



Loveland Repeater Association Newsletter

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

LRA Officers	
President.....	Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ, 593-9984, ddyer@lvld.hp.com
Vice-President.....	Ted Cline, N0RQV, 593-9303, ted_cline@hp.com
Secretary/Treasurer.....	Rick Kile, WB7THT, 962-9179,wb7tth@aol.com
Editor.....	Rick Kile, WB7THT, 962-9179,wb7tth@aol.com
FM Repeaters	
2 Meters.....	147.795/147.195 MHz (100 Hz Sub tone; 1* on, 0* off)
440.....	449.575/444.575 MHz (100 Hz Subtone; 1* on, 0* off)
Packet Node W0KKT/W6PQS.....	144.91 MHz
Interference Coordinator.....	Ted Cline, N0RQV, 593-9303, ted_cline@hp.com
General Repeater Maintenance.....	Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ, 593-9984, ddyer@lvld.hp.com

President's Corner

From Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ

It's springtime and in northern colorado that means that we, as amateur radio operators, need to get prepared for severe weather and flooding. Now is the time to make sure your batteries are charged, your jump kit is ready and most importantly, you family preparedness kit is ready. I mention your family kit as that is the most important one. They are your most important asset and if they are not comfortable then you cannot be much help to the less fortunate in the event of a disaster. At the meeting I'll be bringing in my equipment cache that's stored in my basement. It includes radios, antennas, coax, office supplies and the like. All stuff I have collected over the years that are assembled in one place for easy access. Bring in your jump kit, or any special equipment that you use for sharing with the group. Things like portable antennas, battery packs or whatever. We all learn from what others do. I will have a short video on preparedness that we will show and I am currently working on a guest speaker for the meeting.

Brian W0DZ and Steve N0BF will be updating us on the plans for field day. Make sure to set some time aside for helping out at this fun event on June 27 & 28. And don't forget that we will be setting up an amateur radio demonstration tent at the July 4th fireworks in the park. Plan on bringing the whole family along for the fun.

The first of the club flyers will hit the mail this week to area hams that are not members of either our club or NCARC. The idea is to promote the club and try to get some non-active

hams back into the hobby. If you have any friends that used to be hams but don't seem to be involved any more try asking them to the meeting on Saturday. You may be surprised at the response. And if anyone needs any literature to give to perspective hams give me a call.

Hope to see everyone at the breakfast on Saturday.

73's Duff, W0XYZ

Next Meeting

The next LRA meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 2 May 1998, at the Wayside Inn in Berthoud, CO. A buffet breakfast is served at 8:00AM and includes scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, biscuits and sausage gravy, french toast, juice, and coffee for \$6.00. The business meeting starts at 9:00 AM.

Membership Renewal

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Our membership in 1997 was 113, including 26 family members, and 87 paid up members. Membership renewals through 25 April total 79 paid memberships and 27 family members, for a total of 106. The membership database has been updated to reflect current members, and is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please note the database reflects information provided on your membership renewal forms. If any updates are needed please drop me a note.

April 98 Meeting Report

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ. The meeting had a light turnout of approximately 17 members, due to the LARCFEST in Longmont. Following introductions, Rick Kile, WB7THT gave the Treasurer's report, and an update on the annual membership drive. Dennis Agosta, W0DSA gave a report on the status of the current licensing classes. Dennis also requested use of the LRA repeater on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1900 for code classes. Ted Cline, N0RQV reported on recent cases of malicious interference. Ted also gave a report on the status of the club web site. Several members pointed out the URL for the club web site was not included in the April newsletter. The LRA web site is located at:

<http://www.info2000.net/~lra>. Duff gave a status update on the planned mailing to local hams. The first batch of postcards should go out during the month of April. Earlier plans to mail in March were delayed due to the anticipated low turnout at the April meeting. The 50/50 drawing was won by Mike van de Sandt, KI6XC. After all required business was completed, the meeting was adjourned so all interested parties could head for the LARCFEST. **May Contest Information**

ARI International DX Contest, sponsored by the Associazione Radioamatori Italiani, from 2000Z May 2 until 2000Z May 3. 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, and 160 meters (no RTTY on 160 m).

Ten-Ten International Net Spring CW QSO Party, sponsored by Ten-Ten International, from 0000Z May 2 until 2400Z May 3. CW only, 10 meters only.

CQ-M International DX Contest, sponsored by Krenkel Central RC of Russia, 2100Z May 9 to 2100Z May 10. CW, Phone, SSTV, 160 to 10 meters plus satellites.

EU Spring Sprint, CW, 1500-1900Z May 16. Work EU stations only. 80, 40 and 20 meters

ARCI QRP Hoot Owl Sprint, CW, sponsored by QRP ARC International, from 2000 until 2400 local time May 24.

Memorial Day CW Sprint, sponsored by the Michigan QRP Club, 2300Z May 25 until 0300Z May 26. CW only, 160-6 meters (except 30, 17 and 12 meters).

Upcoming Swapfest Information

May 2, 1998: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: Ron Deutsch, NK0P, 4305 Ridgeline Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918

May 9, 1998: Western Colorado ARC Hamfest, at the National Guard Armory, 482 28 Rd., Grand Junction, CO; 0800 to 1400

May 30, 1998: Northern Colorado ARC, Loveland, CO. Contact: Michael Robinson, N7MR, 2236 Silver Trails Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80526, 970-282-1167

August 16, 1998: Colorado State Convention, Golden, CO; Guy Reed, W5GR, 29875 Troutdale Scenic Dr., Evergreen, CO 80439-7705, 303-674-5389

September 27, 1998: Colorado Section Convention, Longmont, CO; Dan Wisotzkey, N0NLS, 1247 Doric Dr., Lafayette, CO 80026-1211, 303-665-8367

Solar Update

From the ARRL Letter

Solar savant Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: Solar activity has remained fairly high over the past week. Average sunspot numbers were up almost 30 points, and average solar flux was about that same, at 122. Average solar flux for the previous 90 days went up another two points from 102 to 104, and flux values were above these levels on every day, indicating a good upward trend.

April 9 saw a new high in sunspot number for the current cycle, when it reached 192. The sunspot number has not been that high since October 26, 1992, when it was 193.

Solar flux for this weekend, April 17-19 is predicted to be 100, 100, and 95. Through the end of the month look for solar flux to bounce around between 95 and 108, then rise above 110 after May 2, peaking around 125 about a week later. Geomagnetic indices may be unsettled today and also around April 24 and 25.

Higher solar activity has extended long distance 20 meter openings well into the evening. From the author's home in Seattle, New Zealand and Australia are strong on 20 meters even as late as midnight. Look for openings on higher frequencies as well, although on 10 and 12 meters the openings tend to be over north-south paths.

Sunspot Numbers for April 9 through 15 were 192, 145, 132, 111, 82, 83 and 79 with a mean of 117.7. 10.7 cm flux was 139.7, 129.7, 128.3, 117, 114.8, 111.9 and 112.7, with a mean of 122, and estimated planetary A indices were 9, 11, 12, 9, 5, 8, and 4, with a mean of 8.3.

Repeater Update

From Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ

About the only new news on the repeater front is that the call sign changed in early April to a zero-land call. W0XYZ is now the id on the repeater. Now people won't be thinking they are getting great skip from nine-land on VHF. I hope to have news on the 440 machine by the meeting.

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Bill Introduced From the ARRL Letter

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

If approved, the measure would amend Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.

The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, noncommercial radio service,

particularly emergency communications” and that Amateur Radio has “consistently and reliably” provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes that the FCC has “taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.”

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure. Amateurs are encouraged to contact their Representatives and urge them to support the bill or to sign on as cosponsors. The full text of the bill is available at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>

Andy Thomas Suggests We're Not Alone From the ARRL Letter

US astronaut Andy Thomas, KD5CHF/VK5MIR, thinks we may not be alone. Speaking from the Russian Mir space station via Amateur Radio April 8 with high school students in Roswell, New Mexico--the self-proclaimed UFO capital of the world--Thomas said in response to a student's question that he believes there is extraterrestrial intelligent life “Yes, I think there probably is, when you consider the scale of the universe,” he said during a scheduled Mir-school contact with students at Goddard High School and Roswell High School.

Thomas described life is “a very tenacious thing “ that could exist beyond the bounds of Earth. But he said he very much doubts that space beings ever visited Roswell, as some assert happened in the late 1940s. Tourist attractions in Roswell have since capitalized on the UFO talk.

The high schoolers asked 11 questions during the approximately 10-minute chat with Thomas, which took place via a telebridge with VK5AGR in Thomas' native Australia. Some 120 people, including fellow students, parents, teachers and the news media, were on hand for the occasion.

Mir-school contacts resumed earlier this year after a one-year hiatus. They are being arranged through the SAREX program, a joint effort of NASA, the ARRL, and AMSAT, in cooperation with the Russian space program. Other contacts are set for this month with schools in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

StormWarn Announcement From Linda Hedges, KB0RKW

To all Colorado Hams and anyone interested in SKYWARN and weather! Just in case any of you out there is interested in receiving Storm Related information and general weather conditions in general, from any area of the US, including CO, here is where you can get it.

I have been using this service for about 3 months now and find it quite helpful. I get the Watches and Warnings before they go out on NOAA radio, in fact with the coverage areas that I am presently getting even before, up to 3 hours, they come down here to the Pueblo area.

And even if you do not have access to the Internet you can still get this information by E-Mail by calling Paul Watkins at the number listed. The cost is about the same as if you ordered a magazine subscription, and very worth the cost (\$2.00per month). Especially if you live in an outlying area where it is hard to get into SKYWARN used Repeaters, but you still need the information. I personally have subscribed to about 12 counties (and that is how you sign up, is to do it by counties in the particular state you are interested in) in CO and then 8 in New Mexico and about 8 in AZ, so I sort of know what is coming this way. I also get weather information from my home state so I can keep up on the weather there also.

If anyone is interested in this service I would highly recommend it, especially if you are interested in the weather and SKYWARN. For additional information contact Paul Watkins at the address shown below:

Paul Watkins, KB9RSW

Vice President of Operations

Dataswitch Information Services, Inc.

Email: pwatkins@dataswitch.com

Phone: 219-291-0712

73's , Linda K. Hedges - kb0rkw@juno.com

Loveland Repeater Association
P.O. Box 1733
Loveland, CO
80539-1733



Amateur Radio Serving the Community
Since 1978

