



Loveland Repeater Association Newsletter

<http://www.info2000.net/~lra>

The official organ of the Loveland Repeater Association, a non-profit organization supporting all aspects of Amateur Radio in the Loveland, Colorado area.

LRA Officers

President..... Ted Cline, NØRQV, 970-593-9303, ted_cline@agilent.com
 Vice-President..... Tom Levendusky, Jr., NØMWY, 970-962-9023, toml@frii.net
 Secretary/Treasurer..... Ron WØOSK and Jody NØAJB Klein, ronklein@ix.netcom.com
 Editor..... Walt Harsch, KCØFGT, 970-679-0178, walter@ezlink.com

FM Repeaters

2 Meters (NØRQV).....147.795 (in)/147.195 (out) MHz (100 Hz Subtone; 1* on, 0* off)
 440 (NØRQV).....449.575 (in)/444.575 (out) MHz (100 Hz Subtone; 1* on, 0* off)

Interference Coordinator..... Ted Cline, NØRQV, 970-593-9303, ted_cline@agilent.com
 General Repeater Maintenance.....Dennis "Duff" Dyer, WØXYZ, 970-593-9984, dennis_dyer@msn.com
 Repeater Macros..... Dennis "Duff" Dyer, WØXYZ, 970-593-9984, dennis_dyer@msn.com

Club meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at the Wayside Inn in Berthoud, CO (505 Mountain Ave (US 287), 970-532-2013). An optional \$6.00 breakfast buffet begins at 8 AM. The meeting starts promptly at 9 AM.

Visitors are welcome. Come join us!

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 6th

President's Corner From Ted Cline, NØRQV

Thanks to Duff Dyer WØXYZ, our 449.575- (100 Hz) repeater is much improved. On Sat-Dec-9, Duff and I changed it from the beam pointed at Denver to the old 440 vertical on the shack. When nice weather returns, we can move that 440 vertical to a taller tower. The 440 repeater now has battery backup. A new battery charger should be much more reliable.

We labeled the many coax into the shack. Duff is working on adding a phone patch to the 440. How does the repeater sound?

I am making (slow) progress on our new 2m packet diginode for the hill (145.770 MHz).

Rick Kile WB7THT now transfers his Secretary and Treasurer jobs to Ron and Joy Klein, WØOSK and NØAJB. Thank you for your many years of excellent club service, Rick.

Rick did a great job coordinating our Second Annual LRA Christmas Dinner. Much fun.

And thanks to Tom Levendusky NØMWY for running this Sat-Jan-6 meeting. (See Tom's note regarding the meeting on page 3. Ed.)

Please don't forget your 2001 membership (still only \$20/year).

73
Ted

December 00 Meeting Report

From Rick Kile, WB7THT (The end of an era!)

The December meeting was called to order by President Ted Cline, N0RQV, with roughly 18 members and guests present. Following introductions, Rick Kile, WB7THT, gave the Secretary/Treasurer report. Walt Harsch, KC0FGT, gave the newsletter report. Walt asked if anyone present was interested in receiving the club newsletter via email in an attempt to hold down costs. He is also exploring options with the US Postal Service to automate processing of the newsletter. Walt also claimed to be "Newsletter Editor For Life". This author has not confirmed this claim with Walt's wife Billie. *(While this is technically an accurate account, it is important to remember that Walt suffers from what can best be described as a continuing delusion that he is funny. This statement was obviously intended to get laughs, but instead, no less than a dozen club members will swear that the statement was made of free will, without duress, and should have the binding effect of a notarized contract. I respectfully submit that the job should at least be offered to potential volunteers each year at election time. Ed.)*

Ted Cline, N0RQV, reported there was no interference to report on this month. Ted also gave a short status on the repeaters.

No ARES report was provided. Bob Schmidt, WA9FBO, now the Assistant EC for Larimer County (district 10) was not present at the meeting.

Ted provided a report on the LRA Christmas dinner, held on Friday, 1 Dec. Bill Fullerton, WD0DJZ, won the \$100 gift certificate. The two \$25 Wayside Inn gift certificates were won by Tom Levendusky, N0MWY, and Dennis Agosta, W0DSA. Everyone had a good time, and our hosts at the Wayside Inn did a fine job.

Glen Gibson, newly elected County Commissioner, stopped by for breakfast and spoke to the membership. Glen talked for a bit about his background, and a planned 900 MHz countywide communications system similar to one used in Portland, OR. He indicated he is looking forward to using club resources as a source of information and technical guidance.

The 50/50 drawing went to John Crawford, KB0VZI.

The program for the meeting was a video presentation provided by Brian Wood, W0DZ, on the science behind the movie "Frequency".

From our Secretary/Treasurer for January 2001

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Our bank balance was \$ ___ on 26 December 00. Significant account activity for the month was the Christmas Dinner. Details of account activity through December 00 are shown in the following table:

Beginning Balance as of 11/26/00	
Credits	
01 Dues	
50/50 Drawing	
Christmas Dinner	
Debits	
Newsletter	
Public Service	
US West	
Bank Charges	
Christmas Dinner	
New Balance as of 12/26/00	

A summary of credits and debits for calendar year 2000 is shown in the table below:

Beginning Balance as of 12/27/99	
Credits	
1999 Dues	
2000 Dues	
2001 Dues	
Repeater Fund	
Ham Class	
50/50 Drawing	
Christmas Dinner	
Debits	
Newsletter	
Public Service	
US West	
Bank Charges	
State of Colorado	
Field Day	
Repeater Batteries	
January Breakfast	
ARRL Insurance	
Postmaster	
CCARC Dues	
Ham Class	
Liability Insurance	
Christmas Dinner	
New Balance as of 12/26/00	

This is my final report as Secretary/Treasurer of the LRA. Thank you for your support over the last 3 years, and best of luck to Ron and Jody Klein.
Rick, WB7THT
January 6 Meeting Program
From Tom Levendusky, N0MWY

Ted will not be here, so I will be running the meeting. I would like this meeting to be a *SHOW & TELL* meeting. Please bring in any Ham related item you may have received during this past holiday season and give us a little information on what you have.

Just a reminder, breakfast is at 8:00am (\$6.00), and the meeting starts at 9:00am at the Wayside Inn, Berthoud. I hope to see you all there.

RESET RESTORES AO-40 TRANSMISSION

From the ARRL members' web site

Merry Christmas, AMSAT--AO-40 is back! Following a 12-day silence, AO-40 once again is transmitting telemetry. In response to an L-band command sent Christmas Day by command station ZL1AOX, AO-40 resumed transmitting on 2.4 GHz. Software was reloaded to permit telemetry transmissions on 2401.305 MHz. Some problems remain on the satellite, however.

"Recovery of AO-40 continues, and some housekeeping tasks were performed by the command stations to improve and stabilize the situation," said Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of the AO-40 team. Guelzow says new software routines were loaded successfully to restore the battery-charge regulator system and other housekeeping functions. "We will now start a detailed analysis of the situation," he said.

Telemetry transmissions from AO-40 ceased December 13 while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-Newton propulsion system following an initial orbital shift. Some observers feared the satellite had been irreparably damaged. Guelzow says ground stations now have regained control of the satellite. Ground controllers hope the telemetry might yield some clues about what went wrong aboard the satellite to make it stop transmitting.

After onboard software watchdog routines failed to restart beacon transmissions automatically, a full reset command and an initialization block to switch on the S2 S-band transmitter were sent via L-band.

Guelzow said telemetry revealed that some temperature sensors have failed and some current sensors indicated incorrect values, but solar sensors seemed to be working fine. The good news was that AO-40's power situation--in particular the battery voltages--looks nominal.

Guelzow said additional software would be loaded in the next few days and the various uplinks checked out before any attempts are made to turn the 2-meter transmitter back on. "Clearly, we need more time to analyze and understand what has happened here," Guelzow said. He said that while there are no indications that the 2-meter beacon transmitter has failed, ground controllers don't want to risk losing communication again. "So for the next days the spacecraft will continue to be transmitting on S-Band only," he

Loveland Repeater Association
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said.

Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC said AO-40 command stations "will continue to follow a conservative philosophy" with a primary goal of not causing additional damage while retaining as much evidence as possible to analyze what made the beacon transmissions stop.

On December 22, AMSAT proposed holding an inquiry into the incident that led to the loss of communication with AO-40. A letter from AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, said "AMSAT believes that it is in the best interests of our organization to determine all the facts surrounding this incident and to make sure that a similar situation cannot happen again either on AO-40 or on a future satellite.

Would you like to get your newsletter via email?

Find out what's happening with LRA a day or two sooner – sometimes even BEFORE the monthly meeting! Just send Walt an email at walter@ezlink.com and I'll add your email address to the monthly list. It's fast, it's simple and it will save your club much \$\$\$ (First class postage goes up to \$.34 on Sunday the 7th!) I'll start sending these with the February Newsletter. MS Word readers are available free at <http://members.home.net/baltimoretail/freesoft.html>

Walt, KCØFGT

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No. 50, December 29, 2000 Highlights

COLORADO COMPANY TO ACQUIRE ALPHA/POWER

CrossLink Inc, a Boulder, Colorado, delivery tracking and telemetry company, is expected to acquire the assets of Amateur Radio amplifier manufacturer Alpha/Power Inc. An announcement from Alpha/Power Chairman and CEO Dick Ehrhorn, W0ID, said a buyout agreement would be completed by year's end.

In September Alpha/Power, based in Longmont, Colorado, announced plans to cease engineering and manufacturing operations once its current run of Alpha 87A and 99 amplifiers was completed. Ehrhorn left open the possibility of selling Alpha/Power, provided the right buyer came along.

Additional details, including the new Alpha address, telephone, fax and e-mail information, will be posted on the Alpha Web site (<http://www.alpha-power-inc.com>) as they become available.

Loveland, CO 80539-1733



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**LOVELAND REPEATER ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME		CALL	
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
PHONE	LICENSE CLASS	UNDER 18 Y N	ARRL MEMBER Y N
PACKET ADDRESS		E-MAIL ADDRESS	

DUES: Family Membership \$20.00 *NEW FAMILY MEMBERS ARE*
Under 18 \$ 5.00 *PRO-RATED AT \$1.75/MONTH*
*****USE BACK OF FORM FOR ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS*****

INCLUDES 2 **FREE** MACROS

Contact: Ted Cline, N0RQV, 593-9303

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **LRA**

Loveland Repeater Association
P.O. Box 1733
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TOTAL ENCLOSED DUES
