Colorado QRP Club

The Low Down

Promoting QRP Since 1994

Issue 59 October/November 2006

Club News...

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES 2006

The Colorado QRP Club is seeking to sponsor the QRP Single Operator CW and Phone Colorado section plaques for ARRL 2006 Sweepstakes. The ARRL has been contated and we await the final details. ARRL Sweepstakes will be held November 4-6 2006 for CW and November 18-20 2006 for phone. Offical rules can be found at :

http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/novss.html

CQ CQ CQ Net controllers

The Colorado QRP Club is in need of Net Controllers for the Monday night 2M nets. It's easy and it's fun. We provide you with the script and you can take it from there to develop your own "Net-tique". If you live on the Denver Front Range from Ft. Collins to Colorado Springs please consider a try at the mike. Contact Jim Pope - KG0PP at Ejim @aol.com

Morse Express 2006 Christmas Collection key
See page 4 for details

Hamcon Colorado 2006 – A Great Weekend for All !!
Steve Finch, AIØW

Hamcon Colorado 2006 was a great place to spend a ham radio weekend. The weather was fabulous. Nearly 425 hams, spouses, and guests shared the facilities at the Holiday Inn in Estes Park. The conference began on Friday evening, June 9, and ended with the grand prize drawing at Sunday noon. In between were forums, technical sessions, workshops, special events station - W1AW/Ø, a transmitter hunt, meals with great speakers, and an exhibition hall full of exhibitors and clubs. Convention Chairman, Jerry VerDuft, ADØA, had all the many Hamcon committee members and volunteers ready to put on a fabulous weekend!

I was unable to attend the Friday evening activities, but those who attended the Friday evening dinner heard from Brian Mileshosky,

Continued on page 3

Picture credits to

Al Dawkinsi - KUI0RB
Marshall Emm - N1FN

Inside:

Our next Regular meeting will take place
Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 10:00 am
Meeting Location: Offices of Milestone Technologies
10691 East Bethany Drive, Suite 800
Aurora, Colorado

Colorado QRP Club
Post Office Box 17174
Golden CO 80402-6019

For more information, visit our website at www.cqc.org

The Low Down

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QRP Information Net: The Colorado QRP Club also meets on the air every Monday evening at 2000 local time on the 147.225 repeater serving the eastern slope of the Rockies from Cheyenne, WY, to Pueblo, CO, with linked repeaters in Boulder (145.46) and Colorado Springs (145.16). Backup frequency: 145.145. The Club's Denver metro simplex liaison frequency is 146.445.

Meeting Dates: 2004 Meetings: Jan. 10, Mar. 13, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, Nov. 13 at a location to be determined. Annual Picnic: Sat. Sept 18, 2004. Annual Banquet: To Be Announced. Changes will be announced on the Monday evening Net and posted on the WWW,CQC.ORG website, if time permits.

Informal Monthly QRP Gatherings: Members meet informally at a local restaurant -- details on the web-site. Annual Dues: $12.00. Join via the internet at WWW.CQC.ORG. Or, send dues and requests for membership applications to: CQC, POB 17174, Golden CO 80402-6019.

Internet: WWW.CQC.ORG. Information, membership, renewals, officers, activities, CQC Swap List and CQC-List subscriptions.

Correspondence: Editor, The Low Down POB 17174. Golden CO 80402-6019.

CQC Logo mugs

Don't leave your shack without it!! Vince, our club Secretary, arm-wrestled a half dozen vendors until we got a good deal on a few dozen of these beautiful, cobalt-blue coffee mugs. Get yours while supplies last!!

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

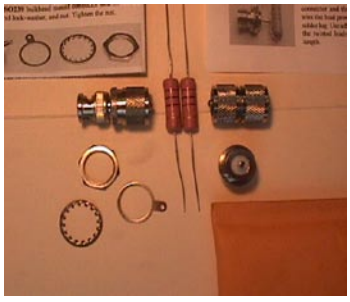
Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

$10.00 (Pick one up at our meeting or other gathering) $4.00 (Shipping and handling if we mail one to you...) Order from our web site using our PayPal secure service.

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

CQC RFL-10 QRP Dummy Load Kit

The kit consists of 2 5W metal oxide resistors an SO239 socket and includes adaptors for connecting to either SO239or BNC antenna sockets. Rates to 10W continuos power for at least 60 seconds, with a flat SWR accross the HF spectrum.



$7.00 - Members
(Includes Shipping and Handling!)
$9.00 - Non Members
(Includes Shipping and Handling!)

New
CQC Logo Tee Shirts

These beautiful tees are 100% cotton with the club logo and motto. Your call sign and name call can be added for $2
Available in sizes XXL, XL, L and M

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

$12.00 plain or $14.00 with Call and/or Name
$4.00 Shipping and handling
Order from our web site or pick one up at the next meeting and please specifiy size.

Photo courtesy Marshall Emm N1FN

Tentative Meeting
Scheculde for 2005/2006:

May 13 - Regular
June 10 - Chat 'N Chew
June 24 - Field Day
July 11 - Regular
Aug 12 - Chat 'N Chew
Sept 9 - Regular
Oct 14 - Chat 'N Chew
Nov 11 - Regular
Dec 9 - Chat 'N Chew

Regular Meeting Location:
Offices of Milestone Technologies
10691 East Bethany Drive,
Suite 800
Aurora, Colorado

N5ZGT, the Rocky Mountain Division Vice Director, who spoke about the Future of Amateur Radio; Dr. Evelyn Patterson, granddaughter of ARRL co-founder, Clarence Tuska, who spoke about the life and times of her grandfather; and enforcement "war stories" from Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Special Counsel, FCC Enforcement Bureau.

Saturday morning dawned with a clear, bright, blue sky and streams of hams flowing into the Holiday Inn parking lot. The day's activities began at 9:00 am with sessions, workshops and forums being held hourly. I got there just before the 9:00 sessions began. A list of the activities can be found at the end of this article. I will comment on those activities I participated in and sessions I attended. However, all of the workshops, forums, and sessions were excellent.

Sessions, Workshops, and Forums

Test Equipment for Amateur Radio, by Bob Witte, KØNR, Colorado Technical Coordinator, was the first workshop I attended. Bob has written two books on test equipment. He talked about what equipment is necessary for basic troubleshooting and measurement and then hit some advanced topics. The two pieces of equipment most needed by the new amateur are a digital volt meter and an SWR meter. He also discussed frequency counters, oscilloscopes, and an antenna analyzer. He focused on the utility of the MFJ antenna analyzers. I was amazed at the versatility of this piece of test equipment!

Basic Antenna Modeling with EZNEC, by Mark Foster, KØEX, was next. Mark illustrated the ease of modeling using the EZNEC antenna modeling program developed by Roy Lewallen, W7EL. Using a dipole as the antenna, Mark illustrated how to use EZNEC to determine antenna pattern, impedances, take-off angles, SWR profile, and the effect of various grounds. It was amazing to model an antenna and establish the optimum characteristics based on your home QTH via computer without having to spend hours of actual experimentation. He also discussed using transmission lines and stub matching in the model. While it may seem this was an advanced topic, his presentation made it understandable for the antenna modeling beginner.

Proper Antenna/Tower and Station Grounding Techniques, by Mike Higgins, K6AER, showed me just how inadequate my station and

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MORSE Express
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CONTACT: MARSHALL EMM (303) 752-3382

HAM RADIO NEW PRODUCTS

2006 Christmas Key

Morse Express has released its 2006 Christmas Key.

The 2006 Christmas Key is a fully operational telegraph key, hand machined from solid brass, under-plated with nickel and finished in 18 carat gold. It measures 2" by 1¼" at the base and weighs a surprising 4½ ounces. All of the usual adjustments (trunnion bearing tension, lever spring tension, and contact spacing) are available by means of gold plated screws with matching locknuts, and the sculpted ebony knob is very comfortable to use.

According to Marshall Emm (N1FN) at Morse Express, the machining and assembly processes were done by hand. The contacts are at the rear of the key, providing additional leverage and a very smooth feel. This is a beautiful little key that will make an excellent Christmas tree decoration or stocking stuffer, but is also a fully functional key. It's one of the smallest practical keys we've ever seen, so it will be very handy for QRP portable operations. It will also add something special to Straight Key Night.

The base of each key is engraved with the Morse Express "Speedy Key" logo and "Christmas 2006." This is a LIMITED EDITION of 150 keys, and each key bears an engraved serial number on the base. The 2006 Christmas Key is $69.95, plus s/h, and is available only from Morse Express. Pictures and more information are available on the Morse Express web site at www.MorseX.com where you will also find secure ordering facilities.

Call (800) 238-8205 toll free to order by phone, or (303) 752-3382 for more information.

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antenna grounding efforts have been. I learned how to create a good lightening ground as well as an adequate station ground. Mike is a microwave engineer and is responsible for the electrical and RF grounding for Sprint's microwave towers. He has an antenna system near Elizabeth, a lightening Mecca. His towers have been hit several times without any damage to his equipment. While he presented too much information to summarize here, he has agreed to present this program for the CQC later this year.

After lunch, I attended another program by Bob Witte, KØNR, Broadband Over Power Line (BPL). Bob's presentation included actual BPL interference tests conducted in Connecticut last year. Without BPL interference, a 20 meter net was Q5. With BPL interference, the net was totally overpowered with a S9+20 db interference (as well as everything else on the band). In reality, the interference was over the entire HF amateur bands. This is a real threat to our enjoyment of the hobby and we should do whatever we can to thwart the deployment of this technology.

Interference Issues and Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) Compliance by Jon Sprague, WB7UIA, Denver FCC Field Office. Jon talked about many sources of non-ham radio interference such as dimmer switches, electric blankets, WIFI gone-bad, and other common household appliances. While all these items are supposed to comply with Part 15 of the FCC regulations, some do not and cause interference. Two particularly bad interference potentials are defective power line transformers and corroded connections. He demonstrated interference finding equipment. As for ham interference, he spoke about overdriving transmitters and linears (something we QRPers don't have to worry about), and illegal equipment that does not meet FCC type acceptance. While the FCC allows hams to police themselves (and we do a good job), when necessary the FCC and their sophisticated equipment is called into action.

The ARRL Forum – "Preparing for the Future," was moderated by Mike Morgan, NØMPM. On the ARRL panel were Rev Morgan, WS7EW, Rocky Mountain Division Director; Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain Division Vice Director; Jeff Ryan, KØRM, Colorado Section Manager; Rob Roller, NL7V, Section Emergency Coordinator; and other Colorado Section officers and interest specialists. Amateur radio's involvement in Katrina and other natural disasters were discussed. Some discussion on the forest fire dangers here in Colorado were also discussed. Other items as attracting youth interest in amateur radio, ARRL organization, ARRL lobbying efforts, ARES interfacing with local service agencies were among topics discussed. It is clear that the ARRL is extremely active in many areas of amateur radio advocacy.

Understanding Receiver Specifications by Larry Weinstein, KØNA, attracted a lively group of techies with some well known experts like Rob Sherwood, of Sherwood Electronics. Larry introduced several measurements – noise floor, minimum discernable signal, dynamic range, third order intercept, third order dynamic range, and how to measure them. From his analysis, the most important specification is third order dynamic range. Most experts there also agreed. Larry showed how phase noise limits many modern transceiver's performance. He illustrated graphically the effects of roofing filters, attenuation of the signal, filter bandwidth, and measurements using 20 khz, 5 khz, and 2 khz spacing between two signals. Which current radio has the best receiver – well no one really knows as each technician has their preferred measurement for evaluation. Using Larry's favorite, their order dynamic range, TenTec Orion II, the old Drake TR-7, Icom IC-7800 (but yet to be really tested), and the Yaesu new FT-2000 and 9000 series (again these have yet to be fully tested). You do get what you pay for when it comes to receiver performance. However, rigs like the Yaesu FT-100D, Icom 746 Pro III, and TenTec Jupiter give a good run for their reasonable cost.

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Product Review
MFJ-1910 33 Foot Telescoping Fiberglass Antenna Mast

One of the oldest antenna maxims is “higher is better.” That is at least true if one wants long distance contacts, such as DX from Colorado to Europe and the Far East. Here at my QTH I currently have only vertically challenged dipoles or doublets. My one lone pine tree is only about 25 feet above the surrounding terrain, which itself slopes down into a rather deep gulch. My single story ranch style house is not much help. The chimney is only slightly higher than the pine tree.

A fine 133 foot doublet antenna does stretch across the back yard, but one can almost jump up and touch its center insulator. I feed it with ladder line and an MFJ Versa Tuner, so it tunes reasonably well on all bands, even including 160 meters. I say it tunes well, but it certainly does not work all that well. The center insulator is actually at eye level looking out the kitchen window, because of the drop off in the back yard.

So, I have been searching for a good center mast to prop up the middle of that doublet to make it more of an inverted Vee. I’ve tried a number of devices, including plastic pipe and wooden sticks. The plastic pipe broke in a stiff wind and the wooden sticks were not long enough to be of any use.

Jake, N0LX, who is a master mobile antenna craftsman and experimenter, clued me in to the MFJ mast, and to another mast made by an east coast company called Jack-kite. I ordered the Jack-kite 31 foot collapsible fiberglass mast, but the company never delivered it.

So, on Monday I purchased the MFJ 33 foot collapsible fiberglass mast from HRO on Illif. The price was $79.95, plus tax. Much as I hate to spend money on my hobby, I considered this a reasonable price, considering all the failed attempts that I had undertaken to raise the center of the doublet.

The MFJ antenna mast, when collapsed, is only 3.8 feet long, as each succeeding section fits within the prior section. It easily extends, starting at the top. Each section is secured by twisting it into the next larger section once it is extended. It is light enough for one person to easily handle, and I had no trouble raising it to its full height. It is colored brown, so it does not stand out as a shiny aluminum mast would. Something to consider if neighbors are not Amateur Radio Operations friendly.

The label on the outer-most section states that the mast can be used to hold up full sized dipoles. To me, a full sized dipole is one for 80 meters, about 133 feet long, with a center insulator. That described my antenna exactly. Just looking at the upper sections of the mast, when extended, however, suggested that it would not really hold up the center insulator and number 14 copper-clad steel wire. So, I did not attach the insulator at the top, but rather at the second section from the top, which appeared to be considerably stronger than the tip section. The tip section looks much like the tip section of a nine foot five weight fly rod. Slender and flexible.

With everything taped in place and guy ropes attached, I started to extend the antenna. Straight up it went. I was exhilarated. Up, up, it went. Fifteen feet. Twenty feet. Suddenly the top sagged to one side and I heard a sickening snap-splinter-smash-thud. So much for the MFJ mast. It broke in two about 9 feet below the top. The weight of the

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The Saturday Banquet

CQC Hamcon2006

Over 200 hams crowded into the banquet room to enjoy fellowship, a good dinner, and an interesting speech by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. With ten hams to a table, lots of conversation, war stories, and general ham talk was shared. Club members, Rich High, WØHEP, and wife, and John Hewitt, KA3RDZ, sat with me along with hams from Texas and the Colorado Springs area. We "dined" on sliced roast beef, chicken, and steamed vegetables. The meal was topped off with cheese cake with fruit. It was a good dinner!

Several awards and presentations were made to attending hams. Unfortunately, I did not write down all of them, but I remember that Bob Witte, KØNR, received the Colorado Section Ham of the Year. After presentations, Riley enlightened all of us on FCC enforcement actions since he became Special Counsel seven years ago. Prior to Riley's arrival, enforcement was very hit and miss. The amateur community, while trying to self-police, had no "teeth" in their enforcement attempts. It seems the FCC was uninterested in what was happening with the hams. Rule violations were rising and talk about doing something negative to the ham service was a distinct possibility. When Riley began aggressive enforcement, offending hams realized that the FCC meant business and through our self-policing and the FCC backing up helpful hams with fines and other sanctions, the amateur service cleaned itself up. Currently, the amateur service is doing a great job of self-policing and management. His talk was interesting and well presented.

Saturday Night Woulff Hong Initiation

The Woulff Hong is a fun organization of amateurs who are dedicated to first class operating skills. To become a Woulff Hong member, you must be an ARRL member and be initiated into the organization only at National, Division, or State convention. The ceremony was held at 12:00 midnight when yours truly was fast asleep. Maybe I'll be up for initiation at Hamcon Colorado 2009!

Sunday Morning Breakfast

This was a great breakfast. About 75 hams attended the breakfast. A buffet of breakfast goodies made even the hungriest ham happy. After thirty minutes of breakfast, Harold Kramer, WJ1B, the new ARRL COO and QST Editor, gave a great talk on changes within the ARRL. I have been a life member of the ARRL since 1978. Over the years, I have been very skeptical of what the League as doing other than publishing QST. And in fact, many long time ARRL members felt much the same way. The ARRL needed some new blood and Harold was just the right person for the job. He has begun implementing many great changes to the ARRL, QST, and the Field Organization that will move the ARRL towards a more valuable organization especially in protecting our amateur privileges. We need to support his efforts. If you receive QST, he frequently has a column describing some of the changes.

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Stories and pictures for the CQC Low Down are provided by CQC Club Members. Please consider sharing your QRP experience wth other members and friends. All stories are welcome and appreciated.
They can be submitted to KI0RB@arrl.net

ladder line, the insulator and the copper-clad apparently was too much, at least for this particular specimen.

My greatest disappointment was not that it broke, because I was doubtful from the start, but rather that I would not be able to make good European DX contacts the next morning. Sadder but wiser, I untaped the top section, folded the base section back down to its collapsed position, and put it back in the nice plastic case that it came in.

My next question was what, if any, recourse I might have under the famous MFJ "no matter what" warranty. Reading the warranty paper that came with the antenna did not reveal any such statement as "no matter what." Because of my past MFJ equipment experiences, I had asked the gentleman at HRO when I purchased it what I should do in case I had a warranty claim. "Return it to us within the first ten days. After that send it directly to MFJ."

So, back to HRO the next morning. They could not have been nicer. Took it back and offered me either a new MFJ mast, or a full refund. I chose the refund. They also offered me some suggestions for making the kind of mast I need. Mostly, they said to go to Lowe's or Home Depot and poke around until I find something strong enough and long enough to do what I need to have done.

While the MFJ mast may not be strong enough to hold up a full sized dipole or doublet, it would make a dandy vertical antenna support. It did not appear to need guy ropes in a light breeze, but no doubt would need something to keep it from flopping around in a stiffer wind. At 33 feet in length, it would be just about a quarter wave for 40 meters. It certainly is strong enough to support a thin wire taped to its top and taped down its length to the bottom. With proper ground wires, it could be an excellent portable 40 meter whip. Using some of the tuners that Jake, N0LX has built, it would be an excellent half wave antenna for 20 meters. Check out Jake's web page for more information. You can find it at http://www.n0lx.com/.

So, it is back to the drawing board, and I am off to Lowe's and Home Depot to continue my quest for the "perfect" doublet support mast.

Pete, NO2D.

The MFJ-1910 Telescoping Fiberglass Mast is 33 feet tall, yet collapses to a mere 3.8 feet and weighs only 3.3 pounds! You simply pull out each section and twist to lock. It extends to a whopping 33 feet -- a full quarter wave on 40 meters! The bottom section is 1 3/4 inches in diameter. It's great for portable and temporary use -- traveling, camping, from hotels, hamfests, field day, DX-peditions. Put up a full size inverted Vee dipole or full size vertical antenna in minutes and get full size performance! You can Use to make other antenna like loops and quads! The Telescoping Fiberglass Mast is made of super strong fiberglass flexes to resist breaking. Its black coating resists UV.

More Sessions, Workshops, and Forums

Modern Kit Building, by Brian Wood, WØDZ, owner of DZKits. Brian traced the kit building phenomena in ham radio from the first Heathkits and several other brands, up through today with Elecraft, DZKits, and many QRP group kits. Kit building is alive and well, especially among QRPers. Brian had examples of several kits for display and discussed the good, bad, and ugly of kit building. The session was well attended given Sunday is a reduced attendance day. Brian agreed to provide a program to the new technical club, the 285 Techconnect Radio Club, in the fall when his sophisticated transceiver kit is ready to sell.

QRP Boot Camp: Get Ready for a Fun Ham Radio Activity, by Rich High, WØHEP. While I did not attend this workshop as it was held at the same time as the kit building session, Rich did a great job introducing QRP to several hams. Rich showed the fun of QRP and the many ways that QRP is the last area for real homebrewing for the average ham.

W1AW/Ø, the special events station. I had an opportunity to use an Icom 746 Pro III that was loaned for special events station. This is a rig worth considering for my next "upgrade." Several hundred contacts were made by convention attendees. It was a busy place and the only place to get free coffee (which I took advantage of several times during the weekend).

Good Bye Gathering

All of us who held out until the final meeting were treated to a fast give-away of all unclaimed prizes along with awarding the grand prize – a Yaesu FT-857. I won two prizes – a Digikey collared-short sleeve shirt and a book, A History of Classic Radio, 2nd Edition. This great book follows the develop of radio (commercial and amateur) from 1939 through 1947. It is great fun reading especially when I wear the Digikey pullover. On the way to the parking lot, I overheard many positive comments about the great weekend and great convention.

Final Thoughts

Wow! A whole weekend of ham fun and learning. Life does not get any better than this! With Hamcon Colorado happening only once every three years, it is one convention to not miss. The convention attendees are "hard core" hams and are the hams; the ones we want for our Club and for QRP in general. We should plan for a more serious presence at Hamcon 2009. (I know some members had planned to attend that then were unable to get away.) If you love ham radio, you'll love Hamcon. Three years goes by quickly!

Cleaning out the shack? Consider a donation to the Colorado QRP Club of some of your old equipment for our Hamfest Garage Sale box. All proceeds from the sale of donated equipment goes to fund club projects and sponsorship.

They can be submitted to KI0RB@arrl.net

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W0CQC Field Day

How we compete in a non-contest event

Year	Top 10	QSO's	Score
2006		1282	13.090
2005	10th	1337	13260
2004	none	1530	14435
2003	7th	1363	12750
2002	none	903	9082
		Not on Rampart Range (fires) setup at KG0PP	
2001	3rd	2310	20360
		3A added a SSB stn	
2000	8th	1688	15025
1999	7th	1745	15355

I all started with Paul KF7MD moving from Washington State. Paul was the FD coordinator for a QRP Club in Washington. He brought his experience a supply of cable, wire, ropes a 60 ft tower all strapped to a mini van. The early years (late 90's) the CQC Field day site was in Elizabeth Co. Score were OK but Paul needed experienced CW ops because the only way to rank high in QRP FD is to run CW and have superior antennas.

Over the years we recruited myself, Phil N0KE, Larry N2WW, Mike K0MF and Jay NT5E who had to jump out at the last minute this year. Plus the regulars Tim KR0U, Rich W0HEP, Roger WA0JBR, Dick AB0CD, Vince KI0RB, Frank K0FEI.and occasionally a visit by Marshall N1FN. Again the key is 90 + % CW, QRP multiplier, good CW operators, low current drain radios, excellent antennas and a great site is the key.

In the 90's Colorado's premier FD day station and FD site was K0NA with featured ops like N2IC, K0EU, W0CP and K9AY with a very experienced support staff. They held a site on Rampart Range Road at 8005 ft with a clear shot 360 degrees. They had 3 crank up towers 4 el on 20m and 15m, a tribander, wire, coax, rope stakes, all on a trailer.

K9AY called Rich W0HEP the president of CQC. He left a message saying CQC could have the whole trailer but we had to get it moved off the street in 24 hours. If his neighbors were instructed to have it towed the junkyard. Rich convinced Nate KD0UE to pick up the trailer and store it in his back yard. CQC now had dibs on the Rampart Range site. K0NA had retired the site and trailer.

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Hamcon Colorado 2006
Forums, Workshops, and Other Activities

Friday, June 9

ARRL - Emergency Coordinators (EC) Meeting [12:30 pm - 2:30 pm]

ARRL - Colorado Section Cabinet Meeting

Evening Dinner – Speakers: Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT; Dr. Evelyn Patterson; Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

Saturday, June 10

Forum - Peter I Dxpedition: Taking Ham Radio To The Limits [2 Hours]

Forum - OSCAR: Working Ham Radio Satellites

Forum - NTS/Traffic: History, Today, Future (2 Hours]

Forum - Test Equipment For Amateur Radio

Forum - Amateur Radio Instruction: An Introduction

Forum - Edge Of Space Science (EOSS) (2 Hours]

Forum- Basic Antenna Modeling With EZNEC Software

Forum - Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) Systems

Forum - Youth in Amateur Radio: BARC Juniors (2 Hours]

Forum - EMCOMM: Katrina Lessons

Forum - Copper J-Style Antennas: Designing & Building

Forum - Grounding Your Station, Antenna and Tower

Forum - Station Ergonomics: Is Your Station Within Reach?

Social - NTS/ARES Hospitality Room: Refreshments & Digital Comm Display

Ladies Luncheon - Speaker - Ann Trudeau KAØZFI

Forum - ARRL Open Forum: Open To All (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm]

Forum - Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL)

Forum - Digital Trunked Radio Systems (DTRS)

Forum - New Hams Forum: A Must For Newly Licensed Hams

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Forum - Interference Issues & Radio Frequency Radiation (FCC)

Forum -Amateur Radio Emergency Service CARES): The Future[2 Hours]

Forum - Understanding Receiver Specifications

Forum - Transmitter Hunt Tutorial

Forum - Echo Link: What Is It? How Do You Use It?

Social - Pre-Banquet Gathering - Cash Bar

Banquet - Speaker - Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH

Ham Radio Fun - Operate Special Event Station - W1AW/ø

Ham Radio Fun - CW Pileup Contest - Pikes Peak DX Group Table

Ham Radio Fun - QLF Contest

Ham Radio Fun - Wouff Hong

Sunday, June 11

RRL Breakfast -Speaker - Harold Kramer WJIB (2 Hours]

Forum - EMCOMM: Winlink & Digital Modes (10:00 am - 11:30 pm)

Forum - Military Affairs Radio Service (MARS) Forum [10:00 am - 11:30 pm] —

Forum - QRP Boot Camp: Get Ready for Fun

Forum - Modern Kit Building (10:00am - 11:30pm)

Ham Radio Fun - Transmitter Hunt

Ham Radio Fun - Operate Special Event Station - W1AW/Ø

PRIZE DRAWINGS

The old site the trail bikers made it into a circular dirt track. No help from the Rangers we were out numbered

In 1999 CQC setup for the first time at the K0NA magic site and scored 7th in the nation with 1734 q's and 15,355 points. Yes we were near the peak of the sun spot cycle but it was a true magic site. I always said "we can see New Jersey from there".

CQC has taken over the winning runs of K0NA and hold top scores in 2A and 3A battery.

YES FD is not a contest and but K0NA was competitive and W0CQC is also competitive. We usually run two sites, one casual- non competitive and our competitive site.
The key to a big score is expert staff of planners to insure all the parts and pieces come together. This usually starts a month before FD but gets hectic a couple weeks before.
Experienced CW ops that are willing to take long operating runs. Good radios with low current drain. Big rigs are nice but they drain batteries like crazy. We have used Elecraft K2's the last few years and we need one battery to carry us for 24 hours.

Antennas, we have to thank Gary Breed K9AY for designing an easy to erect 50 ft crank up aluminum tower and full size 4 el 15m yagi. The 20m yagi is a breeze to erect because the yagi boom to mast is a tilt system that tilts into place as the tower is pulled up. With the large stakes driven into the ground and the ropes properly set, 4 men can raise a 50 ft crank up with the 4 el 26 ft boom yagi. Gary has engineered a system that really works. I know Gary looks at the results of Field Day and thinks, "It still works after all these years". Thanks Gary.

FD 2006 K0FEI ready to climb 3300 more feet up the mountain.

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The tilting boom to mast on the 20m yagi built by K9AY

CQC Field Day

Last year Mike K0MF operated with W0CQC. He usually operated with great success on his own using trailer mounted antennas and mini beams. After he set his station up I brought over the coax from the 20m yagi and he hooked it up to his K2 and the next words were WOW I can't believe it.

Take down is always a feat but this year with about 3 extra helpers we were completely dismantled and the trailer loaded in two hours.
The system just works. Just like a Denver Bronco running back, just put in a slightly above average running back and the system will get him 1000 yards.

This year we moved to a new site up about 2 more miles. Vince found the site by using Google World and flew over in a small plane to check it out. We have area about the size of a football field with just a few trail bikes.

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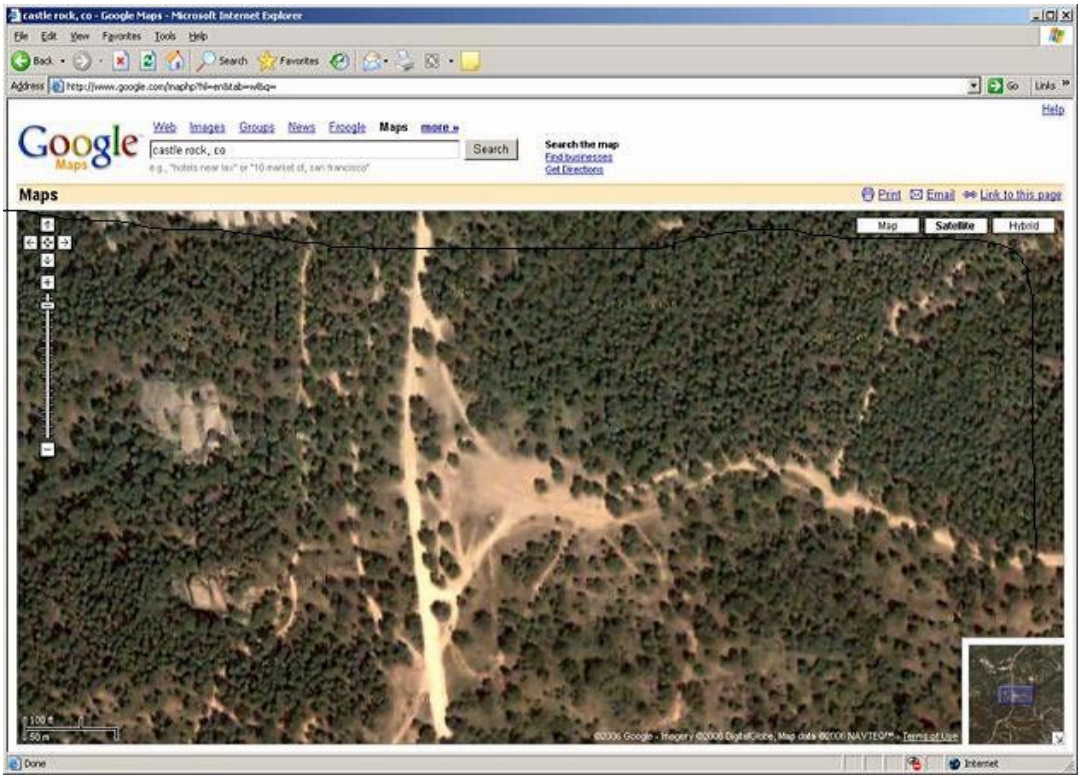
20m yagi and the 80m dipole at the 2006 site



Satellite view of the 2006 CQC Field Day site

The lucky screen tent. Al K0FRP has provided this since 1998

Paul KF7MD

Al K0FRP

Rich W0HEP CQC #1

KC0HSV GOTA STN

K0FEI shooting?

Vince Scott and Dick

Tim KR0U on VHF

VHF/UHF antennas

The road to Field Day

Towers down 1283 QSO in the log and ready for 2007
Front Vince KI0RB, Paul KF7MD, Tim KR0U, Dick AB0CD
Back Al K0FRP, Frank K0FEI

CQC Field Day

Thanks to Roger WB0JNR our web master for taking photos and posting on the web site
See more photos of this year and previous year at www.CQC.org

Thanks to Vince KI0RB on getting leaf springs and new tires on the trailer. This helped Frank K0FEI to haul the trailer 60 plus 5 miles of gravel washboard road up Rampart Range Rd.
Thanks Al K0FRP

The new site cleaned up and ready for 2007

How doyou find the perfect Field Day site? One of these helps - Call sign Diamond Star 5 Delta Sierra