



Loveland Repeater Association Newsletter

<http://www.qsl.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, NØMWY@arrl.net
Secretary/Treasurer.....	Ron WØOSK and Jody NØAJB Klein, 970-532-3013, WØOSK@arrl.net
Editor.....	Walt Harsch, KCØFGT, 970-679-0178, walt@waltbillie.com
FM Repeaters	
2 Meters (NØRQV).....	147.195 MHz + (147.795 MHz input), 100 Hz Subtone (1* on, 0* off)
440 (NØRQV).....	449.575 MHz – (444.575 MHz input), 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.....	Tom Levendusky, Jr., NØMWY, 970-962-9023, NØMWY@arrl.net

President’s Corner From Ted Cline NØRQV

Thanks to Randy Long WØAVV and Steve Babcoke WBØUWE for twice fixing the 2 meter repeater.

Unfortunately on Sat-Jun-29, not all was Ducky. The 2 meter repeater was down again. Maybe heat or lightning problems?

Thanks to the many setup helpers and operators and loggers and cooks and relatives and visitors and takedown helpers and gophers who made this year’s LRA Field Day such a success. We made our Poohbah proud.

I am again vacationing in New York. Ron WØOSK and Jody NØAJB Klein will run the July meeting.

The Sat-Jul-20-2002 NCARC hamfest at the County Fairgrounds in Loveland approaches!

Come join the fun at this Sat-Jul-6 meeting.

73’s Ted

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 \$7 breakfast buffet begins at 8 AM. Coffee, \$1 The meeting starts promptly at 9 AM. Visitors are welcome. Come join us!

Next Meeting: Saturday, July 6th

Minutes of June 1st Meeting From Walt Harsch, KCØFGT (with apologies to Jody Klein, NØAJB)

There were 17 members and guests in attendance.

Reports:

Treasurer: Yes, we still have a Treasurer, but Ron and his lovely bride and club Secretary, Jody were out of town and unable to attend. Your humble (?) editor will attempt to fill in with the notes he scribbled on a napkin.

Repeater: Steve Babcoke, WBØUWE discussed the efforts expended to repair the 2 meter repeater. Evidently the problem was in the the final power amp/driver board. Randy Long, WØAVV has loaned the club a replacement, but we will have to repair or replace both the primary and back up boards.

(save club money for important things like parts by having your newsletter delivered by EMAIL!!! Send me a note – my new email address is on the masthead. Ed.)

It was also noted that some antenna maintenance should be done before winter.

Dave Cheney, WØMAY suggested that we use the email system to notify members of repeater problems. *(This is a good idea, and is also a good way to pass information of common interest to our membership. I will be happy to generate these notifications, but will ask those doing the maintenance to let me know the key information so I can pass it along. Ed.)*

Interference: One member reported hearing a faint conversation on the 70cm repeater (possibly a repeater frequency duplication).

Field Day: Brian Wood, NØDZ, Field Day Grand Mogul and High Poohbah of the event again this year discussed some organizational issues and handed out general guidelines. The membership also discussed fire safety at the site given the low moisture levels this year. The *Loveland Reporter Herald* gave us some great coverage this year (Thanks Brian!).

**Treasurer’s Report for May, 2002
From Ron Klein, WØOSK**

The club bank account totals \$ ___ as of June 28, 2002.

We had two new members join this month. Welcomes are extended to Charles ,WØ0R, and Edith Leach, N7KDL and Chuck Paulien, KGØPF.

The primary thing that happened this month was the renewal of our General Liability Insurance. I have changed both agents and companies in order to maintain the cost at last year’s premium. While the below table shows a given amount for this, the actual amount will be \$225. We previously had coverage from Safeco Insurance through the Weedon Agency. Their premium was going to jump from \$226 to \$290. I was not satisfied with the explanation from the agent, nor his apparent lack of motivation to help us contain the cost.

So, I went looking and was able to switch us to State Farm through the Michelle LeBrec agency in Berthoud. The net cost, after the underwriting process was completed, will be \$225 per year after a refund of part of the initial estimated premium amount which I paid. The interesting thing is that the liability limits are doubled from the old Safeco coverage. And, their underwriter insisted on providing \$1,000 of property damage coverage on the repeater building itself, which we have not had before. So, the premium will actually be less

than the previous year through the other company. We got a better deal and I believe an agent that will provide better service if we need it.

Details of monthly account activity through June 28, 2002 are shown in the following table.

Beginning Balance as of 5/28/02	
Credits	
Dues (2 new members)	
Total Credits	
Debits	
Field Day (breakfast)	
Xcel Energy – Electricity	
Qwest – Phone	
Liability Insurance(See Note)	
Total Debits	
New Balance as of 6/28/02	

Anybody with billable expenses for Field Day should send me their receipts so I can reimburse them. This will deplete the treasury quite a bit and we will probably be below \$ ___ in the bank after paying the rest of the Field Day bills.

Upcoming Swapfest Information

ARRLWeb offers on-line hamfest calendar: Need to know when and where the next hamfest or convention is? Visit the new ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>.

Sat-Jul-20-2002:
Superfest 2002
Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club .
Larimer County Fairgrounds, _Loveland_ , CO
<http://www.ncarc.net>

**Report on Field Day 2002
By Brian Wood, NØDZ**

Field Day 2002 should go down in LRA history as the best ever! Not only did we end up with a very high score, we had superb participation, great publicity, and many visitors. Over 40 people participated in our 4A operation. I haven’t weeded out any bogus entries in our dupe sheets yet, but here’s the rough data:

Phone points: 1374 QSOs x 1 = 1350 [Goal was 2750 QSOs]
20ph: 745 [Goal was 1000]
10/15/40ph: 437 [Goal was 1250]
GOTA: 166 [Goal was 400]
VHF: 25 [Goal was 100]
Sat: 1 [Goal was 1]

CW/digital points: 1503 QSOs x 2 = 3006 [Goal was 2000 QSOs (4000 points)]

15/40cw: 785 [Goal was 1000]

20cw: 702 [Goal was 1000]

20digital: 16 [Goal was 0]

Total points = 4380 x 2 (power multiplier) = 8760
Bonus points: 1500 (out of 1700 possible)

Grand total = 10260 [Goal was 15100]

Despite not meeting the admittedly difficult goals, we surpassed last year's score of 9750, where we placed 7th. So we still did great! And I think everyone had a good time too.

I've had several comments that people liked the 4A class better than 2A that we used to operate. When we were small, 2A was fine. But with 40 people a 4A effort is very doable, and it gave everyone a chance to participate in some way. Seldom did I see the transmitters not in use when their bands were open.

A challenge for the future is to find ways of getting antennas up more quickly. I am still not happy with the lightweight crankups I bought. They are easy to put up, but they jam too easily, and for the second year in a row the 15/40 phone station was unable to crank up the antenna all the way due to this. I will continue to work on this problem. We also had trouble with the W8JK wire beam. Last year it was pointed badly but loaded up perfectly. This year, with no changes to its configuration except that it was pointed better, it had a very high SWR. Very odd. We used a dipole instead and it worked fine.

Setup was completed Friday night, but disaster struck on Saturday morning when a guy wire snapped on the club crankup, causing the tower to fall over (before it was cranked up) and destroy the club's TH-6DX antenna. Fortunately no one was hurt, and Bill Bruce did a stellar job of getting the replacement triband beam working. His efforts saved our 20M phone effort, which ended up making 745 QSOs! We probably will not use the club crankup again. It is too heavy and too dangerous to use anymore.

We experienced some front-end overload on several rigs when the antennas were pointed at each other. We could try using more of the space we're allowed. Antennas are required to lie in a circle no more than 1000' in diameter, but we're only using about 300'. We have plenty of coax. We may see if we can fix that for next year. Don't forget that modern rigs that were mostly in use this time have attenuators, rf gain controls, filters and dsp noise reduction to help reduce this problem. We can also take care not to point beams at each other despite the slight loss in signal strength from certain areas of the country.

We did worse on the GOTA station than last year's Novice/Tech station thanks to 10M being dead most of the time, but we made up for it by the enthusiasm shown by the visitors. One was a 13-year-old who appears likely to become a ham as a result of this! Great job getting the kids involved Duff!

Kenton Larson netted us 200 bonus points by sending a message to our SM, Jeff Ryan, and to 10 others. Great job Kenton! By the way, Kenton tells me he's going to get his code speed up so that he can do some of the cw work next year. That would be great! Good luck, Kenton. Practice, practice, practice!

Rick Kile tried valiantly on VHF using some new antennas, but it appears that the MUF during FD must have hovered around 28 MHz, with not even a trace of Sporadic E to enliven 6M and above! Maybe next year. People in the eastern U.S. have a distinct advantage, and I will again suggest to ARRL that they offer a multiplier for VHF contacts based on population density.

Rob Strieby and many others worked feverishly all night during multiple satellite passes to get us our 100 point bonus for working through a satellite. The mission was accomplished Sunday morning. Great job guys!

The cookout and breakfast were well attended. Thanks to Rick and Tom and Virgil for another culinary delight.

Finally, thanks to Jim Crowder, N0HBX, for continuing to let us use his property for Field Day. It is much appreciated!

Thanks to everyone who participated. I'm looking forward to next year!

Brian Wood, WØDZ

For Sale

From Ron Klein, WØOSK

Yaesu FT-50R dual band (2M/440), 5 W (max) HT with accessories. Has a **brand new** 9.6 V, 600 mah battery pack (5 watts out with this one), Operators Manual, CA-15 Base Charging Stand, NC-60B Wall Charger, Speaker Mike Adapter, FBA-15 Battery Case, and FTT-12 keypad. There also two of the factory style belt clips included. The HT has an upgraded belt clip on it.

Also included are 2 (dead) battery packs which it "may" be possible to restore to some use with a little work. These are a FNB-41, 9.6V, 600 mah and FNB-V47, 7.2V, 1100 mah. Obviously, the voltages and capacities are only applicable to new packs of these types.

The HT is in fine shape with no problems at all. I just have one too many HTs in the house, and this is the one that has to go.

You can see a picture of everything, and the above information at: <http://www.qsl.net/w0osk/FT-50forsale.html>

(Editor's note: Ron has sent our club meeting information to the Reporter Herald for inclusion in their "club notes" section of the June 2 edition – watch for it! And thanks Ron! Ed.)

FOUND: Blue Sweatshirt during FD clean up – email Walt

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Amateur Radio Serving the Community
Since 1978



Top Ten Reasons for Having Your Newsletter Delivered by EMAIL:

1. It's "way cool" (just ask your kids – or grandkids).
2. It saves club funds – postage just went up to \$.37, printing and paper \$.05, email \$0.00.
3. You don't have to irradiate your email to kill anthrax spores.
4. Adobe™ .pdf files can be read on nearly any computer – even Palm Pilots!!
5. Get you newsletter on time – even if you are out of town, by email.
6. Get your newsletter on time! (not that the hard copy is ever LATE mind you).
7. The Earth is you Mother – be kind to your Mother. Don't make us kill trees or milk ink goats.
8. You don't have to pull that stupid staple out of an email.
9. If we ever decide to put a color picture in the newsletter, you could see it in color on your PC!

...and the number ten reason...

10. Paper is seriously low tech.

Upgrade to Email! Send me at note at: walt@waltnbillie.com