

Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



the RF Carrier

February 2026

President's Corner

Well, I took a little sabbatical from Grand Junction, and anything related to Colorado in January. My wife, Cindi and I traveled to Quartzsite, Arizona to participate in Quartzfest 2026. I had a great time visiting with the folks that do the online testing – WM7X. Our club has been working with them to get up to speed on the digital testing process. I found that very interesting.

Of course there were several folks down from Grand Junction, Brad AK0BC, Ray KF0DMD and his wife Grace, Forrest AD0XC, Jim AE0JB, Fred N5LKO and Jo KB5EIL, myself KD0NSP and my wife Cindi. We had a great time talking, sitting around the campfire and just being lazy.

Look for greater and exciting things next month.

73

Randy KD0NSP



WCARC

Upcoming Events

14 February – WCARC Monthly Meeting

28 February – MC ARES Meeting

14 March – WCARC Monthly Meeting

28 March – MC ARES Meeting

4 April – WCARC Monthly Meeting

25 April – MC ARES Meeting

2 May – WCARC Monthly Meeting

23 May – MC ARES Meeting

*Please note the change of dates for the
WCARC Meetings in APRIL & MAY*

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

*More than a Club....
....A Community of Friends!*



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

Important Announcements

February 2026 Meeting

Our **February Meeting** will be the second Saturday on **14 February at 09:30**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The minutes from each meeting are posted in the Club Members Area of the website, please look them over prior to the meeting so we can approve them.

Randy Stringer KD0NSP is bringing the donuts for February. Be sure to thank him!

NOTE: 2026 Meetings for April, May and November have been changed to the first Saturday due to conflicts. Please update your calendars!

Community Service Opportunities

WCARC partners with Mesa County ARES every year to provide emergency communications for several community events each spring.

All Hams with an interest in emergency and public communications are welcome.

We utilize our equipment and expertise to support the UTMB Desert Rats Race, the Fruita Fest Gravel Bike Race, the Wild Horse Gravel Bike Race and the Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Trials on the Grand Mesa

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

UTMB Desert Rats 10-12 April

Fruita Fest Gravel Bike Races 9-10 May

Wild Horse Gravel Bike Races 16-17 May

Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Trials – July

Email Andrew at AE0WZ@outlook.com for more information or you can check out the presentation he did for the Club at the January Meeting in the Club Members Area of the website at www.W0RRZ.org

Important Announcements

Membership 2026

WCARC Annual Dues for 2026 are now DUE

Please fill out the attached Membership Form. We appreciate you completing the interest survey on the form. This helps us set our club objectives for the year.

You can either mail it with your payment to the address on the form or bring it to the next Club Meeting.

WEBSITE CHANGES

There have been some updates to the Club Webpage.

Please check it out and let us know what you think.

There are links at the *top* of the page *AND* along the *right side* to important sections. These include links to: repeater details, Net info, the Donut Sign Up list, City Market program and more. Club events, including the location of our weekly Ham Lunch are posted on the Club Event Calendar.

Check out the NEW Club Member Business section!



Read Me!

Get Involved!

Making the Club the best it can be requires people to **GET INVOLVED**. We need your skills and expertise.

Some things we would like to get rolling in 2026: New Licensee Initiative, Youth Engagement Committee, Technical Committee, Communications Support, adding to our VE Testing Team and creating a Care & Concern Committee.

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

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 KF00KV** at kf00kv@outlook.com

Let's make this Hamfest the best ever!

General Information

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 *unless there is a conflict*. 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 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.

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. Both Nets are open to all licensed amateurs.

Club Website Information

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

Current announcements are posted on the main page of the website. There are links at the *top* of the page *AND* along the *right side* to important sections.

Access to the Club Members Area 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, current club roster, monthly meeting minutes and monthly meeting presentations.

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 most of our Club meetings. Full details are 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.

Who We Are

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.

Believe in yourself like a groundhog who thinks it is a meteorologist.

History of Amateur Radio on the Western Slope

We are not quite sure the exact date that the Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club was formed. However, we do have a number of newspaper articles from the 1930s mentioning amateur radio in the Grand Valley.

October 1930, a "Grand Junction Radio Listeners' Club" was formed by radio dealers and the city council with the purpose of eliminating interference and improving radio reception. The city funded detectors for tracing interference. The City Manager at that time was corresponding with the federal radio department regarding the fact that amateur stations required licensing.

September 1932, a representative from the Federal Radio Commission in Chicago was going to be in Grand Junction to give licensing exams for amateur radio operators. They were expecting 10 people to test.

September 1934, the YMCA started a radio club to meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Any boy interested in securing an amateur license was invited to join. They also had a box of donated equipment for the boys to use. At about the same time, the high school also started a radio club.

There was another notice in **May 1935** that the YMCA was starting a Thursday night amateur radio club sponsored by the Lions Club.

March 1936, the Oxford League of the Methodist Church hosted an Amateur Radio Fair. A Father/Son Hobby Show at Lincoln Park in **May 1936** included an amateur radio station WR9X and allowed the boys to send messages.

An amateur radio convention was held in Silverton in **June 1938** with approximately 27 members from Western Colorado planning to attend.

The first article we find that mentions the **Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club** by name is **August 1938**. This article mentions that the club meets semi-monthly and had 22 members. A subsequent article noted the club was having a picnic and what sounds like a fox-hunt.

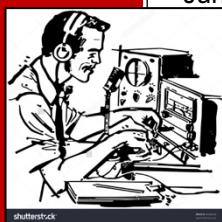
A club meeting was held in **November 1938** in Montrose to discuss the 1939 convention of the amateur radio state association.

In **February 1939**, Mesa College was offering classes in amateur radio work made possible by the WPA vocational training program and costing \$1.00 for books. They were expecting 26 students in the first class.

ARRL held their first district convention in Grand Junction **April 1939**. The main discussion regarded having the Rocky Mountain Division Convention come to Grand Junction that summer which would bring several hundred amateur operators to the valley.

WCARC became an ARRL Affiliated Club on 21 October 1939.

Copies of these articles are available at our meetings.
See Cathy Maddox KF00KV



Amateur Radio Club Had Meet

Western Colorado's Amateur Radio club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Himes in Delta, this weekend.

The club meets semi-monthly or on call and compares experiences on transmission and reception of ultra-high frequencies. Most of the members are also members of the American Radio Relay League.

Present Sunday, with their wives, were R. P. Roberts, formerly operating XU8RR at Shanghai, and now at Montrose; Cecil Carey, W9RTQ, H. E. Clark, W9MGX and M. E. Erickson of Grand Junction; and Dick Pace, W9HDV and C. Q. Himes, W9MST, Delta; Charles Paterson, W9GDC and C. E. Oleson, Fruita; Victor Schorn, Grand Junction and Jessie Phenix, Palisade.

The next session will be held at the home of H. E. Clark, 1560 Ouray at 2 'clock, Sept. 11. A 160-meter transmitter hunt will start from that point and members attending the official meeting will take part.

During the sessions at Delta, R. P. Roberts was named secretary of the club, which now boasts 22 members over the western slope.

ARRL Information



ARRL Membership

There are a lot of benefits to being an ARRL member for both you as an individual and WCARC as a Club.

Go to <https://www.arrl.org/membership> for more information.

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

Talk to Cathy KF00KV for information on how to join or renew your ARRL membership.

ARRL Year of the Club 2026

The growth and development of Amateur Radio relies on local radio clubs to carry on the tradition of amateur radio by sharing knowledge and expertise among radio operators.

ARRL has set up a variety of innovative programs to support club growth and bolster club activities along with recognition and incentives for clubs.

For more information:

<https://www.arrl.org/year-of-the-club>

Watch upcoming issues of QST for our Club Photo!

Colorado Section News

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division/Colorado Section is also participating in the Year of the Club with their own activities to celebrate amateur radio clubs in the region.

For information, go to: <https://colorado-arrl.us/>

Click on: **The Year of the Club 150/250** Get registered with WCARC and help us make 2026 the best year yet!

There are details and instructions on participating in the Colorado 150/250 through on-air & in-person activities. Endorsements are earned with each activity we submit.

The Club will be posting events, photos and stories. Register to participate now.

Awards and Certificates Available

Club of the Year Winner (Plaque awarded) – determined by club that gets the most endorsements & activities for the year.

150/250/YOTC Individual Certificate – any operator that participates with their club is eligible for this.

YOTC Certificate of Achievement – given to all affiliated clubs that participates throughout 2026, earned endorsements included.

Year of the Club 150/250



ARRL Digital Magazines Your ARRL Membership gives you access to a wealth of information on the ARRL website. In addition, you have digital access to all four of the ARRL magazines: "On the Air", "QST", "QEX", and "NCJ". **BUT...did you know about the QST Free Article of the Month?** Each month, one article from the newest issue of QST is made available to absolutely anybody – ARRL membership is not required. www.arrl.org/this-month-in-qst

ARRL Groups Also, did you know they have an ARRL-Groups page for members with subgroups on a variety of topics such as: New Hams, Awards, Contesting, etc. Check it out here: <https://groups.arrl.org/g/ARRL-Groups/subgroups>

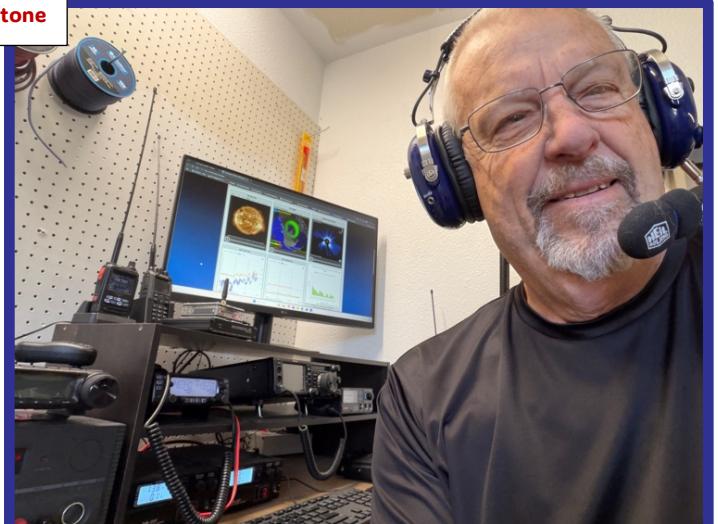
ARRL Information

WCARC Member Spotlight

Not Quite the Cover of the Rolling Stone



Mark Feil KF0NYB



Mark Feil KF0NYB has been a member of WCARC since 2023. He acquired his technician license and then his general ticket shortly thereafter. His main focus is VHF and UHF emergency communications. Mark spends most of his free time running around in the backcountry and felt he needed better communication options.

In 2023, Mark volunteered with the Western Slope ATV Assn providing rider assistance for the Rexy Queen of the Desert Gravel Bike Race. At 23:00 out in the Cisco, Utah area waiting for the last riders to come in, it was pretty lonely with no cell coverage. Mark continues to support the ATV Club with their activities, and it is an added benefit to have radio communications.

Mark attended Quartzfest in 2024 with the WCARC crew and can be found at most of our monthly meetings. You will hear him most days on the morning Oatmeal Net as well and this year he will be moderating a few. He is an active member of Mesa County ARES and participates in a variety of activities providing emergency communications support.

Mark enjoys the WCARC meetings and the people involved. He feels it is a great community of friends sharing their love of Ham Radio. He would like to see more hands-on training for new software and hardware related to Ham Radio and continue to learn new methods of communication.

You will see him this spring at a variety of upcoming events. Be sure to get acquainted!



Mark has his equipment set up to be easily deployable and quick to set up, perfect for working these community events.



Club Member Businesses



digirig a tidy digital modes interface



- Audio and rig control
- Single USB connection
- Small & rugged



digirig.net

Denis Grisak K0TX

<https://digirig.net>

Denis is also a great resource for mentoring anyone interested in digital modes and/or portable operations



John Fuller NJ0NF

Etsy Site featuring customized club name tags & other customized amateur radio items

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/JohnnyFLLC>

Are you a City Market Customer?

The *City Market Community Rewards Program* is a great way to support the Club.

You can select us as your charity either by name or use our NPO Number: **SS693** on your app. Once you have enrolled and linked your loyalty card City Market contributes to WCARC every time you buy groceries.

Member Business Promotions

WCARC would like to support our members who own businesses by promoting them in the newsletter and on the club website.

If you are a 2026 WCARC Member and own a business, send a business card sized ad to KF00KV@outlook.com and we will include it in the next RF Carrier Newsletter and post it on www.W0RRZ.org.

We are more than a *CLUB*. We are a *COMMUNITY*. We want to support *EVERY* member.



Help Support WCARC

Here is the link on the to enroll:

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

Thank You for Supporting WCARC!

Questions? Contact Cathy Maddox (KF00KV), Secretary at KF00KV@outlook.com



Emergency Preparedness and Amateur Radio

We are pretty lucky here in the Grand Valley/Mesa County area that we don't have the types of emergency situations we are seeing across the country. That can change at any time, and we should be thinking about how to prepare for situations that could arise. We do get high winds, power outages and wildfires in this area.

It is great to say, *"When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio Works!"* but can you guarantee it will work? I did a little research online for Amateur Radio and emergency preparedness. Most of the articles involve local hams providing support during an emergency. I didn't find a good resource for ensuring we are actually ready for an emergency.

WCARC partners with Mesa County ARES to practice emergency communications during local community events and we do an annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET), but do you have a plan for real-world emergencies beyond "playing radio"?

All of us should take a few minutes and think through what we need to do to make sure our equipment is safe and will truly work during an emergency. Is there a plan to protect your equipment in the event of weather, power or fire emergencies? Do you have a backup power plan? What happens to your antenna/tower in a high wind event? If you are helping local authorities, what is going on with your family? Do you have a family evacuation plan and a radio that will continue to work if you must pack up and leave your residence?

It is essential to stay prepared and aware of potential hazards. Stay informed by signing up for alerts from your local government or weather service to receive timely notifications. Develop a plan with your family, including a safe evacuation with necessary equipment and communications.

Emergency Preparedness Sites:

<https://www.ready.gov/be-informed>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>

I WALK AROUND LIKE I'M OK.



**BUT INSIDE I WANT MORE
WATTAGE AND A HIGHER ANTENNA.**

RF Exposure & Handheld Radios

Unlike cell phones and commercial equipment, amateur radio transmitters which tend to be modified by the owner, do not need certification for SAR, but they are still required to comply with all FCC regulations. That means it is up to us as licensed operators to ensure the RF exposure limits of our equipment comply with FCC regulations. There are a lot of tools and information available regarding exposure limits for HF radios, but handheld radios are not really covered.

The article *"Understanding the FCC Exposure Rules for Handheld Radios"* on page 55 of the February QST Magazine discusses this issue and explains how you can keep yourself and others safe while using your handheld equipment.

**STEAL A MAN'S WALLET
AND HE WILL BE POOR FOR A WEEK**



**TEACH HIM HAM RADIO-LET HIM BUY HAM GEAR
AND HE WILL BE POOR HIS ENTIRE LIFETIME**

Upcoming Hamfests

RMHAM Winter Swapfest

15 Feb 2026 09:00-13:00

Brighton, CO

Rocky Mountain Ham Radio

<https://www.rmham.org/the-swapfest/>

LARCfest 2026

4 April 2026 09:00-13:00

Longmont, CO

Longmont Amateur Radio Club

<https://w0eno.org/2026larcfest>



18-24 January 2026 Quartzsite, AZ

Quartzfest© is an annual Ham Radio event held every January in the desert 7 miles south of Quartzsite Arizona.

There is also the Quartzsite RV Show and the Quartzsite PowWow Gem & Mineral Show going on at roughly the same time.

Amateur Radio Operators converge on Quartzsite from all around for this awesome event. There are seminars, license testing, local activities, campfires, potlucks, and a Hootenanny! It's a great opportunity to meet new people and check out their set ups and learn a thing or two.

Folks from our club have been making the journey for many, many years.

Maybe you can be one of the cool kids at Quartzfest next year!



Attendees from WCARC were: Brad AK0BC and Cheyenne, Ray KF0DMD and his wife Grace, Forrest AD0XC and KD0G Dobby, Jim AE0JB, Fred N5LKO and Jo KB5EIL, Randy KD0NSP, his wife Cindi and Bandit.





Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (MCARES)

Region 9 District 4

MCARES meets at the First Christian Church 1326 N. 1st St,
Grand Junction at 09:30 on the 4th Friday of each month.

Next Meeting Saturday, 28 February

We are gearing up for EmComm support of several community events:

UTMB Desert Rats 10-12 April

Fruita Fest Gravel Bike Races 9-10 May

Wild Horse Gravel Bike Races 16-17 May

Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Trials – TBD July

If you are interested in volunteering, contact

Andrew AE0WZ at AE0WZ@outlook.com or Chip N0WKR at chip.ferron@gmail.com

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

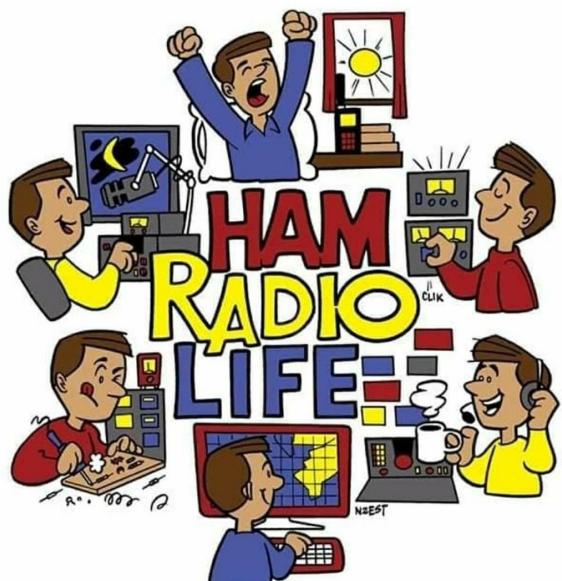
MCARES Coordinator: Chip N0WKR chip.ferron@gmail.com
<https://ares-mesacounty.org>

We Play Radio

We Play Radio is a Google Group for coordinating ham radio activities on the Western Slope. We have members from several Amateur Radio clubs, and from no club at all. If you want to Play Radio, then join us!

Lately members have been working on LandOps events, HF experiments, HamClock, Meshtastic, The DigiPi project, and Summits On The Air (SOTA).

To join us and bring your own interests to We Play Radio, send an email to Bill at K0DZ@protonmail.com so I can send you login credentials.



A Few Upcoming Contests

7-8 Feb	10-10 International Winter, SSB www.ten-ten.org
8 Feb	North American Sprint, CW https://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
9-13 Feb	School Club Roundup www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup
21-22 Feb	ARRL International DX-CW www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
22-23 Feb	Winter 2026 Classic Exchange, Phone
23-24 Feb	Winter 2026 Classic Exchange, Phone https://www.classicexchange.org/announcements/CX_Rules.pdf
	28 Feb-1 Mar North American QSO Party, RTTY https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
7-8 Mar	ARRL International DX-Phone 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 quincentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

More information on the ARRL Website and in the January/February edition of On The Air Magazine

LIFE IS SIMPLE



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://ncjweb.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!