

The Repeater Rag

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NEWSLETTER OF
THE DENVER RADIO LEAGUE

**A CLUB DEVOTED TO
QUALITY AMATEUR RADIO**

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REPEATER LOCATIONS:

146.88Ø Warren Mountain

146.64Ø Centennial Mountain

449.6ØØ Lockheed Martin Company

145.Ø5Ø Digi - Lockheed Martin Company

Repeater Identifier: WAØKBT

DRL website: www.denverradioleague.org

or 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 146.88Ø Repeater

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

REMINDER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008

7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

BEMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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- THOSE ALWAYS UP AND RUNNING REPEATERS ...
Tim Armagost, WBØTUB
 - Digital Radio ~ Tim Armagost, WBØTUB
 - KB6NU's Ham Radio Column: IT'S OFFICIAL! NEW
SUNSPOT CYCLE HAS STARTED
 - A "FUNTASTIC" PRESENTATION NOT TO BE MISSED!
Al Cooley, NØAUS
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THOSE ALWAYS UP AND RUNNING REPEATERS ...

Our repeaters have been running pretty well over the winter, but we are still having some problems with 146.04/.64 on Centennial Mountain. We still hear the popping and crackling and enjoy some de-sense from time to time. We discovered that our repeater is not the only one at the site with the noise, which indicates it is not a DRL equipment problem but more likely a problem common to the site. A work party is in the planning stage and we will do some trouble shooting as soon as the weather breaks. Prepare to volunteer... we will need tower climbers and ground crew for this job.

The repeaters on the Lockheed site seem to be doing well and no trips to Warren Mountain are planned at this time.

TIM ARMAGOST, WBØTUB

DIGITAL RADIO ~

The Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs and Ham Radio Outlet announced an offer by HRO to give away a complete DSTAR radio system to a club that would put the system in service and maintain it for 5 years! Criteria is spelled out that qualifies a club (or clubs) wishing to participate and the request for proposal can be seen on the CCARC website, www.ccarc.net.

What is DSTAR, you ask? Here is a brief description:

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is a digital voice and data protocol specification developed for use in amateur radio. D-Star compatible radios are available on VHF and UHF amateur radio bands. In addition to the over-the-air protocol, D-Star also provides specifications for network connectivity, enabling D-Star radios to be connected to the Internet or other networks. D-STAR is the result of research by the Japan Amateur Radio League to investigate digital technologies for amateur radio. To date, other than ICOM - no other amateur radio equipment manufacturer has chosen to include D-Star technology.

Do some research into the new digital modes, both DSTAR and P25, as a new era in communication is rapidly approaching!

TIM ARMAGOST, WBØTUB

KB6NU's HAM RADIO COLUMN
IT'S OFFICIAL! NEW SUNSPOT CYCLE HAS STARTED

NOAA: Sunspot is Harbinger of New Solar Cycle

January 4, 2008

“This sunspot is like the first robin of spring,” said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center. “In this case, it’s an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years.”

Last April, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, NOAA issued a forecast that Solar Cycle 24 would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months. The panel was evenly split between those predicting a strong or weak cycle. Both camps agree that the sooner the new cycle takes over the waning previous cycle, the more likely that it will be a strong season with many sunspots and major storms, said Biesecker. Many more sunspots with Solar Cycle 24 traits must emerge before scientists consider the new cycle dominant, with the potential for more frequent storms.

The new sunspot, identified as #10,981, is the latest visible spot to appear since NOAA began numbering them on January 5, 1972. Its high-latitude location at 27 degrees North, and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.

SWPC is the nation’s first alert for solar activity and its effects on Earth. The center’s space weather forecasters issue outlooks for the next 11-year solar “season” and warn of individual storms occurring on the sun that could impact Earth. SWPC is one of NOAA’s nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction and is also the warning agency of the International

Space Environment Service (ISES), a consortium of 11 member nations.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

A “FUNTASTIC” PRESENTATION NOT TO BE MISSED!

Mike Doe, KCØCNT, is very active in many areas of our hobby. He and his wife GERALYN are both very involved in hot air ballooning (different from the EOSS program), speleology (spelunking with ham rigs used for underground “caving”), and search and rescue operations for lost people. Their experience in the last area is fantastic.

Mike is the communications director for the widely known Alpine Search and Rescue group. He also has his own team called “Rocky Mountain Rescue”. Approximately two weeks ago, in mid January, I heard one of his search operations ongoing on 146.64. He was using our machine to assist in a search in the mountains just west of Denver. This ham and his wife, whom many of you know, have graciously offered to give the DRL a program on this aspect of the hobby at the February 20th meeting at Bemis Library. He may have another active search and rescue ham assist in the presentation. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing him speak about this important public service endeavor in the past.

He and GERALYN are prime examples of the diverse applications and enjoyment of hamming. I am hoping GERALYN will be able to be with him at the meeting, as she has very interesting stories to tell of ballooning. Between work and their hobbies, I don’t know when they have time eat.

So, DON’T YOU DARE MISS THE UPCOMING MEETING! It will be educational and “funtastic”.

AL COOLEY, NØAUS
