



the RF Carrier

December 2025

President's Corner

Well, another month has come and gone. I have no rich anecdotes, nothing serious, funny or even witty to offer all of you. INSTEAD!! I just want to say thank you to each and every one of you for all the great times and conversations this last year and I am looking forward to more in 2026.

Wishing each and every one a very happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah along with any others I missed.

Sincerely,
Randy KD0NSP



Upcoming Club Meetings

The Club meets on the second Saturday of every month, at 0930 at the First Christian Church, 1326 N 1st St, Grand Junction. The meeting location is fully handicap accessible and everyone is welcome to attend! We discuss club business, upcoming events and have an interesting and informative presentation at each meeting. Come a little early for social time - coffee and donuts are provided. Meeting dates and time will be posted on our Events Calendar on the Club Website at

www.w0rrz.org

We are now able to provide a video link to the Monthly Club Meeting via Microsoft Teams. Members should receive an email on the Friday before the meeting with a link. Non-members may email KF00KV@outlook.com for the link.

The minutes from each meeting are posted on the website, please look them over prior to the meeting so we can approve them at the next meeting.

Our **December Meeting** will be the second Saturday on **13 December at 0930**.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

All 2025 Club members should have received an invitation to vote in the 2026 Board of Directors Election online. If possible, please vote online. We will have a limited number of paper ballots available at the meeting.

Rick Miller AK0HS is bringing the donuts for December.

Upcoming Events

13 Dec – WCARC Monthly Meeting

27 Dec – MC ARES Monthly Meeting

Ham Lunches

Wednesdays, 11:00 am

Ham Breakfast

Third Friday, 9:00 am

More Details Follow

Club Photo at the December Meeting

ARRL has announced that 2026 is the year of the Club and are asking for club photos. Wear something BRIGHT and BOLD!

Let's show them what a great club looks like!



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

2026 Board of Directors Election

The election for the 2026 Board of Directors is currently running online.

Current 2025 Club Members with a call sign should have received an email invitation to vote. If you did not get an email, contact Cathy KF0OKV at KF0OKV@outlook.com and she will send you the link.

The online election will end at 0800, Saturday, 13 December, right before the monthly Club Meeting.

Try to cast your vote online if possible. If you are unable to vote online, there will be a limited number of paper ballots at the meeting for in-person voting.

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** at <https://www.w0rrz.org/wcarc-events-calendar> and on our Facebook page.

Ham Breakfasts are held the third Friday of each month at 0900 at our new location **First Watch** 120 W. Park Drive Suite 107, GJ

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.

Time to Renew Membership

Our organization was created to bring new and seasoned amateur radio operators together through our desire to serve. We bring our experience, knowledge and wisdom into a long-term hobby with the focus of expanding one's understanding of it, as well as providing a solid foundation for those who have an interest in getting their amateur radio license.

We remain focused in greeting newcomers to our great hobby by offering them a warm welcome into the amateur radio family and are steadfast in providing help when they need it.

WCARC Annual Dues for 2026 are: \$30.00 full member, \$35.00 for multiple full members in the same household holding a valid FCC Amateur Radio license and \$7.50 for Youth Members (16 & younger).

Fill out the attached Membership Application. You can either mail it with your payment to the address on the form or bring it to the next Club Meeting. We accept cash, check and credit card.

See Cathy KF0OKV for "tap-to-pay" credit card payments. There is a \$1.50 processing fee for electronic payments.

Benefits of Membership:

- Three linked Club Repeaters from the Grand Valley to Montrose at Black Ridge, Grand Mesa and Waterdog.
- Activities – Weekly lunches, Monthly Breakfast, annual Field Day, Hamfest & Club Picnic, monthly Educational Presentations.
- Information – Monthly Newsletter, Facebook page, Club Website
- An awesome Community of people supporting you!

Contact Cathy KF0OKV, WCARC Secretary, at KF0OKV@outlook.com for more information!

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. Full details are also available on the Club Website at:

<https://www.w0rrz.org/license-exams-in-grand-junction-co>

Please register in advance at www.HamStudy.org to ensure we have adequate Volunteer Examiners available.

When you arrive for your test, please have your FRN (FCC Registration Number), photo ID, pen, \$15.00 CASH, & 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 (make sure it's the most current version) then do some practice tests.

1. **Practice!** Be sure you are consistently scoring above an 85% on practice tests.
2. **Know the material!** You should be able to complete the exam within 30 minutes, however there is no time limit. Most questions are short and simple concepts.
3. **Practice Sites:** We recommend either HamStudy.org, a free site with lots of tips, or [ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio™](#), a free site from the national ham radio group that you may want to join.

If you have questions, contact Brad Chestnut (AK0BC) at ak0bc77@gmail.com

HOLIDAY FUNNIES

Where do snowmen head for a fancy night of dancing? A snowball

How much does Santa pay to park his sleigh? Nothing its on the house

Studies have shown that women who gain 7 or more pounds over the holiday have a longer life expectancy – than the men who point it out

We NEED You!!

Your knowledge and expertise are a valuable asset. Please consider volunteering to help best in line with your unique skills and talents. Let's make this great organization even better! We can't do it without you!

People are needed to assist with the following areas of expertise:

Youth Engagement Group –

Brainstorm ideas to introduce local youth to amateur radio, create a short "Intro to Amateur Radio" presentation, present to small teen groups at the library, Scout groups, schools and STEM Clubs.

Education Committee – Assist the Vice President in providing educational opportunities to the club membership regarding new technologies, emergency communications and licensing for new members.

Technology Committee – Assist the Technical Manager in maintaining WCARC equipment, provide technical advice & assistance to members and ensure proper & legal operation of the WCARC equipment.

Club Promotion – Assist the Secretary in writing public relations announcements for local media, distribute club flyers in the local area, interface with media for events, assist promoting the club to the public.

Newsletter Support – Assist the Secretary in providing information about upcoming radio events & contests, contributing short technical articles & other newsletter content.

Contact Cathy KF00KV, WCARC Secretary at KF00KV@outlook.com for more information!

Ways to Help Support WCARC

Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc., EIN: 81-4225701, is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable organization.

Join the Club - Membership is our main source of income.

ARRL Club Commission Program – By joining or renewing your ARRL Membership through WCARC the Club receives a small commission (\$20.00 for new members, \$5.00 for renewals).

Direct Donation – Direct Donations to WCARC are gratefully accepted. Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card.

City Market Community Rewards Program – Select us as your charity either by name or use our NPO Number: **SS693**. Once you have enrolled and linked your loyalty card City Market contributes every time you buy groceries. Here is the link to the City Market Website to enroll:

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

Hamfest – We hold our annual Hamfest & SwapMeet every August. Sign up as a vendor, come as a shopper or donate equipment to the club for sale. At this time, this is our only major fundraiser.

See Steve Delaloye (KE0BPD), Treasurer or
Cathy Maddox (KF0OKV), Secretary
for more details on how you can support the Club.

How Do We Use the Funds?

Funds received by the club allow us to continue to implement the mission of the organization in the following ways:

- Repeater & Infrastructure Development – operation, maintenance & upgrades for the 3 repeaters operated by the Club.
- Program Service Costs – rental of our meeting space, cost of our website, educational activities, annual Field Day, annual Club Picnic, Hamfest.
- Administrative Costs – office supplies, insurance, fees.

Thank You for Supporting WCARC!

TECHNICAL RULES REMINDER

Please be sure you are following proper Station Identification procedures when transmitting.

§ 97.119 Station identification.

(a) Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station.

If you clear and come back with another comment, even "OK" that is another communication and you MUST end your communication with your call sign.

Club Website Information

Our Club Website is located at
<https://www.w0rrz.org>

It contains a wealth of information about the Club. Current announcements are posted on the main page of the website. Important events and activities including the location of our weekly Ham Lunch are posted on the Club Event Calendar. There is also a Club Members Area which requires you to be a current member of WCARC. (Let Cathy KF0OKV or Andrew AE0WZ know if you need log in credentials) The Club Members Area 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.

Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (MCARES)

Region 9 District 4

MCARES meets at the First Christian Church in Grand Junction at 0930 on the 3rd Friday of each month. *Next Meeting Saturday, 27 December.*

EMCOMM Net

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

Joining MCARES 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>

- ⇒ *Are you looking for ways to put your amateur radio license to work?*
- ⇒ *Are you a new ham exploring the new world of digital radio?*
- ⇒ *Do you want to get outside and team up with other hams to help the community and have fun?*

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, join us this spring as the Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MCARES) partners with race organizers to support their mountain bike and running events. We will participate on April 10-12, May 9-10 and May 16-17 at the UTMB Ironman's Desert Rats event, and Gemini Adventures' Fruita AdventureFest and Wild Horse Gravel races.

You don't need to be an ARES member (although we would love to have you join!), and all training will be provided. You just need a ham license and a willingness to put in a few days of work at race venues in Mack, North Fruita desert and DeBeque.

This is a great chance to use your radio skills to benefit the community and have some great fellowship with fellow hams and meet some interesting participants from all over the world.

Contact Chip N0WKR at chip.ferron@gmail.com or talk to any ARES member for more information.

ARRL Club Commission Program

Each NEW ARRL STANDARD membership earns the club a \$20 commission (family, student/youth, and blind memberships are not eligible). New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each RENEWAL also earns the club a \$5 commission. Each new or renewing ARRL member should fill out an *ARRL Membership Application Form*.

Payment in FULL can be made to ARRL by check, credit card, or cash. Return the completed form and payment to Cathy KF00KV at the next meeting or you can mail it to:
WCARC 2695 Patterson Road Ste. 2 Box 118 Grand Junction, CO 81506-8815

The Club will then take care of sending your application in to ARRL. For WCARC to receive a commission from your ARRL Membership, you *MUST* have WCARC process the application. To maintain our ARRL Affiliated Club status we must have 50% of our members also be members of ARRL. Western Colorado Radio Club, Inc. has been a proud ARRL Affiliated Club since October 21, 1939.

Benefits of ARRL Membership

Access to ARRL Magazines (On The Air, QST, QEX-Forum for Communications Experimenters & NCJ-National Contest Journal), ARRL Learning Center, E-Newsletters, Technical Information Service, Outgoing QSL Service, ARRL Email Forwarding Service, ARRL Sponsored Contests & Awards, ARRL Forums, Volunteer Opportunities & Advocacy

Shout Out to Darryl K1TTW

In November, he was able to get on the air and activate a POTA from Osaka, Japan under call sign JS2SZZ.



Share the Magic of Ham Radio and Santa Claus with your children, grandchildren, and neighborhood kids. Girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly at 7:00 PM Central this month!

The 3.916 Nets will be presenting **The Santa Net** on 3.916 MHz once again this holiday season.

Prior to each night's Santa Net, pre-net check-ins can be made at: www.cqsanta.com

Operators/Monitors Wanted

Meteor Scatter QSO Party 12-13 December

Ham Radio Citizen Science Investigation program – is looking for “ping jockeys,” or ham radio operators who enjoy making contacts via meteor scatter (MS), to take part in its **Meteor Scatter QSO Party** during the Geminids meteor shower on December 12 and 13, 2025. Operation will take place on the 10-meter and 6-meter bands only (28.145 and 50.260 MHz), using the MSK144 digital protocol. The event is a combination on-air contest and data collection for what HamSCI describes as an experiment “to analyze the feasibility of HF meteor scatter for future scientific research.

The group is looking for both *active operators* (seeking and making contacts) and *passive monitors*, recording .WAV files of MS contacts and uploading them to PSK Reporter. Researchers will collect contact data from both 10 and 6 meters and will analyze that data offline, using PSK Reporter raw data, operator contact logs and .WAV files.

For more information: <https://hamsci.org>

2026 Winter Hamfest

Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club

Saturday, 17 January 0800-1300

The Ranch 5280 Arena Circle
Loveland, CO

Admission \$7.00 - Door Prizes,
Technical Forums, Exhibits & Demos
Table Reservations \$14-\$19

For More Information:

www.ncarc.co/hamfest-2026

December is YOTA (Youth on the Air) Month

The entire month of December several youngsters (under age 26) will be active with YOTA as the suffix in the callsign. The idea is to show the amateur radio hobby to young people and encourage youth to be active on the ham radio waves. Feel free to make a QSO with these young people, they are happy to exchange information. Licensed and unlicensed youth will be making QSOs, be aware this could be their first radio contact ever and give them a positive experience.

For more information:

<https://events.ham-yota.com>

Quartzfest 2026

It's that time again!

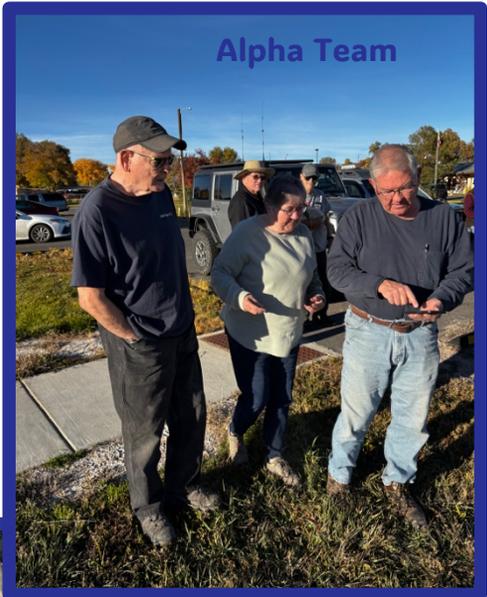
18-24 January - Quartzsite, Arizona
\$5.00 per person; free camping

100s of amateur radio enthusiasts camping in the desert; a variety of seminars, activities & shenanigans.

A number of WCARC Members go down every year. Will you be one of them?

For more information <https://quartzfest.org>





We Play Radio - Land Ops Event 8 November 2025





Contest Calendar Links

- <https://contests.arrl.org>
<https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>
<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/>

A Few Upcoming Contests

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| <p>13-14 Dec 10 Meter
 www.arrl.org/10-meter</p> <p>21 Dec Rookie Roundup-CW
 www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup</p> <p>1 Jan Straight Key Night
 www.arrl.org/straight-key-night</p> <p>3 Jan Kid's Day
 www.arrl.org/kids-day</p> | <p>3-4 Jan RTTY Roundup
 www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup</p> <p>10-11 Jan North American QSO Party, CW</p> <p>17-18 Jan North American QSO Party, SSB
 www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf</p> <p>17-19 Jan January VHF Contest
 www.arrl.org/january-vhf</p> |
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The Mission 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.

2025 WCARC Board of Directors

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
Randy Stringer KD0NSP RSkd0nsp@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

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!