



the RF Carrier

January 2026

President's Corner

Greetings fellow Hams!

Well, another year has passed and I hope each of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Celebration.

I just want to bring out a few things that we have accomplished this year. We received our State of Colorado Charitable Organization status which allowed us to move forward with many things. We were able to set the club up with the City Market Community Rewards program. The Club has started receiving revenue back thanks to your signing up and shopping at City Market. Another big item that we are now able to pursue is grants. With the State Charitable status there are more grants that we can apply for. Field Day 2025 was a great success! We activated from two locations this year. We were still on the Uncompahgre Plateau as well as had a group at the Church here in Grand Junction. Both locations reported success. Of course, our annual Hamfest came in August, and was very successful. Thanks to the many people who purchased tables, the donation of equipment for the club to sell, and of course all of you that attended. The Club Picnic followed in September which was enjoyed by many and we even beat the rainstorm. And BIG NEWS...we were notified that we were selected to receive a grant from the ARRL. This grant will allow us to purchase additional tablets for those testing for a new license or upgrading their existing license. This helps the VE's as it is all electronic, speeds up the process and no more paperwork. Many thanks again to the hard-working VE's here in the valley. Lastly, we were notified that our repeater located outside of Montrose (WaterDog) was on its last legs. We were able to purchase a far newer used repeater that will be placed in service sometime in 2026. Thank you to all of the 2025 Board members for their hard work this past year.

Sincerely,
Randy KDONSP



December 2025 WCARC Club Meeting



For questions regarding the Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Please email: info@W0RRZ.org

Club Meetings

The Club usually 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.

Upcoming Events

10 January – WCARC Monthly Meeting
24 January – MC ARES Monthly Meeting
14 February – WCARC Monthly Meeting
28 February – MC ARES Monthly Meeting
14 March – WCARC Monthly Meeting
28 March – MC ARES Monthly Meeting

Ham Lunches

Wednesdays, 11:00 am

Location Posted on Facebook & www.W0RRZ.org

Ham Breakfast

Third Friday, 9:00 am

First Watch at 1st & Patterson

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.

January 2026 Meeting

Our **January Meeting** will be the second Saturday on **10 January at 0930**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We will be *setting our Goals & Objectives* for 2026. We would like your input. Think a little bit about what Goals & Objectives YOU would like see the Club work toward in 2026. Bring your ideas to the January Meeting!

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.

John McElroy KD0VDV is bringing the donuts for January. Be sure to Thank him!

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 KF00KV 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.

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



2025 Board of Directors

Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

President–Randy KD0NSP, Vice President–John AJ6LI, Treasurer–Steve KE0BPD, Secretary–Cathy KF00KV, Trustees: Rick AK0HS, Dave AK0MR, Andrew AE0WZ, Forrest AD0XC (and Dobie KD0G)

2026 Board of Directors

Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

President–Randy KD0NSP, Vice President–Max KF0LHO, Treasurer–Paul N2COL, Secretary–Cathy KF00KV, Trustees: Rick AK0HS, Dave AK0MR, Andrew AE0WZ, Forrest AD0XC (and Dobie KD0G)



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.

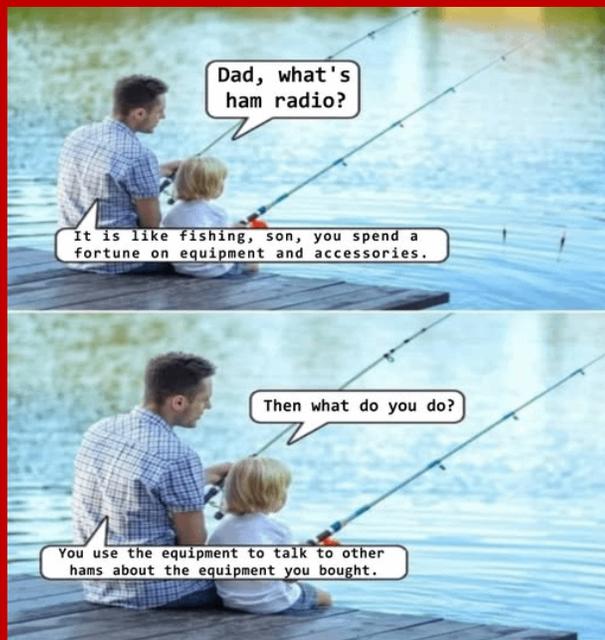
If you have questions, contact Brad Chestnut (AK0BC) at ak0bc77@gmail.com

Something Funny

- When does Friday come before Thursday? In the dictionary.
- What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? Re-morse code.
- Why do ham radio operators make bad secret agents? They can't help but broadcast their location.

ARRL Foundation Grant

We are pleased to announce WCARC has been notified that our grant request for "Modernizing Amateur Radio License Testing with a Digital Platform" was selected to receive a grant from the ARRL Foundation. This grant will allow the VE Team to expand the equipment used for digital testing. WooHoo!



2026 Hamfest Committee

WCARC Hamfest 2026 will be Saturday 8 Aug. This year we would like to expand our Hamfest and want to start planning early. If you are interested in being on the Hamfest Committee, contact Cathy KF0OKV at kf0okv@outlook.com
Let's make this Hamfest the best ever!

Ways to Help Support WCARC

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

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. There is always a basket at the General Meeting for donations to help offset the cost of the meeting space.

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 Paul Frey (N2COL), 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!

Silent Key

Bob Popham
KE00HF
1955-2025



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Popham KE00HF on 12 Dec 2025.

Bob was beloved member of the amateur radio community here in the Grand Valley and in Eastern Utah. We have lost a dedicated operator whose journey in ham radio spanned many years and touched many lives.

Member Business Promotions

WCARC would like to support our members with personal businesses. If you are a 2026 WCARC Member and have a business, send a business card sized ad to KF0OKV@outlook.com and we will include it in the next RF Carrier Newsletter and post it on www.WORRZ.org.

We are more than a CLUB,
We are a COMMUNITY and we want to support each member.

How to receive ARRL Publications in your inbox (for ARRL Members)

- ◆ Login to the ARRL Website at www.arrl.org
- ◆ Select "Membership"
- ◆ Select "myARRL" on the left sidebar
- ◆ Select "E-Newsletters & Notifications" under the Communication Heading
- ◆ Click on "Edit" to open the window and see all the email subscription options
- ◆ Make your selections and click "SAVE"

Note: You can also set it up to notify you when your ARRL Membership or FCC License is expiring here.



Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (MCARES)

Region 9 District 4

MCARES meets at the First Christian Church in GJ at 0930 on the 4th Friday of each month.

Next Meeting Saturday, 24 January.

All Hams with an interest in emergency and public communications are welcome. ***Put that license to WORK!***

We are in the planning process to provide communication for the upcoming mountain bike and running events. Join us to be part of the community support for the upcoming race season.

UTMB Desert Rats 10-12 April

Gemini Adventures Fruita Fest 9-10 May

Gemini Adventures Wild Horse Gravel 16-17 May

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>

We Play Radio

'We Play Radio' is a growing group of Ham Radio enthusiasts from Colorado's Western Slope and Eastern Utah dedicated to doing field radio activities and project building. We aren't a radio club, have no officers, and have no dues. Some of us are members of various radio clubs, some are not.

Do you wish you could get some folks together for an afternoon to do portable HF, or want to play with Meshtastic, or do VaraFM over a data repeater, or do APRS messaging? Do you want to experiment with AREDN Mesh, portable repeaters, HT antenna testing, or LandOps? FLDIGI, JS8Call, Winter Field Day, Or anything else? Join 'We Play Radio' and let us know what you want to do so that we can do it with you!

Are you building a Raspberry Pi project like DigiPi, a morse-code keyer, a rotator controller, a Meshtastic node, or anything else? Wish you could find someone to build one with you? Join 'We Play Radio' and let us know what you're building!

If you'll be in the Grand Junction area on January 10th, we will be hosting a LandOps Clinic (landops.com) immediately after the WCARC monthly club meeting (w0rrz.org). Our next LandOp is scheduled for late February.

To join 'We Play Radio', please email Bill K0DZ k0dz@protonmail.com. Bill will send you an invitation to the 'We Play Radio' Google Group. Once you receive the invite, please tell us what you're working on or what your interests are so that we can play radio with you!

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

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>

WCARC Member Spotlight

Not Quite the Cover of the Rolling Stone

Dave Bratcher AK0MR

Dave first got his Technician license in 2001. His initial reason for getting his license was to be able to communicate in the event of an emergency. He joined WCARC in 2002. In 2005 (just before the FCC did away with the CW requirements) Dave passed his CW test and went on to receive a General license. Since then, he has moved on to his Amateur Extra.

Dave served the WCARC on the Board of Directors as President from 2009 – 2012 and as a Trustee 2015 - present. Dave also became a part of the VE Team in Sep 2008 and continues to participate in test sessions every month. As of 31 Dec 2025, he has participated in 217 test sessions.

Dave has been a regular moderator for the Oatmeal Net since 2009. He is a firm believer that everyone should know the national simplex calling frequency for emergency purposes and when his day for the Oatmeal net comes around that where you find him.

Dave's main radio is a Yaesu FTX 3000 and a 55-foot tower with a Force 12 Tri Bander, 30m, 40m, 160m dipoles and a 6m beam.

Dave's main interest these days is in DXing. This is the art of making contact with distant stations utilizing HF bands. Most days you can find him out in his Ham Shack monitoring his contacts and making lists of the stations he wants to get next. It's a little like Pokemon – "Gotta Catch 'Em ALL!"

Dave has set and attained many goals in his years "playing" radio. In days of old, his contacts were via CW or Phone. These days he has somewhat entered the digital world of FT8 utilizing the computer to make contacts. He stated that FT8 has made it easier for more people to get involved in DXing. FT8 enables amateur radio operators to make reliable contacts with minimal power and basic antennas even when the signals are very weak.

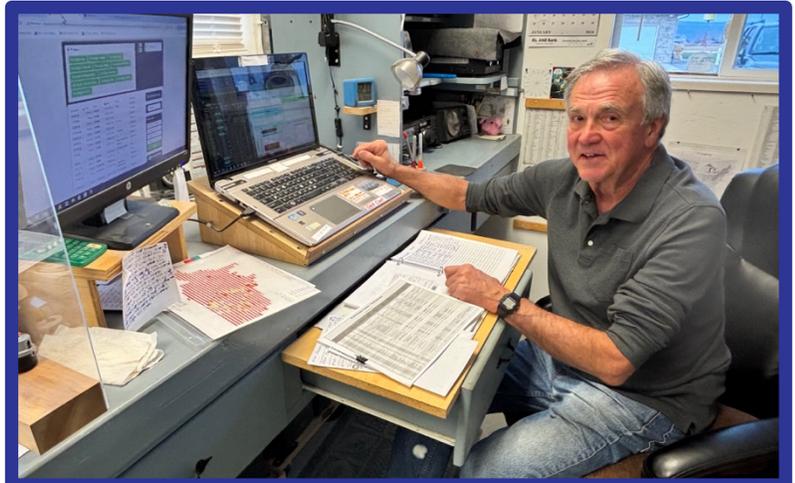
The awards showcasing his accomplishments hang on the walls of his Ham Shack along with an impressive world map full of pins showing all the entities he has contacted. Dave is still pretty old school as evidenced by his handwritten logs and files full of QSO cards.

Awards that Dave is proud to display are: 5 band Worked-All-States (WAS), 6M WAS, CQ WAS and the ARRL Centennial WAS. The one that is special to him is the DX Century Club (DXCC). This award recognizes operators who have made confirmed contacts (QSOs) with at least 100 different entities on the ARRL's DXCC list, representing a collection of countries, territories and other distinct geographic locations worldwide.

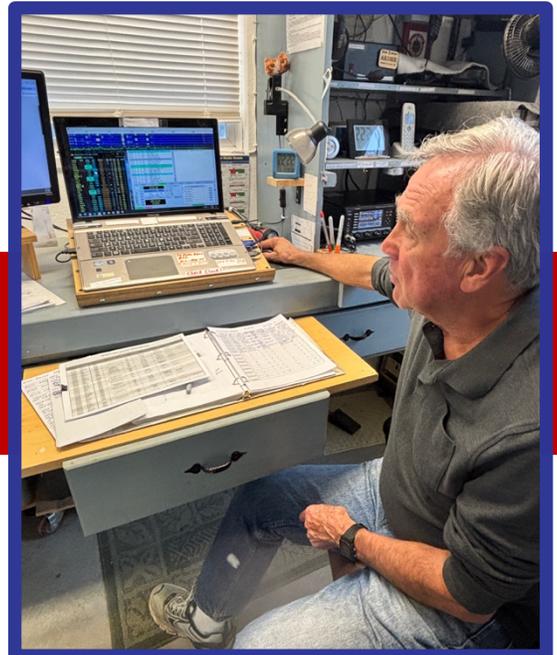
Dave is currently getting ready to participate in the America 250 WAS a year-long worked-all-states operating event celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

Dave's passion is HF and DXing and he is the guy you want to talk to if you are interested in getting into HF or DXing. His future goal is to help more people get into HF. Did I mention he's also a great Elmer?

Catch Dave at one of our monthly Club meetings and say Hi!



Pins on the map show the locations of Dave's contacts to date.



A Few Upcoming Contests

10-11 Jan North American QSO Party, CW
 17-18 Jan North American QSO Party, SSB
www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
 17-19 Jan January VHF Contest
www.arrl.org/january-vhf
 9-13 Feb School Club Roundup
 21-22 Feb International DX Contest, CW
www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

ARRL Year of the Club America250 WAS

www.arrl.org/america250-was

A Year-Long Worked-All-States Operating Event
 Celebrating the 250th Anniversary (Semi
 quincennial) of the signing of the Declaration of
 Independence

More information on the website and in the January
 edition of QST magazine



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/>

The Mission of the Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (WCARC), EIN 81-4225701, a 501(c)3 Colorado charitable 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.

2026 WCARC Board of Directors

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
Randy Stringer KD0NSP RSkd0nsp@outlook.com	Max Taylor KF0LHO maxtay08650@gmail.com	Paul Frey N2COL paul.frey@mesacountysarc.org	Cathy Maddox KF0OKV kf0okv@outlook.com
1-Year Trustee	2-Year Trustee	3-Year Trustee	Repeater Trustee
Rick Miller AK0HS rickisdoingok@gmail.com	Dave Bratcher AK0MR ak0mr@arrl.net	Andrew Maddox AE0WZ ae0wz@outlook.com	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!