



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, w0xyz@info2000.net

Vice-President.....Ted Cline, N0RQV, 593-9303, ted_cline@hp.com

Secretary/Treasurer.....Rick Kile, WB7THT, 962-9179,wb7tth@earthlink.net

Editor.....vacant

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, w0xyz@info2000.net

Repeater Macros.....Jason Fellingham, KC0AIS, 622-8632, kc0ais@usa.net

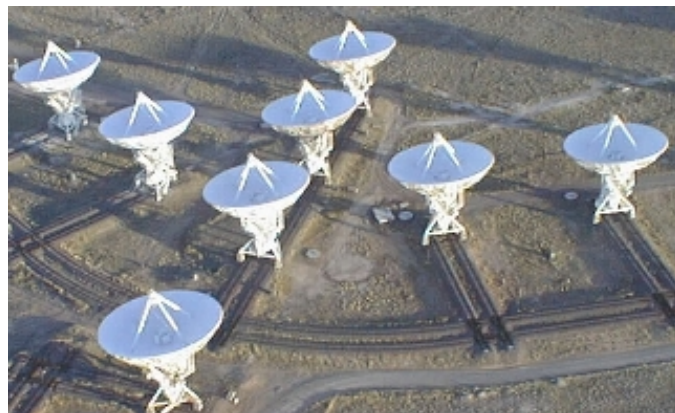
President’s Corner

From Dennis “Duff” Dyer, W0XYZ

I don’t know about all of the rest of you, but for me summer is about officially over. I’ve finally taken my summer vacation, got caught up on all the yard work (yeah, right), and am ready for the labor day weekend that signifies summer is gone. Special THANKS to Tom, N0MW for last months program on the FAA and air traffic control. I don’t think I want Tom’s job, I can’t even remember what I had for dinner last night let alone a bunch of planes in the air. This months program will be a presentation by LeRoy, WA4MHP of his visit to VLA and VLAB in New Mexico. LeRoy and his family were able to walk on one of the dishes while it was not in use and he has a video and slide show presentation to show us. For those of you that don’t know, the Very Large Array (VLA) is one of the world's premier astronomical radio observatories. The VLA consists of 27 antennas arranged in a huge Y pattern up to 36km (22 miles) across -- roughly one and a half times the size of Washington, DC. Each antenna is 25 meters (81 feet) in diameter; they are combined electronically to give the resolution of an antenna 36km (22 miles) across, with the sensitivity of a dish 130 meters (422 feet) in diameter.

Also at the meeting we will have nominations for club officers. Club bylaws specify elections to be held in October.

I will not be running for an office next year as it is time for someone else to infuse the club with some new ideas. Up for nomination is the office of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. Please give some thought to running for an office and helping to support YOUR club.



Next Meeting

The next LRA meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 4 September 1999, at the Wayside Inn in Berthoud, CO. A buffet breakfast is served at 8:00AM and includes scrambled

www.arrl.org/ead/ideas.html as well as other ideas for participating.

Tower & Antenna Height Restrictions in Larimer County From Ron Klein, W0OSK

The Larimer County government is continuing to push for restrictions, via their proposed Land Use Code (LUC), that would add further strength to restrict height of amateur towers and antennas in unincorporated Larimer County. As proposed today, there is no recognition of PRB-1, the FCC preemption which was issued on such matters. Limited individual efforts to get them to recognize the existence of PRB-1 have previously failed.

There is still an opportunity to let our concerns be heard, and potential for getting this serious problem turned around. But, in my opinion, if we don't as a group do something soon, the ability to construct towers and antennas of adequate height to provide effective HF communications from stations in Larimer County is going to become extremely difficult, if not impossible. The time to act is now.

Randy, W0AVV, is working with several of the emergency service agencies and appears to be making progress with getting their support. The details of that are best discussed by Randy.

The Larimer County Board of Commissioners will be holding public hearings on the LUC on September 8 and September 13. This may be the last opportunity to effectively address this problem.

The section of the LUC which causes the concern is below. Paragraph B appears to literally target amateur radio installations. The full contents of the LUC are on the Larimer County Website.

8.9.9 Maximum Structure Height

A. Exceptions. The maximum height limitations of this Code do not apply to church spires; belfries; cupolas; penthouses not used for human occupancy; chimneys; cornices without win-dows; or necessary mechanical devices usually built on the roof.

B. The height limitations of this Code do apply to non-commercial, telecommunications facilities for the transmission or reception of electromagnetic or electro-optic information.

C. The height of Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) facilities is regulated by Section 16 of this Code.

Editors Note:

Randy, W0AVV, is working closely with Larimer County officials to eliminate the language noted above. Prior to contacting any Larimer County officials, please coordinate your response with Randy.

FCC Tackles VEC Application Backlog From The ARRL Letter

The VEC application logjam has broken! As the transition to the new Universal Licensing System completed its second week, the FCC notified Volunteer Examiner Coordinators to

forward their backlog of new and upgrade Amateur Radio applications. Since the ULS went on-line August 16, the FCC had been accepting and processing only a handful of the many Amateur Radio new and upgrade applications. The ULS Task Force had expected to be able to attack the VEC application logjam last week.

ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said that data for 200 exam sessions--more than 550 applications in all, some dating back as early as August 7--were submitted for FCC processing August 26. Jahnke said another two dozen or so sessions representing an additional 75 applications were being prepared for transmittal to the FCC. Since the advent of ULS, the ARRL-VEC was only able to transmit 119 applications from 32 exam sessions. The FCC has already processed 113 of those applications. Not all VECs are set up to file under the new system.

Apologizing for the problems and pleading for patience, the FCC says the Universal Licensing System "is currently operating" and that "performance problems with ULS have been repaired," although some amateurs still report occasional difficulty accessing the system. The FCC said the ULS will be down for a system upgrade from Friday, August 27 at 5 PM Eastern until Monday, August 30 at 8 AM Eastern. The FCC plans to deploy the ULS for the Microwave Service on August 30.

Meanwhile, call sign servers such as UALR, WM7D.net, and QRZ.com, and the FCC Transaction Search on ARRLWeb have not been able to update their licensee data because the FCC has yet to post the necessary ZIP file. The ULS Task Force said last week that it anticipated ZIP file posting to become "routine" by this week, but it did not happen. The ULS Task Force said this week that it hopes to post a ZIP file update on August 30 and daily thereafter. The ZIP file is used by on-line call sign servers as well as by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators to keep track of FCC license grants.

While it's been deploying the ULS for the Amateur Service, the FCC has not processed any vanity call sign applications, although the ULS will accept vanity applications for filing and has inaugurated on-line fee payment by credit card. The last vanity call sign processing run was August 4. The ULS Task Force said it's "undetermined" when vanity processing will resume.

In the meantime, amateurs wanting to check on the status of applications filed via the ULS can do so via the ULS home page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>. Clicking on "Application Search" or "License Search" and plugging in the applicable call sign should yield the desired information.

Once the ULS is working as planned, automated acceptance and processing of electronically filed applications--including vanity--is supposed to occur nightly each business day. The built-in lag of at least 10 days between vanity applications and grants will remain, the ULS Task Force says.

To date, it appears that upwards of 15,000 amateurs already have registered in the ULS. The FCC encourages all licensees to register now, even if they have no immediate need to file an amateur application. On-line registration is available on the ULS home page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>. This site includes complete registration and connection instructions.

Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or ulscomm@fcc.gov.

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