



# The Repeater Rag

## Volume 34 Number 3



**NEWSLETTER OF  
THE DENVER RADIO LEAGUE**  
*A CLUB DEVOTED TO  
QUALITY AMATEUR RADIO*

Published in Centennial, Colorado

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**REPEATER LOCATIONS:**

146.88Ø ..... Warren Mountain

146.64Ø .....Centennial Cone

449.6ØØ ..... Warren Mountain

145.Ø5Ø Digi..... Warren Mountain

**Repeater Identifier: WAØKBT**

**DRL website: [www.denverradioleague.org](http://www.denverradioleague.org)**

**or [www.eoss.org/drl](http://www.eoss.org/drl)**

*The Denver Radio League is open to all licensed  
amateur radio operators. Repeater usage is  
limited to properly licensed hams.*

**MEMBERSHIP DUES AND RENEWALS**

**~ Please make checks (\$15) payable only to  
Denver Radio League or DRL ~**

Remit to: Jim Hart, WØNFD

6882 South Prince Circle

Littleton, Colorado 80120

For information, contact Jim at 303-794-0196

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
REMINDER**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

**7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.**

**BEMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**6014 South Datura Street**

**Littleton, Colorado 80120-3636**

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**From the Prez**

**November 2011 Notes**

The DRL Fun Net is off the ground. The Net started on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> with 8 ± participants. Because my wife and I were in England for five weeks, I missed the first three meetings. The Net is scheduled to run on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on 146.880 MHz. I don't want the Net to conflict with our normal meetings, so the Net will not be held on meeting nights.

The major topic on the evening of 10/19 was some of our flying experiences – light or heavy – it didn't matter. My most recent experience was that trip to England aboard a Boeing Triple Seven – both ways. We visited London, Oxford, Colchester, Ipswich, and Cambridge.

As a sidetrack, we participated in an Earthwatch Project for a week near Oxford. This is the kind of project where you pay them for the privilege to work on what interests them. In this case they were trapping small mammals (voles and field mice), weighing them, identifying them, and sexing them. We checked 120 traps twice a day.

Our mode of surface transportation was by bus. Wouldn't dare to drive. Those people drive on the left side of the road.

For the next meeting let's put on our creative thinking hat and come up with some ideas of what we want from the DRL. It seems the only thing the organization does is support the repeaters. Maybe that is all we want. Or maybe we would want more. Let's discuss it at the next meeting.

See you on the Fun Net.

73 & 88,  
George Brady, KCØYHA

*Storm Chasing Presentation*  
*Tim Samaras, WJØG*

The program for the November meeting is a 'must see'! National Geographic Channel's Severe-Storms Researcher and Discovery Channel's Storm Chaser's Tim Samaras will present his program on severe weather, storm chasing and amateur radio.

Tim has actively chased storms for almost 30 years and currently spends May and June of each year in a truck tracking tornadoes. He and his team predict where a tornado will occur and then drop several probes in the tornado's path to measure humidity, static pressure, temperature, wind speed and direction. The information gathered by these probes not only contributes to the knowledge of how and why tornadoes form, but also can be used to save lives by predicting a tornado's future path. Samaras holds the Guinness World Record for measuring the lowest pressure within a tornado and is the only person to successfully collect video from inside a tornado. In addition, he co-authored the book "Tornado Hunter," which details some of his most harrowing experiences chasing storms.

You can read more about Tim at National Geo's website, <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/explorers/tim-samaras/> or for more fun, Google Tim Samaras and read for hours!

73 & 88,  
See you at the meeting!  
Tim Armagost, WBØTUB

*STUDENTS AND HAM CLASSES*

Hi, folks!

I hope you all had a great summer. I took a short vacation the last couple of months, but now it's back to work.

It's Back to School Time...for Ham Radio, too!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

As I write this, it's about 85 degrees, and I'm sitting on the patio of a cottage overlooking Elk Lake in northern Michigan. This idyllic spot is about as far away from school as you can get. And yet, in less than a month, kids will be back in school, and if kids are going to be back in school, why not ham radio operators?

The fall is a good time to begin teaching a new group of Technicians. I favor the "Tech in a Day" or "Ham Cram" type of class. This type of class focuses on teaching students the answers to questions on the test rather than the material itself.

There's a lot of controversy about this, and many decry this method of teaching, but I think the best way to learn about ham radio is by actually doing it, and you can't do if you don't have a license. Besides, how much more instruction will students actually get in a more traditional eight-week or ten-week course, maybe 16 hours? Will those 16 hours make that much of a difference?

For the sake of argument, let's say that you've decided to offer a one-day Tech class. Now what? Well, the first thing you have to do is to find a place to teach it. Possible sites include your local public library, a township hall, a community college, perhaps even your church.

Now that you have the place, you need to find some students. Your local emergency-management group would be a good place to start. Also, make sure a notice gets published in your amateur radio club's newsletter. Chances are most of the subscribers already have licenses, but they may have friends or relatives who would be interested. Also, make sure the class gets listed in the upcoming events section of local newspapers or magazines.

Once people start signing up, you should suggest that they either purchase a study guide or download my free study guide ([www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual)). Because I use my study guide when teaching the class, I always

advise them to get a copy, but if you'll be using other materials, then your advice may differ.

I counsel the students to read through my study guide a few times and take some online practice tests before coming to class. That will make them familiar with the material, especially areas they may be weak in or have questions about. By bringing those questions to class, we can address those areas in a little more depth, which will, hopefully, give them the help they need to pass the test.

The class itself is six hours long, running from 9am to 3pm, at which time we give them the test. This is not a lot of time for the amount of material I have to cover, so I move along at a pretty brisk pace. I concentrate on giving them the answers, but with enough context to that it all makes sense.

OK, let's say your class was wildly successful, and you now have a group of newly-minted Techs. What do you do now?

Well, you might consider offering some short sessions on what ham radio operators do--Ham Radio 101, so to speak. The topics could include how to choose your first radio, the basics of FM repeater and net operation, and building your first antenna (say a 2m ground plane). They'll be more enthusiastic about these classes now that they actually have a license. It might also be a good idea to schedule a General Class license course for sometime shortly after the Tech class. This will encourage them to upgrade while they are enthusiastic about the hobby. I hope that this has encouraged you to offer some ham radio courses of your own. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com) or phone me at 734-930-6564. Good luck, and let me know how your classes turn out.

When not preparing for his next ham radio class, Dan publishes the "No-Nonsense" study guides for the Technician and General Class license exams. Free versions and print version are available from his website at [www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual). E-book versions are available for the Kindle and devices that run the Kindle app on Amazon.Com and for the Nook on [BarnesandNoble.Com](http://BarnesandNoble.Com).

73 & 88,  
Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

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*Join us for "the fun net" each Wednesday  
nite on 146.88 at 1930 hours. It's a great  
time and a lot of fun!*

### *Request for Assistance*

Jack Pansini, WAØBDF, needs some assistance in bringing coffee and donuts to the meetings. We need someone to plan on it, and stop and pick up the goodies and bring them along. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance!!!

### *Email Address Request*

Please send your email address in to Jack Pansini, WAØBDF, Secretary, as soon as possible or call him or Jim Hart, WØNFD, Treasurer and keeper of the roster updates. There are times I may have something I could get out to you the members if I had access to your address. Please let Jack know and he can update Jim in updating the rosters so we're all current. This may seem trivial, but in actuality, it is meant in the sincerest means possible. Please take the time to update any incorrect information Jim may have for you, e.g., phone number, address change, etc. Thank you for your prompt attention to this.

Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL  
Editor

### *Repeater Rag Articles for Publication*

Please share your experiences with Amateur Radio! No doubt you have met some interesting Hams on the air and perhaps have carried on long relationships of communications. It would be fun and interesting to read about these friendships and some of the things you've shared. Had an interesting or challenging experience while being out and about or on the air? Tell us about it!

The Repeater Rag is your newsletter and it's meant to bring you current information, articles of interest, or items that might help you solve a problem you have. By sharing, we all can learn a lot. Take the time to drop me a line and I will hold it until the next publication is coming up. They are of interest to everyone so let's hear from you!

Thank you,  
Eileen Armagost, WDØDGL  
Editor



Here's wishing you the happiest of Turkey Days with friends and family. Since we won't see another Repeater Rag until 2012, I'd like to also take the time to wish you the happiest of holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year now and always!!!

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For Sale: Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna. Includes manual, impedance matching assembly coax and 12 foot mast. \$75.00 or BO. Jack, WAØBDF 303-794-5718