



The Repeater Rag

Volume 33 Number 4



NEWSLETTER OF THE DENVER RADIO LEAGUE A CLUB DEVOTED TO QUALITY AMATEUR RADIO

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DRL BOARD MEMBERS

Tim Armagost, WBØTUB, President

Jack Pansini, WAØBDF, VP

Daniel Krohn, ABØZY, Secretary

Jim Hart, WØNFD, Treasurer

Mike Manes, W5VSI, Member at Large

Curtis Willoughby, KAØVBA, Member at Large

George Stoll, WAØKBT, Repeater Trustee

REPEATER LOCATIONS:

146.88Ø Warren Mountain
146.64Ø Centennial Cone
449.6ØØ Warren Mountain
145.Ø5Ø Digi..... Warren Mountain

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 only to
Denver Radio League or DRL ~**

Remit to: Jim Hart, WØNFD

6882 South Prince Circle

Littleton, Colorado 80120

For information, contact Jim at 303-794-0196

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

REMINDER

OCTOBER 27, 2010

7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

BEMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

6014 South Datura Street

Littleton, Colorado 80120-3636

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- ✦ ***From the Prez***, Tim Armagost, WBØTUB
 - ✦ ***Transmitter Hunting (AKA Fox Hunting) for Beginners***, Dan Meyer, NØPUF
 - ✦ ***Friendship Cup Marching Bands Competition and Ham Radio Support***, Chris Kregel, KBØYRZ
 - ✦ ***Ideas For Signs With Your Ham Call***, George Stoll, WAØKBT
 - ✦ ***The Holiday Season is Fast Approaching***.
Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL, Editor
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FROM THE PREZ

Elections will be held this meeting! 3 board members are to be elected in even years and 3 in odd years...this year the three that are up for replacement are President, WBØTUB, Secretary, ABØZY and Member at Large, KAØVBA.

Our VP, Jack, WAØBDF, acted as the election committee and has found three that are willing to serve! They are: George Brady KCØYHA; James Hart WØNFD; John Bridges NØQOP...members are also welcome to make nominations from the floor at the meeting itself, and perhaps those already in office would agree to remain on the ballot.

This past week a couple of members paid a visit to the Warren Mountain 146.88 repeater site to correct a problem with the repeater IDing and then going deaf...it was a controller problem and the spare controller was put into service. Please note, if you have a problem with the repeater, turn on your tone at 100Hz and see if that helps...new controllers are still in the works, George, WAØKBT, investigated and has determined that S-Com

controllers are the *bomb*, so expect a purchase in the near future.

Oh! It was the first trip to the 88 site since 2007! Must have some good equipment up there!

The Denver Radio League could use some more help with the technical matters of keeping the repeaters in good working order, so if any of you DRL or ARES members would like to get some hands on experience working on repeaters, let one of the officers know and we will get you on the list! The trip to Warren Mountain is worth the price of admission by itself!

The program will be presented by Jim Hart, WØNFD, on *RF Radiation Effects on Hospital Instruments* a real eye-opener!

See you at the meeting!

73 de Tim, WBØTUB

TRANSMITTER HUNTING (AKA FOX HUNTING) FOR BEGINNERS

If you want to have fun on a Sunday afternoon, get the strangest looks and questions from people and have a good time at the after hunt dinner, this is for you.

The monthly hunts are held on the second Sunday of the month in the afternoon. The hunts are all on 2 meters. The equipment is not very expensive nor hard to find.

You can make an antenna for foot hunts yourself using PCV pipe for the structure and lengths of tape measure for the elements. Easier than any other thing that you may want to build. The tape measure antenna is great for foot hunts because the elements fold over while hunting in wooded areas or encounter other obstructions. You will need a radio with a signal strength meter that is easily seen and an attenuator that has an offset of a MHz or more to keep from over loading the front-end of your radio. You can get one from Arrow Antenna, (4MHz offset) several others, or make it yourself using a stepped type.

If you would like to start with a foot hunt before building a vehicle mount, just ask and you will probably get your wish.

Mounting a beam antenna on your vehicle for the mobile hunts can be problematic, but you can get help from the other hunters, I'm sure. There are many mounting techniques for a beam antenna that can be turned while mobile. Some just drill a hole in the roof of the car; others build wooden structures that mount to the roof using a roof rack. My setup is a Plexiglas insert that mounts into the area of an open sunroof with a pole that extends down into the center console which I can turn while driving.

You may want to try a Doppler set up. The problem with it is that there is no gain and is expensive. Many of the mobile hunts have very weak signals at the starting location that a Doppler just will not pick up.

Now, the serious part... If there is a stuck transmitter, interference to our frequencies, or rogue operators, you can help track them down and get the problem fixed. I have been involved with others in several hunts like that. Success can be fairly easy with enough trackers to get cross bearings. If you have a copy of CQ VHF magazine (Summer 2006), there is an article about local hunters that tracked down a video transmitter that was causing interference to several repeaters in the Denver area from the downtown rail yards. You will also be welcomed to help recover payloads from high altitude balloons that EOSS does many times a year.

If you want to get involved, let me know and I or other regulars will do a personal demonstration and some basic training with you.

More information can be found at:

www.eoss.org
www.homingin.com
www.arrowantennas.com

The tape measure antenna design and build instructions can be found at:

<http://www.open-circuit.co.uk/tape.php>

And you can subscribe to:

RDF_Colorado@yahoogroups.com for announcements and questions.

73 and I hope to see you hunting soon.

Dan Meyer, NØPUF
n0puf@earthlink.net

FRIENDSHIP CUP MARCHING BANDS COMPETITION AND HAM RADIO SUPPORT

On October 2, 2010 there was a Marching Band completion held at Englewood High School. There were 27 Bands equaling 1,550 kids, 72 vehicles (School Buses and Equipment trucks) that needed to be parked in a fairly small parking lot, with very little room for mistakes. That jigsaw puzzle was put together by some extraordinary efforts by 9 hams including two people from the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, and two Band parents. The event started with two buses coming in at about 06:45 a.m. and by 14:15 ALL 72 vehicles were parked, with room to spare ... enough room that the two Academy bands (Air Force and Navy) were able to park their buses, an additional 4 buses and 3 equipment trucks, on the lot as well.

This was all done without incident with regard to the kids that were milling about retrieving their instruments talking, texting, etc., everything but looking for large vehicles running the gauntlet. All of this while we were having fun with each other and the bands to boot! On behalf of the “Denver Blue Knights Drum And Bugle Corps” and Englewood High School Band Program, I would like to thank all of the Amateur Radio Operators that helped to make the event such a success!

Those included were:

Rob Wight ,KCØUUO, Bengi Campbell, WØCBH, Steve Noi, KVØLT, Chris Los , KDØKVO, Steve Pimble, KCØFAD, Dan Meyer, NØPUF, Doug Gentges WØIX, Vicki Kregel, KCØEHU, and Aubrey Kregel, KCØBOE. I can't stress enough how much these people meant to the organizers. The accolade's were repeated over and over again. Comments often heard were “Where do you guys come from?!” and “This is great!”. I am proud to say that I am a member of a group that cares for their community and are eager to serve. I can't say enough. Thank you all for your help and support! By the way, when they do this again, we will be asked back!

73's,
Chris Kregel, KBØYRZ

IDEAS FOR SIGNS WITH YOUR HAM CALL

Do you need to make a sign for your vehicle or shack that includes your ham call? The high tech printing and manufacturing processes required to make signs is into its third or fourth generation. With their computer

driven equipment, they can use their templates or take your design and make about anything today. This includes the military zero (Ø) used in our ham call area.

Recently I wanted a license plate size sign for the back of my truck camper - my Colorado vehicle license call sign plates are on my old Blazer and there is a license plate holder on the camper that needed something in it (the vehicle license plate is on the truck bumper). I found a firm on the web that does this sort of thing at a reasonable rate, about \$16. Its www.buildasign.com. (There are local companies that might do this too, but when I approached them over the phone it was going to cost me a lot more.) Of course, if you are from a state that doesn't require a front vehicle license plate – something like this would be perfect up front too.



74 & 88,
George Stoll, WAØKBT

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING

Another end of the current year is upon us already. I'd like to take a moment to wish each of you the best of Holidays and a happy and safe New Year. We've had some interesting and very informative articles published and I hope to see this continue. They benefit almost all of us at one time or another. Please consider offering one for future publications. They are accepted at any time and are most welcome. With that, Happy New Year!

73 & 88,
Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL - Editor