



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, Colorado area.

LRA Officers	
President	Dennis “Duff” Dyer, W0XYZ, 593-9984, dennis_dyer@hp.com
Vice-President	Ted Cline, N0RQV, 593-9303, ted_cline@hp.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Rick Kile, WB7THT, 962-9179,wb7tht@aol.com
Editor	Rick Kile, WB7THT, 962-9179,wb7tht@aol.com
FM Repeaters	
2 Meters	147.795 (in)/147.195 (out) MHz (100 Hz Subtone; 1* on, 0* off)
440	449.575 (in)/444.575 (out) 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, dennis_dyer@hp.com

President’s Corner

From Dennis “Duff” Dyer, W0XYZ

Well there are two big news items this month. One you already know about, that’s FIELD DAY. Yes Field Day is June 27th and 28th. Steve N0BF and Brian W0DZ have been busy planning all the items for field day but they need YOUR help to pull off the final event. Please find a little time to come out and operate, share old stories, or just have fun. This field day is also the anniversary of something very special, THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOVELAND REPEATER ASSOCIATION. We’re going to have a special birthday cake at the BBQ on Saturday evening so please make sure to stop by.

The other big news for the club is that we now have a new UHF repeater. It should be shipped by the middle of June and we will have a work party to get it installed.. The repeater is a re-furbished GE Master Station II , a twin to our VHF repeater. The ham that we purchased our VHF rig from had a UHF rig for the same deal. Since this system was going to be sold at Dayton if we didn’t want it, the executive board decided to go ahead and buy the system. Our current UHF duplexors are not designed to handle the full 100 watts out so we will trim the power output a little until such time we can afford new duplexors. Rick is still accepting donations for the repeater capital equipment fund and we will need to buy duplexors and a new controller in the future.

The July meeting is going to be held on July 4th. After the meeting we will be traveling to the park to finish the setup for our demonstration. If you can help please let Dennis W0DSA know.

73’s Duff, W0XYZ

Membership Status

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Our membership in 1997 was 113, including 26 family members, and 87 paid up members. Membership through 29 May totals 83 paid memberships and 29 family members, for a total of 112. The membership database has been updated to reflect current members, and is included in this issue of the newsletter. I corrected the problem with plain zeroes and slashed zeroes, and resorted the file to make it easier to find call signs. If any updates are needed please drop me a note.

Next Meeting

The next LRA meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 6 June 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.

May 98 Meeting Report

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Editor Note: Many thanks to Dennis Agosta who volunteered to take notes at the meeting whilst I was winging my way to rainy England.

President Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ, called the meeting to order. There were 37 attendees, including 3 new hams waiting for their call signs. The Treasurer's report was given by Rick Kile, WB7THT. Dennis Agosta, W0DSA, gave the training report. The recently completed class produced 4 new Technician, and 5 new Technician Plus licensees. The General upgrade class is in progress with code practice Tuesday and Thursday at 7 PM on the 115 repeater. Duff, W0XYZ, gave a report on the UHF repeater. The duplexers are ok; but we should add a bandpass filter (~\$99). The repeater is only putting out 7 watts. Troubleshooting revealed the low power amp was dead. Some tuning and repair got it up to 15 watts but we are looking for used low power amp while repairs continue after Dayton.

Ted Cline, N0RQV, reported prank calls on repeater on Thursday afternoon. No ID was given; the offender was making random calls on autopatch. An ARES report was given by Randy, WB6AVV. Things are quiet as we head into severe weather season. The snow pack is below normal but the Poudre drainage above average. Ted Cline, N0RQV, reported on the status of the club website. Changes made all the time to keep it current, and there is a locals page available for business advertising.

Brian Wood, W0DZ reported on preparations for Field Day. There are some changes to Field Day rules this year. Brian plans to use same site as last year with solar for natural power points, satellite, and 2A class. The site has been inspected and looks good. Antennas look good although one was stored upside down with drain holes exposed. The largewinch truck probably won't be available. There will be a potluck on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. The Novice/Tech station will be run by Ted; Brian will investigate feasibility of using digital modes. Brian reported another trip to test the antennas will be scheduled, and the beam that was damaged last year has been repaired.

The July 4 LRA meeting will be held as normal; for those supporting the ham radio demo in the park, we'll go to the park after the meeting for setup.

Loveland Star Status: Ace Hardware donated \$1800 of materials to various organizations; if we want materials from them we need a formal request. The LRA is not responsible for star, however we have offered to donate power and help. We have passed info on to Winter Holiday Council and Jaycees regarding use of a truck with a lift but they have not gotten back to us.

Brian presented talk on restoring classic equipment. His goal - restore his 1966 station including a National NC270 receiver and homebrew transmitter. Duff presented a talk on jump (go) kits. Included was a 4 amp hour battery (\$30 at Target) with various outputs, including two cigarette lighter sockets. KBOVZI demonstrated a portable antenna (Arrow 4-element 2m beam) mounted on a folding table using a telescoping paint pole. Duff talked about the ARRL Field Resource kit. It contains data useful in emergency situations. The key is to have everything needed to operate in one place,

and make list of where things not stored with boxes of equipment can be found.

From our Secretary/Treasurer for May 1998

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Upcoming Swapfest Information

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 indices were down this week, as they have been during the past few weeks. The sunspot number is half what it was the previous week, and the solar flux was down over 16 points. So far this month the average flux is running about the same as April and March, when it took a jump of about 16 points over January and February.

Solar flux is expected to peak May 29 and 30 at 98, then drift to 96 on May 31, then go below 90 after June 7. Flux values should drift above 90 around June 18 and to the mid-90s in the week prior to the end of June.

During June we will be experiencing more summer-like HF conditions, with weaker daytime signals and higher noise, due to increased thunderstorm activity in the northern hemisphere. With fewer hours of darkness and more storms, look for poorer conditions on 160 and 80 meters. Although 20 meters has been the best DX band around the clock, there is a good chance that solar activity will move higher this summer, and 15 meters could become the best daylight band for the season.

There was a solar flare during early hours UTC on May 28, but it is not expected to affect geomagnetic indices. About 12 hours earlier there was some activity that could cause a rise in geomagnetic activity on May 30 or 31. Look for very quiet geomagnetic conditions around June 9-13 and possibly on June 15 and 18.

Sunspot numbers for May 21 through 27 were 29, 26, 47, 41, 57, 49, and 49, with a mean of 42.6. The 10.7-cm flux was 89, 87.4, 90.3, 95.6, 92.3, 92.5, and 94, with a mean of 91.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 14, 8, 13, 16, 15, 8, and 7, with a mean of 11.6.

Repeater Status

From Duff Dyer, W0XYZ

Aside from the news in the presidents corner about a new UHF machine to be installed next month the only other news is that we are still having interference problems. A couple members have reported someone pounding down their autopatch calls. If this happens to you please listen on the input to see if the person is close and be sure to contact me or Ted N0RQV about the interference. Jason, KBOAIS is handling the programming of the repeater now. See his article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Courage Classic Bike Ride From Duff Dyer, W0XYZ

The Courage Classic Bike Ride to benefit Childrens Hospital still needs volunteers for communications. This is a 3 day commitment July 17-19 in the Leadville/Beaver Creek area. It's a lot of fun, meals and housing are provided. Contact Duff for more info.

Field Day Update From Brian Wood, W0DZ

Your Field Day Committee has been working to get things ready for the biggest amateur radio operating event of the year. Field Day (June 27-28) has been a tradition with the LRA since the early eighties, and we have generally placed in the top 30 (sometimes the top 10) entries out of a field of around 550 in Class 2A (two transmitters operated simultaneously)! We usually make about 1000 QSOs on each of the two main stations. The event starts with setup Friday, June 26 at noon, continues with operating from noon Saturday, June 27th to noon Sunday the 28th, and finishes with teardown immediately after close of the contest. We aim to be done by 2 PM Sunday.

The location is the field north of Jim Crowder's house, 7333 Leslie Dr. Take 1st St. west until it dead ends at Carter Lake Road, turn right (north) and go about 1/2 mile to Leslie Drive (look for the Miravalle subdivision sign on the right side of Carter Lake Road). Follow Leslie Drive (a dirt road) all the way to the top of the hill. Jim owns the large solar home at the top. Parking is in the field to the north. Talk-in will be on the LRA 2 meter repeater.

All participants will receive a free pack of NORSEK air freshener! This year, as usual, we will have a CW station using an FT-990 and a TH-6DX beam on the 40 foot crankup tower (which will be staffed by all the hot-shot CW contest ops we can find - let us know if you are one and want to operate this station), and a phone station that all members are welcome to use, which will consist of an FT-767GX and a Cushcraft A3A beam with a 40 meter adapter at about 40 feet. In addition to these two primary stations, Ted Cline will set up and operate the Novice/Tech station, with a TH-3 beam at 40 feet. Novices and Techs are encouraged to try their hand at Field Day by helping Ted rack up the free points that we get from this station. We'll also have (probably) a satellite station using a 22 element 2 meter crossed yagi and a 40 element 440 crossed yagi. All equipment, rigs, lights, everything, will be powered by a generator. We'll be using Steve's (NOBF) logging/dupe-checking program on laptop computers. If you don't want to operate, consider lending a hand logging!

There will be a pot-luck barbecue Saturday afternoon starting at 5 PM. All members and their families and guests are invited, whether you participate in the operation or not. The club will provide pop and hamburgers (and plates and utensils). Participants are asked to bring other delectable dishes - desserts, chips, potato salad, etc. Participants are also welcome to spend the night Saturday, and be present for Virgil's (W0INK) "world famous breakfast" Sunday morning. It's a welcome sight after a hard night of operating!

We will be contacting every member of the club by phone or e-mail soon to determine if you will be available to help set up, tear down, or operate. Setup and teardown are the most critical phases of the operation, as we erect three 40' towers and antennas. Please attend if you can.

One word of caution. Weather can be very bizarre this time of year. We've had everything from blistering sunshine to hail and tornados. Temperatures are typically cool at night and hot during the day, so dress accordingly. Bugs are omnipresent, so some OFF! is suggested.

There will be an antenna work party at the field day site immediately following the meeting. Generators, rigs, coax and tools will be available. We need some help in getting the antennas moved and erected a little off the ground so that we can test and tune them.

Hope to see you there - Brian

Colorado 14er Radio Event From Rob Witte, KB0CY

The 1998 Colorado 14er Radio Event will be held Sunday, August 30th. During the event, a group of amateur radio operators will operate portable from the summits of various Colorado 14000 foot mountains. The operating times will be from 9 AM to 12 Noon local time. Radio amateurs are encouraged to work as many of the mountaintop stations as possible. However, this is NOT A CONTEST, no points are awarded, no scores recorded. A special event QSL card can be obtained by QSLing to the mountaintop station's home address (please include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope). Most mountaintop stations will be running low power handheld radios. Stations running higher power need to keep in mind that they can interfere with stations they cannot hear. Radio operators with 14er hiking experience who wish to participate should contact Bob, KB0CY at kb0cy@qsl.net or RobtWitte@aol.com (e-mail is preferred) or phone at 719-488-0859. Updated information on the event is posted at <http://members.aol.com/RobtWitte/colo14.html>

To avoid having multiple stations on the same peak, radio amateurs that want to participate must coordinate with KB0CY. Frequencies used during the event:

146.43 MHz Longs Peak
146.46 San Juan Range (Handies, Redcloud, ...)
Sangre de Cristo Range (Crestone, Humboldt, ...)
146.49 Bierstadt, Grays and Torreys
146.55 Coordinating Frequency (Net Control, Pikes Peak)
146.58 Mt. Evans
147.42 Elk Range and North Sawatch Range
147.45 Mosquito Range (Quandary, Lincoln, ...)
147.48 South Sawatch Range (Huron and peaks south)
147.51 Pikes Peak (QSOs)
147.54 Reserved for Mountaintop Stations Only
223.5 Primary 222 MHz frequency
446.000 Primary 70 cm frequency
446.025 Alternate 70 cm frequency
446.050 Alternate 70 cm frequency
52.525 Primary 6M FM frequency
Other bands/modes: standard calling frequencies

**Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, SK
From the ARRL Letter**

Former US Senator, onetime presidential candidate, and noted radio amateur Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, died May 29. He was 89. Goldwater had suffered a stroke in 1996 and had been in failing health. A staunch conservative, Goldwater was the 1964 Republican presidential nominee and served five terms in the US Senate. He also authored the book "Conscience of a Conservative". Goldwater retired from politics in 1986. His home was in Scottsdale, Arizona.

As a Senator, Goldwater's legacy included several pieces of Amateur Radio-related legislation. In 1964, Goldwater's bill to allow reciprocal operating agreements between the US and other countries was signed into law. It was his work on the bill that prompted the Arizona Senator to renew his interest in ham radio after a long absence.

Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign tried to tap into his ham radio connections with a "Hams for Barry" fundraising effort. He took time out of the campaign to address the ARRL National Convention in New York City, on the occasion of the League's 50th anniversary. In his remarks, Goldwater reminisced about his youthful foray into Amateur Radio as 6BPI. He was first licensed in 1921, and joined the ARRL in 1923. "You can't imagine what a relaxation ham radio is for me," the campaign-weary Goldwater told the gathering. He related how, during the GOP Convention earlier that summer, he'd made several hundred contacts from his hotel room using a borrowed Collins S-line. The convention presented Goldwater with a certificate of appreciation for his work on behalf of the hobby (see QST, Oct 1964, p 80). Goldwater lost the 1964 election to Lyndon Johnson.

While serving as chairman of the Senate Communications Subcommittee in 1981, Goldwater introduced landmark legislation proposing several changes to the Communications Act affecting amateurs. In 1982, Congress finally approved and President Reagan signed what came to be known as the Goldwater Amateur Radio legislation, enacted as Public Law 97-259. The measure established the Amateur Auxiliary and the volunteer examination programs, permitted 10-year license terms, and exempted Amateur Radio from the secrecy provisions in the Communications Act. The Goldwater bill also ended years of Congressional wrangling and authorized the FCC to set RFI susceptibility standards for home electronic devices.

A year later, President Reagan signed into law a bill including a Goldwater amendment that allowed the recovery of costs in the Volunteer Examiner program (the FCC didn't authorize the plan until months later, however).

At one point in his ham radio career, Goldwater operated as K3UIG from his Senate office and as K7UGA when he was home in Arizona. He called his Arizona ham shack "bash-hal-ne-ae," which he said was Navajo for "music from iron" or "metal that talks."

Goldwater was a life member of the ARRL. He was elected president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association in 1971. A pilot during World War II, he held the rank of General in the Air Force Reserve and was an active member of Air Force MARS. During the Vietnam War era, Goldwater handled hundreds of thousands of phone patches. He also held a pilot's license and occasionally operated aeronautical mobile.

In 1983, Amateur Radio paid homage to Goldwater as "its governmental protector and advocate" by establishing the

\$5000 ARRL Scholarship to Honor Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. In announcing the scholarship, then-ARRL Washington Area Coordinator Perry Williams, W1UED, said that Goldwater's Amateur Radio involvement had "brought joy to thousands of members of the armed services stationed overseas, and through his professional career, he has exemplified the principles of commitment and service to one's country and fellow citizens." The Goldwater scholarship, administered by the ARRL Foundation, is awarded each year to a deserving radio amateur to encourage a spirit of achievement and dedication in the field of communication.

Land Mobile Communications Council Seeks 70cm band From Newsline report number 1082

The Land Mobile Communications Council has issued a demand to the FCC that it immediately reallocate most of the 70 centimeter Amateur band over to private mobile operations with private land mobile designated as the primary user. Technically the document is nothing more than a formal rule making request to the FCC that has been designated RM 9267. In reality it is more a demand by the LMCC for the FCC to immediately reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz away from the federal government and over to the Private Mobile Radio Service on a primary basis. The Land Mobile Communications Council is also asking for new allocations at 1390-1400 MHz, 1427-1432 MHz, and 1670-1675 MHz. It is also demanding a whopping 85 MHz at 960-1215 MHz and it wants all of this turned over to the Private Mobile Radio Service no later than 2010. But LMCC is not willing to wait until 2010 to take over the 70 centimeter band even though this is the second most popular of the Amateur Radio Services' VHF and UHF allocations. Amateur Radio is a secondary user of 420-450 MHz. There are thousands of FM repeaters operating from 440 to 450 MHz and a variety of modes on the air every day in the 420-430 MHz segment.

While the Land Mobile Communications Council petition indicates that it is willing to permit Amateur Radio to retain some sort of secondary status, this would be only on a non-interfering basis with the new commercial interests.

Experts say that the best way to kill RM 9267 is through a massive letter writing campaign to the FCC. A campaign that outlines the specific use of the band by Amateur Radio Interests -- informational filings that detail how every hertz of 420-430 and 440-450 MHz is utilized on a day to day basis by hams. The commentary cutoff date on RM 9267 is June 1st. This leaves precious little time for radio amateurs around the nation to react. Those responding must be certain to reference RM 9267 at the top of your letter. Send comments to the:

Secretary

FCC

Washington DC

20554

The LRA Repeater Corner From Jason Fellingham, KC0AIS Home Phone: 970-622-8632

About two months ago, I volunteered to take over the repeater programming responsibilities for the LRA. At that time, there were some minor problems with the repeater's

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Amateur Radio Serving the Community
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