



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.....	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,wb7tth@aol.com
Editor.....	Rick Kile, WB7THT, 962-9179,wb7tth@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

By the time you read this Field Day will be over with, a good time had by all. Special THANKS to Brian W0DZ and Steve N0BF for putting on a great Field Day. Jim N0GTW was our main chef and food buyer. And not only did Jim organize what went in but he took care of things like the prota-potty and generator. Virgil W0INK proved his culinary skills with the ‘World Famous Breakfast’ on Sunday morning to some very hungry and tired operators. And I can’t forget to say THANKS to everyone who came out to Field Day. Whether you were an antenna erector, an operator, a gopher or just provided moral support, the main thing is that you were there. Without everyone working together Field Day wouldn’t exist. If you weren’t there, well, all I can say is that you were missed and better plan for next year.

July 4th is just a week away and Dennis W0DSA has a great ham radio demonstration planned for North Lake park, where the fireworks are held. He will have HF and VHF demonstrations along with code practice keys, all kinds of literature handouts, even Archie comic books. But he needs your help. Ham radio is about communicating and we need YOU to come out and talk to perspective hams about the fun you have in the hobby. All were asking is an hour or two. Even if you can’t make it to the park, we need people to talk to on HF & VHF. The parks department estimates that there are

over 20,000 people watching the fireworks display from the park and immediate vicinity. What a wonderful way to have fun and inform others about the hobby.

*****Don’t forget that we will setup for the 4th after the meeting on Sat*****

73’s Duff, W0XYZ

Next Meeting

The next LRA meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 4 July 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. Program will be a Field Day rap up, and the 4th of July demo in the park.

Membership Status

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Memebership through 27 June totals 90 paid memberships and 29 family members, for a total of 119.

June 98 Meeting Report

From Rick Kile, WB7THT

Editor Note: Many thanks to Dennis Agosta who volunteered to take notes at the meeting while I was on vacation.

President Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ, opened the meeting, with 31 people present. Dennis Agosta, W0DSA, gave a report on the 4th of July. We are planning on running both a VHF and HF stations, perhaps packet. We will setup in the park following the July 4 LRA meeting. Dennis asked for a motion to purchase 1000 Archie comics from ARRL to hand out. The expected purchase cost of \$ was approved. Dennis also gave a report on the Ham Class. Code practice sessions are being held on Tuesday and Thursday, on the 115 repeater at 7 PM. Lectures for general upgrade test will not be scheduled until fall.

Jason Fellingham, KC0AIS gave a short repeater report. The repeater greeting has been changed, the CTCSS problem fixed, and macro has been setup to dial Fort Collins/Loveland Automated Weather Observation System. The macro works like phone patch and needs to disconnect. It is useful for weather spotters to get dew point and other weather info. There was a question from floor re: passing PL for paging and private QSO. Jason said the repeater will filter it out. The repeater should be putting out a 100 Hz tone now. Everyone was reminded to monitor the repeater as there were 3 emergency calls last month, including 1 that resulted in a DUI arrest.

Dennis "Duff" Dyer, W0XYZ) reported a new UHF repeater has been purchased. The old UHF repeater is still not working and is in bad shape and when the chance came we needed to move quickly. Duff solicited feedback from a small group of members and received unanimous support for moving forward with the purchase. Total cost of the repeater is \$. We already had \$ allocated to repeater expansion in the club budget. The GE Master Station II should arrive later this month. One technical note: the current duplexers won't handle 100 watts so the unit will need to run at reduced power (25-30 watts) until the UHF cavities are upgraded.

Duff urged everyone to write a letter to their congressman protesting the Land Mobile Services attempt to grab our 440 frequencies (see RM2-9267). Duff also reported the current Tec America catalog has several items of interest to hams: 8 AMP HR battery - \$29.95; 2m HT (no DTMF keypad) \$99; 23 amp continuous power supply - \$79.95.

Steve, WB0UW, gave a short ARES report. Creeks are going down, and severe weather season is here. Brian, W0DZ, reported the ham radio isplay has been setup at Hardees and includes old and new equipment, QSL cards; and old and new magazines. John, KB0VZI reported the MS 150 needs radio operators for 11-12 July, and asked for permission to use 195 repeater for event.

Ellie, N0CQX, reported on BARCFEST scheduled for 27 September 98. Emphasis will be on kids. Those under 12 enter free, ages 13-18 are \$2, and 18 and over will be \$4. She also reported BARC is now doing VE testing on the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7 PM, at the Mormon Church, on Louisville (Washington and South Boulder) Road (on the North side of the road at the top of mesa).

Duff reported the Courage Classic needs operators. This is a 3 day commitment from 17-19 July in Leadville. Contact Duff for more information. Brian, W0DZ, and Steve, N0BF,

reported on plans for Field Day. Things are progressing. They need help for setup and tear down, and equipment for getting the towers up. A satellite station will be setup. Don't forget to bring something for Sat evening pot luck. There will be a birthday cake for the LRA 20th anniversary. Setup starts 12 noon on Friday.

From our Secretary/Treasurer for June 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

August 29-30, 1998: 17th Annual MARC Campfest, Colorado Lions Camp, 4 miles North of Woodland Park on Hwy 67 North, talk-in on 146.82R. Contact Don, AA0NW at 719-687-3692

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

Repeater Status

From Duff Dyer, W0XYZ

The new UHF repeater crystals are in and our guru is about ready to ship it to us. Just as soon as it is received we will get it on the air. While the club has the funds for buying the repeater we don't have the funds to purchase the duplexors needed to make this a first class machine. Many of you have contributed to the repeater fund over the past few years, and I'm going to make a plea for contributions so that we can go ahead and get the duplexors. Don W0KKT has made an offer of a reduced price on commercial cavities but the price is still almost \$.

Solar Update

From the ARRL Letter

Solar activity over the past week was about the same or slightly lower than the week previous. Average sunspot numbers were about the same and average solar flux was down about eight points. Geomagnetic activity was stable, except for June 14 when the planetary K index briefly rose to 5. Planetary A index for the day was 15. Average solar flux for the previous 90 days actually went down one point to 109, and solar flux over the past week was below this value on four out of seven days, indicating a flat trend.

Solar flux is predicted to be about 100 June 19-21, and the Planetary A index is forecast to be 12, 15 and 8. Flux values are expected to drop below 100 after June 21, hit a minimum of 90 on June 26 and 27, and rise above 100 again after July 2 peaking around 106 on July 5 and 6. Unsettled geomagnetic conditions may return around July 1-4 and July 7.

Overall conditions for the next few weeks are predicted to be flat, with no increase in solar activity. This is based on recurring conditions observed as the sun goes through a 27.5 day rotation. Viewing recent solar images on the Web shows few sunspots, and, of the few visible, they seem to be

concentrated outside of the central area that would most affect the earth.

Sunspot numbers for June 11 through June 17 were 95, 122, 148, 104, 79, 71, and 94, with a mean of 101.9. The 10.7-cm flux was 112.4, 112.2, 110.5, 101.9, 100.4, 104, and 100.6, with a mean of 106. The estimated planetary A indices were 8, 8, 6, 15, 8, 8, and 5, with a mean of 8.3.

Satellite Launch Windows Set From the ARRL Letter

The tentative launch date for the TechSat-1B Amateur Radio satellite has been set for June 23-24. That announcement from Assi Friedman, 4X1KX/KK7KX, of Arizona State University. The Russian Space Agency is providing the ride into space.

TechSat-1B is a digital store-and-forward satellite using 9600-baud frequency-shift keying (FSK), much like UO-22, KO-23 or KO-25. TechSat-1B will feature uplinks on 145 MHz and 1.2 GHz and downlinks in the 70-cm band. Friedman says that a telemetry decoding program for the satellite soon will be available.

Elsewhere, the TMSAT microsatellite is set for a June 23 launch from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It will be placed into a 821-km sun-synchronous orbit. An overview of the TMSAT commissioning plan is available at: http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/EE/CSER/UOSAT/amateur/tmsat/tmsat_commissioning_plan.html. Further information and updates are to be posted to UO-22. Uplink frequencies will be 145.925 and 145.975 MHz; downlinks will be at 436.925, 436.900, 436.950, and 436.975 MHz.

Meanwhile, word from Alabama is that the SEDSAT-1 Amateur Radio satellite now is scheduled for launch on a Delta II space vehicle sometime in October. The exact launch date has not been confirmed. SEDSAT will fly as a secondary passenger along with the JPL Deep Space One mission.

SEDSAT-1, under construction at the University of Alabama's Huntsville campus under the direction of Dennis Wingo, KD4ETA, now is complete and is in the final stages of testing. It was to have been launched in July, but problems with the primary payload delayed the launch until this fall. SEDSAT-1 will carry a Mode-L digital transponder as well as a Mode A analog transponder.

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

Howdy folks. I hope your summer is going well for you. There is not much to report to you about the '195' machine this month. However, I need to bring up a very important matter. As most of you know, autopatch macro was added to the repeater just about a month ago and has proven to be a popular feature. That's is good to hear, but you need to know that this macro is an autopatch feature and you should use the macro just as if you were making a call:

- 1.- This is <your callsign> accessing the autopatch
- 2.- Press (The repeater will say, "Telephone call, Automatic Weather System".
- 3.- Pound out when you have heard the message
- 4.- Identify (This is <your callsign> clearing the autopatch)

Also: DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY CLUB CODES ON THE AIR. I have heard a few instances where autopatch codes (including) was given out over the air! Remember macro is NOT for public access and is intended for club use only. FYI:

The following codes can be used by all members of the amateur community. (members/non-members) [All contain extended 20 minute time-out]

Loveland Emergency 911
Loveland Police
Colorado State Patrol
Larimer County Sheriff

Phase 3D Satellite Update From the ARRL Letter

Phase 3D will not fly this year. AMSAT says the Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite will not be aboard when the Ariane 503 launch vehicle goes into space this October. In addition to the Atmospheric Reentry Demonstrator, the European Space Agency will launch a dummy Eutelsat payload instead of Phase 3D, according to a joint ESA/CNES/Arianespace news release. Arianespace is a commercial company that markets Ariane launches. AMSAT-DL President Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, says it's clear to him that Arianespace wants to retain the option of swapping a real Eutelsat payload for the dummy right before launch.

"We simply could not compete with this by our offer of \$1 million and some moral justification of not flying ballast"

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



Amateur Radio Serving the Community
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