah): <http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/utah>

Garth Crowe N7XKT (Wyoming): <http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/wyoming>

Vice Director Dwayne Allen and I continue to welcome your concerns, questions and ideas regarding ARRL policies. We are grateful for your membership within ARRL, and look forward to working you on the air.

73,

Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain Division Director Dwayne Allen WY7FD, Rocky Mountain Division Vice-Director Division website:

www.RockyMountainDivision.org
