



# The Repeater Rag

## Volume 29 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**

Chris Kregel, KBØYRZ, President

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Daniel Krohn, ABØZY, 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**

**DRL website:** [www.denverradioleague.org](http://www.denverradioleague.org)  
or [www.eoss.org/drl](http://www.eoss.org/drl)

*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**

## DRL Membership Meeting and Elections

### Wednesday - August 16, 2006

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

### Bemis Public Library

Those up for election:

Chris Kregel, KBØYRZ

Gary Dumbauld, NØERG

Al Cooley, NØAUS

**Please note:  
We Must Be Out  
Before or By 9:00 P.M.**

As temperatures continue to rise  
as well as gas prices,

Please remember to inhale and exhale and

~~®nhhs#|rxu#frrc\$\$|~~

- ★ *A FRIEND WE WILL MISS:*  
BY GEORGE STOLL
- ★ *4TH ANNUAL FRANKTOWN FIELD DAY EXERCISE*  
BY: BENJIE CAMPBELL AND LARRY NOBLE
- ★ *HAMCON 2006 HIGHLIGHTS:*  
BY EILEEN ARMAGOST
- ★ *SUPER CONTACT CLEANER:*  
BY GEORGE STOLL
- ★ *JOIN THE GROUP (OR MOTLEY CREW) FOR  
BREAKFAST:*  
BY BEN BAKER  
PHOTO BY MARCIA DEBELL
- ★ *A VIEW OF A DIFFERENT NATURE ...*  
BY AL COOLEY
- ★ *PHOTOS OF THE 4TH ANNUAL FRANKTOWN  
FIELD DAY EXERCISE*

## A Friend We Will Miss

With sadness, we report the passing of Keath Cowell, WØNIZ. Keath was the owner and operator of our fine Centennial Mountain radio site. He took a bad fall, broke some ribs and developed other complications prior to his death.

While Keath seldom used any of our radio repeaters, he was a long time supporter of our cause, allowing us to place our 146.04/64 MHz equipment in his commercial site at very reasonable rates. Keath and his wife Lucy lived on the same mountain top in a beautiful home built into the side of the hill. He was active on the HF bands and had a separate tower and quad antenna on top of their home. Word is that Lucy will continue to stay at the mountain top home and operate the commercial site, complete with some ham repeaters.

73 & 88,  
George Stoll, WAØKBT

## 4TH ANNUAL FRANKTOWN FIELD DAY EXERCISE

The “Franktown Field Day Group” comprised of Nick Hanks, NØLP; Benjie Campbell, WØCBH; Larry Noble, NØNDM; Mike Morgan, NØMPM; Al Cooley, NØAUS; Russ Lawrence, KAØULN, and Marcia DeBell, KCØSOW, held our fourth annual field day exercise this year at the Franktown Fire Protection District auxiliary fire station located six miles east of Franktown on Highway 86 at Flintwood Road. More than seventeen ham radio operators joined the group for field day activities this year. Several radio clubs were represented and numerous ARES districts contributed operators. Visitors this year included, Glennan Colin, WGØE, Dirk Malsch, N2PDQ, Marty Griffin, WAØGEH, Rick von Glahn, NØKKZ, Novak Greenlee, NØVK, Jeff Ryan, KØRM, Mark Patton, KØYG, and several other local hams whose call signs we cannot remember. Next year we will have a log to track all the visitors.

Our pre-event plan was to operate in the 1A class with high power (400 watts) to be able to maintain a frequency and make more contacts than past years. On Saturday morning, we held a pre-event meeting and changed our class to 2A to accommodate more hams that showed up at the last minute to operate. In Class 1A we planned to use

a three-element beam on the top of the 70-foot super tower for the 20, 15, and 10-meter bands and an all band doublet on the tower just below the beam for 160, 40 and 80-meter bands. Class 2A required us to scramble a bit and re-allocate antennas for the second station. We used the beam on 20 meters for station one and the dipole for station two on the 80, 40, and 15-meter bands. We also tried out Larry, NØNDM’s Buddy pole and a Yaesu screwdriver antenna for station two. Russ, KAØULN, used his van and antennas for 6-meters and the UHF/VHF contacts he made. Class 1A planning allowed us to man one station for the entire length of the contest. Class 2A meant we didn’t have enough operators to keep both stations fully manned so we manned the high powered station 1 full time and operated station 2 part time. We had two hours of down time due to the inevitable thunderstorm on Saturday evening, so we ate dinner, watched the storm, and shot some good pictures of a double rainbow.

Our results were great, with 976 phone and 12 CW contacts on station one, 238 phone and 36 CW contacts on station two. Our free station made 26 phone contacts on the 6 and 2-meter bands. Bonus points for operating class 2A gave us an additional 710 points.

Ken Rost, a sergeant with the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office delivered the tower on Friday in his super-duper truck. You can see the truck in the photo area on the soapbox website. Saturday evening Ken brought his family out to see the tower in operation. We were only able to let the kids talk on two meters as both HF stations were shut down due to the lightning storm.

A Soapbox entry has been added on the ARRL’s web page. To view the site, go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and click on the link titled “Operating Activities”, then click on “Contests”, then “Soapbox”. Scroll in the empty box, select “2006 Field Day” and press enter. The next screen will have a box where you enter the call sign of the club/group that you are interested in. Enter the call sign NØLP and press enter again.

I want to thank all those who participated in the event. We would like to invite any CW operators to come out and beat us “Phone” guys next year. We plan to have two stations with high power, operating both phone and CW. We had a very good time this year and are looking forward to next year’s event.

73’s  
Benjie Campbell, WØCBH  
Larry Noble, NØNDM

(Please see photos on last page of newsletter)

## IF YOU MISSED HAMCON 2006 IN ESTES PARK ...

You missed a lot! We hoped to break the 2003 mark by hitting at least 500 participants, but read on.

- We had a total of 410 registered for this event - other events kept some away as well as gasoline prices.
- So many drawing prizes that lots of folks won ... several winning more than one prize! Prizes were distributed by the "Vanna Guys" making it fun.
- An extremely interesting presentation by Dr. Evelyn Patterson, daughter of *ARRL Co-founder* Clarence Tuska, and what Clarence achieved. She had a picture of an antique clock that he built that was phenomenal as well as numerous other items that he created. Her presentation was not only interesting, but awesome! BTW, she is not a licensed ham.
- Fun and interesting *War Stories* by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement. In addition, Riley honored us by doing the Wouff Hong Prolog including sticking his head out the door and telling those waiting that "The goat was expected to arrive momentarily" which caused a roar of laughter. He completed the ceremony referencing a fall that one of the actors took going back up the steps to the stage ... Riley said he'd seen people fall *off* a stage, but never *onto* a stage!" No, the actor was not injured, just very embarrassed.
- Registrations were so efficient that people only had to wait about 2 minutes to receive their ID badges and be on their way! It actually took them longer to fill out the registration form! Thank you Tim for your never-ending support with the computers and data entry making this possible. In addition, the process made it easy to have "by-the-minute total registered" numbers.
- We had a total of 9 registrants that were no-shows. Boy did THEY miss out!

Overall, the convention was a huge success. We still receive feedback from those who attended saying that it was very well put together and that the committee did an incredible job. Comments received included the guest speakers, Brian Milshosky, N5ZGT, Vice Director, Rocky Mountain Division, ARRL; Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, with FCC, and Harold Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL Chief Operating Officer, & QST Publisher, and Mel Parkes, NM7P, the Utah Section Manager, each of whom said they'd attended a lot of conventions, but this one beat them all.

Oh, and since you asked, Tim and I were pretty exhausted, but we also had a great time! A year of planning and it all came together and seemed to fly by in 3 very short days!

Ye Editor, Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL

## SUPER CONTACT CLEANER

Recently I was working on some old equipment and discovered I was out of contact cleaner. A friend mentioned I should get a product called DeoxIT instead of the regular cleaner at Radio Shack. I followed his advice, purchased DeoxIT D5 and wanted to report how well the product works. It is more than a cleaner and also provides long lasting conductivity improvement and lubrication. Made by Caig Products, they have a complete line of liquid, spray and wiping clothes for electronic applications. Their products are available at the large electronic parts suppliers or over the Internet. Check out their web site at [www.caig.com](http://www.caig.com).



George Stoll, WAØKBT

## JOIN THE GROUP (OR MOTLEY CREW) FOR BREAKFAST!

Most every Saturday Morning, a group of Hams get together to eat, talk and just generally have a good time.

The location is at the Country Buffet in Englewood on Cherokee just south of Hampden and just east of Broadway (right next to the tall white Wells Fargo building). We generally show up at 8 am (Unless there is an ARES event or an EOSS Launch) and sometimes stay as late as 9-9:30 am or until the conversation runs out. Join us and have fun renewing friendships! The conversations seldom run out, but hey ... the worst that you could encounter could be a food fight!

All are welcome.



(photo by Marsha DeBell)

**A VIEW FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ...**  
**BY AL COOLEY, NØAUS**

What would the view be like if you were to look straight down, when hanging from a window ledge on the TENTH floor of a downtown skyscraper? Well, I'm not one who would want to find out! But a couple of 'fearless' members of the Denver Radio League had a similar view on Saturday, July 1, when they looked down from more than *one hundred feet* in the air, hanging by a safety belt from a small beam, sticking out about ten feet from the side of a HUGE tower, replacing the repeater antenna. I don't think George Stoll, WAØKBT, and Dan Krohn, ABØZY, were particularly interested in looking at the ground, as they had their hands full with the job at hand. The pictures show the tower at a distance, up close, and definitely "up close and personal". The views in, and from, the area are fantabulous. We even observed some deer walking across the meadow about 150 yards from the base of the tower. Oh, and I still had my feet firmly planted on the ground!

Ten DRL members attacked the project that day, following breakfast at the usual spot in Englewood. In addition to Dan and George (the two adventurous, daring, dauntless, fearless, heroic, plucky, brave, gutsy, stalwart, spirited, unblenching, and dedicated men who CLIMBED

UP the tower [thank you Roget's New Millennium Thesaurus] ), Chris Kringle, KBØYRZ, Benjie Campbell, WØCBH, Mike Manes, W5VSI, Larry Noble, NØNDM, Merle McCaslin, KØYUK, Rob Wright, KCØUUO, Dave Galpin, KBØLP, and Nick Hanks, NØLP, and I were aiding and abetting in the numerous things that had to be accomplished. I'm not saying that I'm afraid of being way up on a tower, as long as it's a little less than six feet to the top ... exceed-ing that extreme height gives me a nosebleed. All went fairly well, including some necessary soldering repairs to the cable harness.

The project was completed within about 4 hours on the site, and as a result, the 64 machine sounds better that it has in a long time. The old antenna had taken a bit of a beating by Mother Nature, and definitely needed work. The signal reports we have received since the job was completed have been superb. It may even seem a little stronger and clearer a little to the south and west.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the sight, stay tuned for the chance to join us next year for a routine repeater maintenance trip. In fine, it was a hoot, and beau coup thanks to all who participated!



# 4th Annual Franktown Field Day Exercise!



*Nick Hanks, NØLP & Benjie Campbell, WØCBH*



*Al Cooley, NØAUS and guest hard at work making contacts!*



*The Tower and Beam Antenna*



*The pause that refreshes ... time to eat!*