



September 2025

Upcoming Events

- 13 Sep – WCARC Picnic – Eagle Rim Park
- 27 Sep – Mesa County ARES - Simulated Emergency Test (SET) – Ready, SET, Go!
- 11 Oct – WCARC Monthly Meeting
- 23-26 Oct – HAMCON Colorado 2025
- 25 Oct – Mesa County ARES Mtg
- 1 Nov – WCARC Monthly Meeting
- 22 Nov – Mesa County ARES Mtg
- 13 Dec – WCARC Monthly Meeting

Ham Lunches
Wednesdays, 11:00 am

Ham Breakfast
Third Friday, 9:00 am

More Details Follow

President's Corner

I want to shout a big thank you for all of those that made it to WCARC Hamfest. It was a great success. We received a lot of positive feedback from attendees and vendors. Many ideas will be incorporated into next year's Hamfest.

The next exciting thing on the calendar the Club Picnic slated for September 13 beginning at 11:00 AM and ending around 2:00 PM. Please come on out and enjoy some time to just visit and tell stories. Yes, thanks to Brad and his team we will have testing available. Please bring your own place settings and drink, along with a side dish or dessert. We will be furnishing Pulled Pork and Shredded Chicken as the main course.

Seriously folks I just want to say thank you for all your support this year. I have enjoyed all the conversations.

Randy KD0NSP

Congratulations are in Order!

Brad KF0N00 upgraded to Amateur Extra at Hamfest!
Brad's new Callsign is: **AF0DS**.
Be sure to congratulate Brad, if you hear him on Air!

Upcoming Club Meetings

The club normally meets on the second Saturday of every month, at 9:30am at the First Christian Church, 1326 N 1st St, Grand Junction, CO 81501. **Please note the upcoming changes below.** Meeting dates, times, and locations will be posted on our Events Calendar and in posts on the front page of the Club Website at www.w0rrz.org.

13 September 1100 – 1400 is our **CLUB PICNIC at Eagle Rim Park-East Shelter**. There is no regular Club Meeting in September. Everyone is welcome. See more detailed information below.

In **October**, we go back to our **regular Monthly Meeting on 11 October**. The Club normally holds its monthly meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 0930 at the First Christian Church, 1326 N. 1st Street, Grand Junction, CO. The meeting location is fully handicap accessible and everyone is welcome to attend! We discuss club business, upcoming events and have an interesting presentation at each meeting. Come a little early for social time - coffee and donuts are provided. There will also be a table available for swap/sale items from 0900-0930.

Our **November Meeting** date **CHANGES** to **1 November at 0930** due to a Church event. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be finalizing nominations for the 2026 Board of Directors election in December. If you are interested in serving on the Board, speak to any of the current Board members.

For questions regarding the Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Please email: info@w0rrz.org

The Social Side of Things

Ham Lunches are every Wednesday at 1100. The location changes each week & is announced on the Oatmeal Net Wednesday Morning then posted on the **WCARC Events Calendar** on <https://www.w0rrz.org/wcarc-events-calendar> and on our Facebook page.

Ham Breakfasts are held the third Friday of each month. In September, our location is changing. We will be going to **First Watch** 120 W. Park Drive Suite 107, Grand Junction

Oatmeal Net is conducted Monday – Friday except Holidays 0730-0800 on the Club Repeaters. Open to all licensed amateur radio operators.

Radioactive Net - Every Tuesday at 1930 on the club repeaters & the WestCo Repeater Systems. This is the place to ask questions and discuss your current radio projects.

Amateur Radio License Testing

Taking an exam to get or upgrade your Amateur Radio License could not be easier. Exam testing is offered every month immediately following our Club meetings. Please coordinate with Brad AK0BC 970-275-0121 ak0bc77@gmail.com.

Full details are also available on the Club Website at: <https://www.w0rrz.org/license-exams-in-grand-junction-co>

When you arrive for your test, please have your FRN (FCC Registration Number), photo ID, pen, \$15.00 CASH, and if upgrading, a copy of your current license.

Getting ready for your Exam

Whether you are brand new to amateur radio or upgrading your license, it's a good idea to study and practice for the test. Get the book on your exam either through ARRL or Amazon then do some practice tests. The following links have free practice tests for all levels of the exams:

<http://arrlexamreview.appspot.com>

<https://hamstudy.org>



WCARC CLUB PICNIC

Saturday, 13 September 1100-1400

**Eagle Rim Park – East Shelter
2747 Cheyenne Drive, Grand Junction**

Everyone is Welcome!

Come on out to the park and socialize at bit! Enjoy some good food and great company.

The Club is providing pulled pork and shredded chicken sandwiches with all the fixings. Please bring your own place setting, utensils, drinks and a side dish or dessert to share.

Brad AK0BC and the VEC team will be available for testing at the picnic. Details about testing are available above. Please contact Brad directly to let him know if you plan to test so he will know to expect you.

We are asking for volunteers to bring their "Go Kits" to the picnic for display. MCARES will be holding the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) later in the month utilizing personnel & their "Go Kits". Seeing your "Go Kits" would be great info for folks just getting into EmComm.



There will be no regular Club Meeting in September.

Looking Forward...

Nominations for the 2026 Board of Directors are due at the November Meeting (correction from last month's newsletter) on Saturday, 1 November.

Elections will be held at the December Meeting on Saturday, 13 December.

If you are interested in helping direct the future of the Club, this is your chance to make a difference.

Brief Position Descriptions:

President – Is the Chairman of the Board of Directors; presides over all meetings; appoints special function committees as needed; and is authorized to sign all disbursement checks.

Vice President – Serves as the Chairperson of the Educational Committee; assumes the duties of the President, if necessary; becomes President if that office becomes vacant; assists the President at all meetings; performs other duties assigned by the President; and is authorized to sign all disbursement checks.

Secretary – Keeps and maintains records of all activities and proceedings; receives all applications for membership, keeps an accurate list of all members, receives all dues (records and forwards to the Treasurer); preserves all the books and correspondence of this organization; brings copies of the Constitution & By-Laws to each meeting; and is responsible for the Club mailbox.

Treasurer – Receives all funds of this organization; deposits all moneys in the appropriate account as directed by the Board; maintains records of all receipts and disbursements; reports financial transactions at all regular meetings; is authorized to sign all checks; submits all books of account for audit at the end of the elected term and at other times as specified by the Board; submit any and all reports as required by the laws governing not-for-profit organizations in Colorado and insure all checks be endorsed by a designated signatory.

3-Year Trustee – The Trustees keep an accurate accounting of all physical assets of the organization.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone, speak to any of the current Board Members or email info@w0rrz.org and we can give you more details.

HamCon Colorado 2025

**ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention
23-26 October
Grand Junction, Colorado at the DoubleTree**

Advance Registration is now \$30.00 and includes a door prize ticket. You can also register for other events during the convention for an additional fee. There are a number of seminars and activities scheduled for this three-day event AND its right here in Grand Junction!

For more information go to: www.hamconcolorado.com

Testing

There will be a VE Exam Session on Saturday, 25 October from 1000-1200. Please sign up on the registration page if you plan to test. Bring to the test: your ID, a pen, \$15.00 CASH and if you are upgrading, a copy of your current FCC license.

WCARC Information Table

WCARC will have a table to promote the Club during the event. If you would like to volunteer to man the table, please contact John AJ6LI at daleyj@yahoo.com or Randy KD0NSP at RSkd0nsp@gmail.com.

HamCon Colorado 2025 Logo Shirts

An email went out to the membership with all the information on how to pre-order a HamCon Colorado 2025 Logo shirt. If you did not receive the email, contact Cathy at kf00KV@outlook.com for the details.

Foxhunt

There will be a low power fox hunt with multiple transmitters on Saturday Morning, starting at 0900 sharp at the West lot near the Rocky Mountain Ham Radio Comm trailer. There is no charge other than a convention registration to attend the fox hunt. Please make sure you bring your VHF direction finding gear! Make sure you sign up on the registration form so we know how many to expect!

Table Swap

HamCon Colorado will be allowing a Table Swap for two hours on Friday, 24 October from 1900-2100. This will give people an opportunity to sell and swap equipment in the hotel. There will be NO Tailgate sales in the parking lot allowed. Tables are free if you are registered to attend the convention. Walk-ins – tables are first come/first serve at the door \$10 with one admission. Additional admissions are \$5.00 each and will be good from 1900-2100 only.

Club Website Information

Our Club Website is located at <https://www.w0rrz.org> and it contains a wealth of information. Current announcements will be posted on the main page of the website.

There is also a Club Members Area which requires you to be a current member of WCARC. This section includes several forums including a Buy/Sell/Trade Forum, AllStar linking procedures, a link to purchase a club nametag, current club roster, our monthly meeting minutes and the monthly meeting presentations.

PLEASE NOTE:

The WCARC Events Calendar page has changed. If you previously bookmarked this page, you will need to bookmark the new calendar. You can find the new calendar by clicking the link at the top of the main WCARC webpage.

If you do not have a login for the Club Members Area of the website and are a paid member for 2025, please contact, Andrew at AE0WZ@outlook.com. He will need your name, callsign and email address to set up your account.

Club Stickers Are Here!

Stickers are 5"x3" full color with a high-gloss finish that withstands exposure to the elements. They are weather-resistant and waterproof so work well on vehicles. Please be aware, they are not dishwasher safe so any travel mugs will have to be hand-washed.



Stickers are \$1.50 each

Available at the Club Picnic

In Search of Club Photos & QSO Cards

We have created a Club Photo album! Check it out at the Club Picnic.



We are still working on organizing the older photos that we have but would love to add more history of the club to the album. Photos can be digital or hard copy (we can scan and return them if you wish). We are looking for Club Photos of any age.

We also have a special section for those of you who have made QSO cards for yourself. See Cathy KF0OKV, if you have photos of Club events or a QSO card to share.

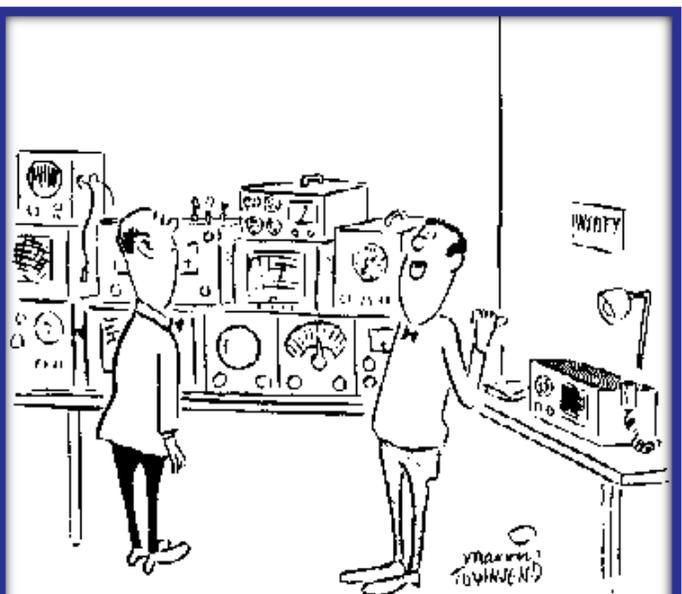
Help Support WCARC

Are you a City Market Customer? Their Community Rewards Program is a great way to support WCARC.

Here is the link on the City Market Website for you to enroll:

<https://www.citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Just search for Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc. or use our NPO Number: **SS693** to select us as your charity. Once you have enrolled and linked your City Market loyalty card you contribute by swiping your loyalty card or using the phone number that is related to your loyalty card every time you shop for groceries!



"My transceiver is over here. That's just my testing equipment."

Mesa County ARES

(Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
Region 9 District 4

MCARES meets at the First Christian Church in Grand Junction at 0930 on the 3rd Friday of each month.

EMCOMM Net

Every Wednesday at 1900 on the WestCo Repeater System the 2nd Wednesday at 1900 on DMR RMHAM TG720 Rocky Mountain Central

Joining MC ARES is simple. There are no dues. You can chose how involved you'd like to be. We rely on volunteers for all our activities which help fund our organization.

For More Information Contact
MCARES Coordinator:

Chip N0WKR chip.ferron@gmail.com
<https://ares-mesacounty.org>

READY, SET, Go!

Get ready for the 2025 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)!

According to the ARRL, the ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is a "nationwide exercise to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment."

This year, Mesa County ARES will hold our 2025 **READY, SET, GO!** exercise on **Saturday, September 27th**.

This event will give members a chance to dust off their Go-Kit and deploy to the field to provide message traffic back to our simulated Emergency Operations Center.

The main goal of the 2025 **READY, SET, GO!** Exercise is to gain confidence in being able to deploy on short notice to achieve the desired outcome. We would prefer to find the limitations of our equipment and skills in an exercise environment rather than during an actual emergency. We're going back to basics – get a call, grab your gear, achieve the objective and return to base safely. Let's put the fun back into EmComm!

Watch for e-mails and announcements in the next week with more details and online sign-up forms or contact Chip N0WKR at chip.ferron@gmail.com or text/call 970-261-2508 if you have any questions.

**What Happens at Hamfest...
...usually costs money!**

**The Annual WCARC Hamfest
was a BIG success!**

We had 15-1/2 reserved tables, 65 attendees and 4 families who donated equipment to the Club to sell. We appreciate all who participated and those who donated items to support WCARC!

A BIG Thank You to the Volunteers at Hamfest:

Randy Stringer KD0NSP collected & priced donated equipment, set up event space, managed day of event, got funds to Treasurer and so much more.

Cathy Maddox KF0OKV emailed Hamfest info to other clubs, created display materials.

Dave Bratcher AK0MR set up equipment for sale.

Chip Ferron N0WKR set up Friday evening and cleanup Saturday.

Bill Tillery K0DZ table set up Friday evening.

John Daley AJ6LI got equipment out of the boxes and priced, sales of equipment and clean up.

Max Taylor KF0LHO admissions table & assistance recording presentation.

Cindi Stringer admissions table.

Boulder Amateur Radio Club (BARC)

BARCfest Hamfest

Ham Radio and Electronics

Sunday, October 5, 2025

9 am to 1 pm

Boulder County Fairgrounds

Exhibit Building

(Just north of the Hover Rd. & Nelson Rd.
intersection in Longmont, Colorado)

Admission \$5 – Under 18 Free with Paid Adult
(Correct Change Appreciated to Avoid Delays at Door)

Lots of Great Treasures

Home of the Gift Bag Door Prizes

(Must be Present to Win)

V.E. License Testing, 10 am

Pre-registration strongly recommended -- walk-ins possible.

Go to BARCfest session at hamstudy.org

Direct registration link:

<https://ham.study/sessions/6730f7424bcc3a502914eaae/1>

For questions write to: barc70@arrl.net

Main Hamfest Doors Open to the Public at 9:00 am
Vendor Doors Open for Set-up at 7:30 am

For more information email to DebbieBARC@gmail.com or call
Debbie (WB2DVT) 303-447-3183

The BARCfest Hamfest Flyer is attached to this email with more
information about Table Reservations.

Brief Introduction to DXing

DX stands for "distance." It involves communicating with stations in distant countries and regions. To be successful it requires skill, patience, and an understanding of radio propagation. DXing really requires you have general license or above. The bands for the technician license are very limited. This is a great reason to upgrade your license.

DX operators collect QSL cards as proof of contact. This is important for earning special certificates and awards from various organizations. A QSL card is a written confirmation of a two-way radiocommunication between two amateur radio stations. QSL cards can be old-school paper ones or digital ones using systems like Logbook of The World (LoTW) or eQSL. Some operators use both as collectors still love the paper ones. These often have a picture and details about the contact along with confirmation of the listeners reception data on the other.

ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) offers the DX Century Club award, or DXCC. The basic certificate is awarded for working and confirming at least 100 entities on the ARRL DXCC List. For award purposes, an entity is a distinct geographical or political territory recognized by ARRL for its DXCC.

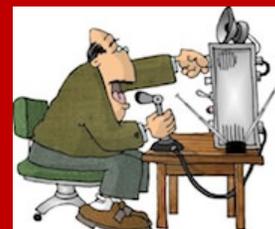
<https://www.arrl.org/dxcc>

There are also frequent contests where radio amateurs operate their stations on certain dates for a fixed period of time to try to communicate with as many DX stations as possible. In contesting you're trying to rack up as many valid contacts as you can in a short window. DXing is all about reaching far-off stations around the world.

Many hams chase DX as a personal achievement. "Gotta catch 'em all", a little like Pokemon, logging new countries, islands, or territories. DXers usually track their progress with awards like the ARRL DXCC, which you get for confirmed contacts with 100 or more different entities. Here is the link to the list of 350 ARRL entities:

https://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2022_DXCC_Current.pdf

There are a lot of options to choose from when getting on the air, so many that it can be overwhelming. FT8 is a great entry point for new DXer due to its low cost and simple configuration. A basic PC with a 100 watt transceiver and an inexpensive antenna will get you started on your adventure around the world. There is a variety software to get you started; many are free. WSJT-X is the FT8 software. GridTracker gives you a graphic interface. Logbook of the World, eQSL or QRZ are the official confirmation authorities. While logging your contacts can be done manually, there are a variety of electronic logging tools available to include: N1MM (free) and N3FJP (\$).

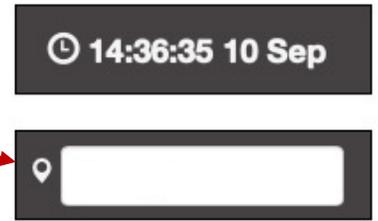


Brief Introduction to DXing (con't.)

Another good tool is the “My DX Summit” website. This site utilizes “spotters” who post information on contacts to assist you in determining what your chances of getting a contact might be.

Go to <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

First, set your location using your Grid Square on the right side of the page. (You can find your Grid Square under the Detail Tab on your QRZ page.)

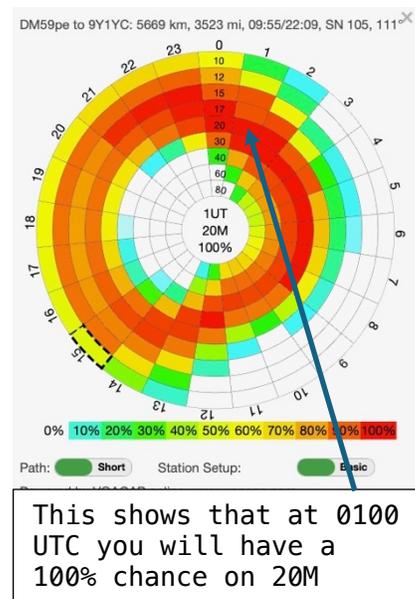
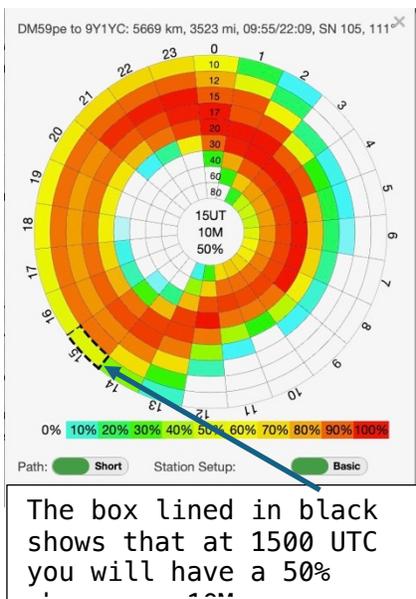


Left click on the DX call sign and select “Show VOACAP Predictions” (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program).

F4DJN	14081.9	SM5RZL	14:29 10 Sep	FT4 -12 Thx for qso 73	Sweden
F5MNW	98074.0	9Y1YC	14:29 10 Sep	FT8 648hz trx	Trinidad & Tobago
YO8SSB-@	144432.0				Romania
ON7KC	7120.0			S WWII CQ	Belgium
N8XGS	14235.0			in MI , 73	United States
K8PT	10145.0			8 IOTA OC004 LH	Lord Howe Island

Show VOACAP Predictions
Show Grey Line Map
Open in QRZ.com
Open in Club Log

You will get the following chart. By clicking around on the boxes, you can determine when the best time to try for that contact will be.



The following link will take you to an FT8 Operating Guide with a wealth of information to get you on your way. Be aware though, digital modes are being actively developed, and the protocols/operating conventions are still evolving.
https://www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf

In addition, there are a number of experienced DXers in WCARC that would be happy to walk you through how to get started. Just ask around.

A BIG Thank You to Dave AK0MR and Andrew AE0WZ for their efforts to help me understand DX.

Upcoming Contests

6-14 Sep – Route 66 on the Air
13-15 Sep – September VHF
13-14 Sep – EME – 2.3 GHz & Up
14 Sep - North American Sprint CW
20-22 Sep – 10 GHz & Up – Round 2
21 Sep – North American Sprint RTTY
27-28 Sep – CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY

Contest Calendar Links

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>
<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2025/September%202025%20Corral.pdf>
<https://groups.arrl.org/g/ARRL-Contesting>
<https://hamradiolive.org/contest-calendar>
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.php>
<https://www.contesting.com>
<https://www.onallbands.com/amateur-radio-contesting-101/>

We would love to have club member input for newsletter content. This could include ham-related content and photos for general knowledge and education that could benefit our members.

Maybe you can inspire someone with your knowledge & expertise.

If you'd like to submit a tidbit to add to the next newsletter email: *membership@W0RRZ.org*

For More Information:

See us on Facebook at Western Slope Amateur Radio Club,
 on the Club Website: www.W0RRZ.org
 or email info@W0RRZ.org

Mailing Address: 2695 Patterson Road, Ste. 2 Box 118
Grand Junction, CO 81506

More Than a Club... A Community of Friends!

2025 WCARC Board of Directors

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
Randy Stringer KD0NSP RSkd@nsp@outlook.com	John Daley AJ6LI daleyj@yahoo.com	Steve Delaloye KE0BPD delaloye@swbell.net	Cathy Maddox KF0OKV kf0OKV@outlook.com
1-Year Trustee	2-Year Trustee	3-Year Trustee	Repeater Trustee
Forrest Hoskins AD0XC ad0xc@protonmail.com	Rick Miller AK0HS rickisdoingok@gmail.com	Dave Bratcher AK0MR ak0mr@arrl.net	Forrest Hoskins AD0XC ad0xc@protonmail.com

The Purpose of the Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (WCARC), a 501(c)3 organization, is to recruit, train and help committed Ham Radio operators carry on the tradition of amateur radio by using our network of technical resources and expertise.

Promoting new technologies and expanding the use of these in all areas of communication. Providing equipment and skilled operators when called upon to assist local agencies in emergency and non-emergency events ensuring a reliable source of communication. WCARC is dedicated to community service and providing education to the general public about the history, operation and benefits of the Amateur Radio Service and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs.