

# THE REPEATER RAG

Volume 28

Number 2



## NEWSLETTER OF THE DENVER RADIO LEAGUE

**A CLUB DEVOTED TO  
QUALITY AMATEUR RADIO**

Published in the Denver South Suburban area, Colorado

### EDITOR

**Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL**

Please submit Articles for publication to:

[eileen@armagost.net](mailto:eileen@armagost.net)

Preferred document format: MS Word

or mail hard copy to:

Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL

6337 South Lafayette Place

Centennial, Colorado 80121-2548

### DRL BOARD MEMBERS

Tim Armagost, WBØTUB, President

Chris Krengel, KBØYRZ, VP

Gary Dumbauld, NØERG, Secretary

Al Cooley, NØAUS, Treasurer

Mike Manes, W5VSI, Member at Large

Nick Hanks, NØLP, Member at Large

George Stoll, WAØKBT, Repeater Trustee

### REPEATER LOCATIONS:

146.880 ..... Lockheed Martin Company

146.640 ..... Centennial Mountain

449.600 ..... Lockheed Martin Company

145.050 ..... Digi - Lockheed Martin Company

### Repeater Identifier: WAØKBT

*The Denver Radio League is open to all licensed  
amateur radio operators. Repeater usage is  
limited to properly licensed hams.*

### Membership dues and renewals

~ Please make checks (\$15) payable to  
Denver Radio League or DRL ~

**Remit to: Al Cooley, NØAUS**

**6199 South Broadway**

**Littleton, Colorado 80121-8016**

**For information, contact Al at:**

**303-794-6511 or on the 146.880 Repeater**



Reminders:

**DRL Membership**

**Meeting**

**Wednesday - August 17, 2005**

**7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Bemis Public Library**

PLEASE NOTE: WE MUST BE

OUT BEFORE OR BY 9:00 P.M.

## BOARD ELECTIONS

Be there to nominate your favorite ham ...  
or better yet, to be a board member yourself!!

Per the DRL (Denver Radio League) constitution, prior to the August meeting, a nominating committee is to be appointed to nominate members to positions on the board of directors. To that end, I appointed a nominating committee in early July. There are 3 positions coming up for renewal and the folks holding those positions are:

- Mike Manes, W5VSI (member at large),
- Nick Hanks, NØLP (member at large) and
- Tim Armagost, WBØTUB (president).

I have put the positions in parentheses because the jobs within the board are decided by the board at a board meeting following the August meeting (per the constitution). Our current board members, Mike and Nick have both agreed to run again, while Tim has decided not to run. Those members newly nominated at this time are:

- Daniel Krohn, ABØZY and
- Russ Lawrence, KAØULN.

At this meeting we will have 4 nominees, plus we will be taking nominations from the floor.

Come to the meeting and Vote! It is vital for the future of the club that we choose board members that will work for the club and lead us into the future ... it IS important!

Tim, WBØTUB

**WHY ?** Well, I thought you would never ask!

There are a number of reasons why I am a member of the Denver Radio League. It started in the mid-70s when, as an 11 meter person, I called on Ralph Taylor, WØLQ, for help in setting up an eleven meter beam for my CB radio setup. I knew Ralph was a ham and that he was willing to help anyone with a radio problem. He first assisted me with my CB problem, and then asked me why I didn't consider getting into REAL, i.e., HAM, radio. Before I knew it, he was teaching a class at my house for other CBr's, including Eileen Armagost, John Mack, Barry Mack, and me, the fine and fun hobby in being a HAM. We did get our tickets!

Then Ralph mentioned a group of hams to join called the DRL which we all proceeded to do. What a group of people ! They held quarterly meetings about a variety of ham activities. They had (and still have) several fine repeaters for UHF and VHF operations. They discussed everything under the sun, on the air, at breakfasts, at meetings. The interests seemed to flow over a period of time from CW, various nets, license upgrades and classes, teaching classes (talk to Tim Armagost about the super classes he taught at Craig Hospital), satellites, teletype, field days, amateur television, the newest and best (or worst) gear available, antenna parties, the current deep interest in E.O.S.S ham ballooning, etc, etc, etc.

Indeed a group of women and men are really enjoying their hobby and sharing that with others, in part via the Denver Radio League. The quarterly newsletter had write ups on club activities and many

other ham related topics. These articles were submitted to the editor by any and all club members, and published. We even held large swap-meets at the Douglas county fairgrounds for several years, raising enough money to not only support our machines and community involvement works, but to also lower our dues to only 15 bucks a year (gotta be the lowest rate and best bargain in Denver). Well, that's a lot of the good stuff. Now the un-good stuff.

This club, of which I am obviously proud to be a member, has thrived over the years on the volunteer efforts of its members, board of directors, newsletter editor, program arranger, and so on. BUT, there has really been a noticeable lack of the old volunteer effort in recent times. Definitely KUDOS to Eileen, WDØDGL, for a superb job of editing, proofing, arranging, cutting, pasting, stamping and mailing of the newsletter for YEARS. But no members seem to have time anymore to send her articles to print. We need some new blood on the board to get the club fired up with new ideas.

So ... I joined the DRL to become part of a fired up group. And I ain't gonna go away. But we do need a few members with the desire and dedication to be board members, newsletter editors, program arrangers, etc, and keep things going.

**WHY** did you join? And would you be willing to give a little time each month to fill one of the important positions now open? Hey- now is your chance!

73,  
Al, NØAUS

---

---

Tim brought this article to my attention and I thought it worthy to include in this publication. Ye ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 24, No. 30  
August 5, 2005

\* +Hams swing into action as convention forced to evacuate

\*\*\*\*\*

## **==>HAMS BECOME "FIRST RESPONDERS" AS CONVENTIONEERS FORCED TO EVACUATE**

Radio amateurs attending the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention July 30 in Bryce Canyon, Utah, were among the first to respond when release of a noxious substance felled more than 50 people. Utah ARRL Section Manager Mel Parkes, AC7CP, and other hams swung into action to assist after conventioners and other guests near an inside pool adjacent to the convention area at Ruby's Inn lodge began complaining of nausea, headaches

and difficulty breathing sometime around 11 AM. Parkes himself later suffered the effects of the substance--now believed to be pepper spray--and was among those treated at the scene before being taken to a hospital.

“It was fantastic to see people go into emergency mode,” said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, who was representing the League at the convention. “The calmest people there were the hams.”

Convention attendees helped to evacuate victims and direct traffic as emergency crews arrived on the scene. Among those helping to coordinate activities was Utah Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Wellman, W7SAR. Motschenbacher said several Amateur Radio Emergency Service members grabbed their “jump kits” and rendered assistance to those suffering from the fumes.

Ironically, the incident occurred as Wellman's forum, “Emergencies: What If?” was under way. When notified that he had to clear the room because of an emergency, Wellman says his first reaction was that someone was playing a joke. “Then the fellow said, ‘This is the real thing, you have to evacuate,’ so we ended the seminar quickly.”

At first, neither the substance nor its source were known. It was later determined that someone had apparently smeared pepper spray on the wall of a room in the lodge, and the fumes got into the inn’s ventilation system.

“As the gas began to migrate out of the initial release area into the hamfest area, more and more people began to be affected,” Motschenbacher recalled. “By this time a mass evacuation was in process. Eventually the entire central complex was evacuated and roped off.” In all, some 300 guests were relocated into other facilities at the inn complex.

The incident “totally disrupted the convention,” Motschenbacher said, but as things began to calm down that afternoon, some presenters conducted their forums outdoors. An evening banquet was also held outside and away from the affected area.

After several hours, Parkes and others returned to the inn, but because authorities had confiscated their clothing for analysis, they were attired in garb donated by a local charity. “Everybody just pulled together,” said Motschenbacher, who reported suffering a sore throat but did not require medical treatment. “All the authorities were very complimentary about Amateur Radio.”

---

So there you have it. That must have been quite the adventure! And speaking of adventures ...

The incredible high temperatures have been something to deal with. And since we’re already well past half of 2005 being gone, I thought I’d take a moment to offer some refreshing and cool information by letting you know that we only have 10 months left before the 2006 Hamcon Colorado Division Convention happens again in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado!

The committee members have met almost monthly to get the ball rolling, planning, and working to once again make this the biggest and best event for Amateur Radio in 2006! Details are continuing to be finalized and efforts to make sure everything runs

smoothly, while providing numerous programs, many exhibitors, and the fun stuff like a challenging transmitter hunt and the midnight Wouff Hong ceremony to name a few. There will be wonderful guest speakers as well.

Please take a look at the Hamcon 2006 flyer included with this publication. It provides a lot of information and you’ll have time to start making your plans now for 2006.

See you there!  
73 & 88,  
Eileen, WDØDGL

# Living with Lightning

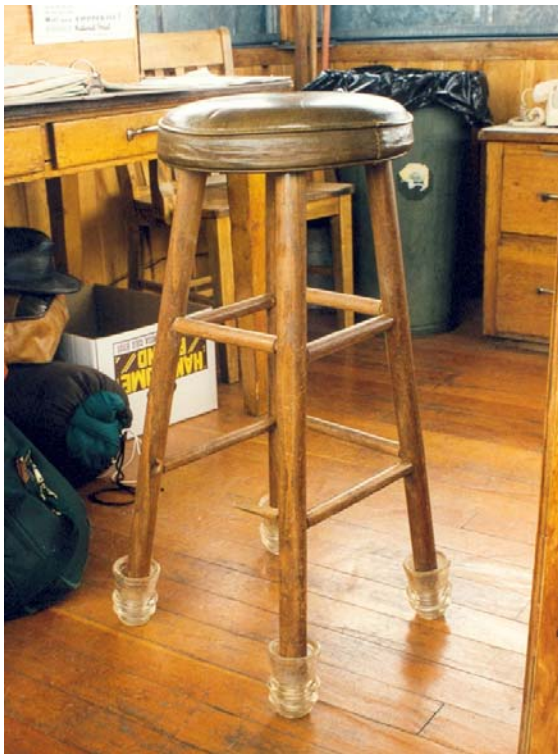
Recently, I was at the Deadman Hill radio and microwave site that is immediately adjacent to a forest ranger lookout tower. The ranger invited me up to look around and I couldn't help but notice his stool. He advised that, in a lightning storm, he sits on the stool and doesn't touch his forest service radio or anything metallic. Note that the stool sits on insulators and that everything you see around him is wood, a non-conductor ... wooden desk, wooden chairs, walls and floor.

The outside of the structure is all steel so the idea is that a lightning strike will follow the steel structure to ground, leaving the occupant un-

harmd (a Faraday cage). He mentioned that in the summers he had been there, the structure had been hit only once and, aside from a ringing in his ears from the strike, he was fine.

For those who want to check this out, the site is staffed in the summer and usually opens to visitors during good weather. It is located about 8 miles west of Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. From Red Feather Lakes, take the Deadman Road west about 8 miles to Forest Road 170. Turn north on Forest Road 170 and follow it about 2.5 miles to the radio towers and lookout. The road is not too bad and any high clearance vehicle will get in OK

George Stoll, WAØKBT



OVERALL VIEW OF  
DEADMAN HILL RADIO AND  
MICROWAVE SITE

# ARRL 2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION CONVENTION

## “AMATEUR RADIO – FACING THE FUTURE”



**ESTES PARK, COLORADO  
JUNE 9, 10 AND 11, 2006**



A great opportunity for you to attend a fantastic convention and experience the beauty of Colorado.

**Hamcon Colorado, Inc., is proud to sponsor another major Division Convention.**

This Convention will feature a large variety of interests within Amateur Radio and we expect this to be the **largest Amateur Radio event of 2006** in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Division.

Many high profile personalities plan to attend this convention, including the following:

- ↪ Friday Night Keynote Address: Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT ~ Vice Director, Rocky Mountain Div., ARRL
- ↪ Saturday Ladies Luncheon: TBD
- ↪ Saturday Night Banquet Speaker: Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH ~ FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement
- ↪ Sunday Morning ARRL Badge Breakfast Speaker: Harold Kramer, WJ1B ~ ARRL COO & QST Publisher

Also enjoy:

- ↪ Numerous Tech Talks & Forums (noted below)
- ↪ Many Exhibitors

### Events include the following:

↪ Forums:	↪ Technical:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)</li> <li>↪ American Radio Relay League (ARRL)</li> <li>↪ BARC Juniors</li> <li>↪ Contesting</li> <li>↪ DX</li> <li>↪ EOSS</li> <li>↪ QRP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ Digital Modes – General</li> <li>↪ Digital Modes for Traffic Handling</li> <li>↪ Facts and Myths of RF Grounding</li> <li>↪ Low Band Propagation (for current sunspot low)</li> <li>↪ NVIS Antennas</li> <li>↪ What Do Receiver Specs Really Mean?</li> <li>↪ <b>Special Event Station, W1AW/Ø ... you may operate!</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↪ Contesting includes a Transmitter Hunt</li> <li>↪ <b>VE Exams</b></li> <li>↪ Saturday evening Social Hour – An opportunity to meet fellow hams!</li> <li>↪ Saturday – hourly prize drawings!</li> <li>↪ <b>Saturday Midnight - Wouff Hong</b> (an “enlightening” adventure!)</li> <li>↪ Additional events may be added as they are developed ...</li> </ul>	

The Conference Center is located 70 miles from Denver International Airport and only 5 miles from the entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. There are many shops and scenic tours within walking distance of the Conference Center.

- ↪ Don’t miss this one! Book hotel reservations now - call the Holiday Inn direct at 1-800-803-7837
- ↪ Holiday Inn discount lodging rates are available for \$82 + tax for single or double occupancy rooms and will be honored 3 days before and 3 days after the convention dates. You must register on or before May 19, 2006 and request the **“Special ARRL HAMCON RATE”** for the discount rates. Place your reservations today!  
Visit: [www.rockymountainparkinn.com](http://www.rockymountainparkinn.com)
- ↪ RV Campground reservations call 1-800-562-1887. KOA RV park a short distance from the Convention Center.  
Visit: [www.koa.com/where/co/06113.htm](http://www.koa.com/where/co/06113.htm)

**Receive a FREE convention logo pin when you pre-register prior to March 1, 2006**

You may register on our web-site: [www.hamconcolorado.org](http://www.hamconcolorado.org)