



the RF Carrier

July 2026

Calendar of Events

11 July – WCARC Monthly Meeting

18-19 July – Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Trials
Support (Grand Mesa)

25 July – MC ARES Meeting

8 August – WCARC Hamfest &
Swapmeet

22 August – MC ARES Meeting

12 September – WCARC Annual Picnic

26 September – MC ARES Meeting

10 October – WCARC Monthly Meeting

24 October – MC ARES Meeting

7 November – WCARC Monthly Meeting
*Please note the change of date for the
November WCARC Meeting*

28 November – MC ARES Meeting

12 December – WCARC Monthly Meeting &
Board of Directors Election

26 December – MC ARES Meeting

WHAT IS THE WCARC?

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.

A Note from the Prez

Field Day 2026!!

What an interesting exercise in the wind.

We started early in the morning setting up and within 20 minutes the canopies were close to moving to the next county.

I contacted the pros on the Unc and asked if they would take over the club call sign and they did without hesitation!

Many thanks to them.

We did stick it out and had some success but the group on the hill carried it for the club. Looking forward to giving all of you the rest of the story and some numbers at the July meeting. Stay Safe!!

Randy KD0NSP
President, WCARC

Local Wildfires

We are so appreciative that the Snyder Fire is contained and our WCARC Family (Brad AK0BC and Sam KF0MGH) were minimally affected. Fire season is going to be tough this year and it's just getting started. Consider reaching out to help our friends, neighbors and the firefighters.

Ways you can help: 1) Donating to the local food bank is helping the evacuated families recover from the fires. 2) Alpine Bank has a fund set up for the 3 firefighters who lost their lives at:

<https://www.alpinebank.com/snyderfire.html>.

3) In addition, monetary donations to the American Red Cross and the Wildland Firefighter Foundation are also encouraged.

**Please pray for the other areas in our state
currently on fire and the emergency personnel
involved**

WCARC 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

Repeater Expansion Project

WCARC is working on plans to add a new UHF Repeater on Palisade Point and a VHF Repeater on Baxter Pass. This project will expand repeater capabilities for the club.

Bill K0DZ and Andrew AE0WZ will be presenting details about the WCARC Repeater Expansion Project at the next WCARC Meeting on Saturday, 11 July. We are looking for cash donations to assist in covering the costs of this expansion. Please consider supporting this project.

Congratulate Gene KF0YWF when you see him or hear him on the radio. He passed his technician test in June and received his license!

**WOOHOO
YOU DID IT!**

WCARC Hamfest & Swapmeet

SATURDAY, 8 AUG 2026

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

First Christian Church

1326 N. 1st Street ♦ Grand Junction, CO

YOU can help support WCARC!

Reserve a table, donate equipment, buy a t-shirt, volunteer to help with the event, or just come on out and add to your equipment collection.

There will be food, door prizes, QSL Card checking, informational displays, license testing, and lots of stuff to buy.

If you plan to reserve a table - PLEASE email secretary@w0rrz.org NOW and put your attached registration in the mail. We need to know who plans to sell!

Colorado 14er & Mountaintop Event

First Full Weekend in August

Sat 1 Aug–Sun 2 Aug ♦ Bonus Days (Thur 30 July–Fri 31 July)

Amateur radio operators from around Colorado will be activating **Summits On The Air (SOTA)** peaks and communicating with other radio amateurs across the state and around the world. Join in on the fun during the annual event by activating a summit or contacting (chasing) the mountaintop stations. Be aware that many mountaintop activators will hit the trail early with the goal of being off the summits by (1800 UTC) noon due to lightning safety concerns.

This event includes all **Summits On the Air (SOTA)** peaks, which provide over 1700 summits to activate. (See the [W0C SOTA web page](#) or browse the [SOTA Atlas](#).) The Colorado 14er Event began in 1991, about 19 years before the SOTA program was set up in Colorado. As SOTA grew in popularity, this event expanded from just the 14,000-foot mountains (14ers) to include all SOTA summits in the state. We call it the Colorado 14er & Mountaintop Event because, well, that's where it started, and the 14ers are the iconic summits in the state.

Keep up to date with event info by subscribing to:

<https://ham14er.groups.io/g/ham14er/> and visiting: ham14er.org

Important: The recommended 2m FM frequencies are 146.58, 146.55, and 146.49 MHz, to align with the use of the **North America Adventure Frequency for SOTA (146.58)**. The National Simplex Calling Frequency (146.52) may be used as appropriate. There will be plenty of action on the other ham bands, for more information see the [operating frequencies page](#).

First-time activators should read our [Beginner Guide](#).

Radio operators who plan to activate a summit should post their intent as an ALERT on the [SOTAwatch](#) website.

Warning: Climbing mountains is inherently a dangerous activity. Do not attempt this without proper training, equipment and preparation.

More Information

The Social Side of Things

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

Ham Breakfasts are held the third Friday of each month at 0900 at **Stella's** 811 S. 7th Street, GJ
All are welcome to join us for our club lunches or breakfast!

The Oatmeal Net is conducted Monday – Friday except some Holidays 07:30-08:00 on the Club Repeaters. This net is conducted to check equipment, pass along club messages and continue our ham education. Visitors are encouraged to check in!
Radioactive Net - Every Tuesday at 19:30 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.

License Testing

If you plan to take a test to get or upgrade your amateur license with the WCARC VE Team, **PLEASE register in advance** for one of our available exam sessions at:
<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/WCARC>
Full details about testing are available on the Club Website at:

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

Please look over the pre-exam requirements on our site before registering for a test. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew AE0WZ at ae0wz@outlook.com

Technician License Question Pool Update Effective 1 July 2026

ARRL 6th Edition Study Guide is now available at ARRL and on Amazon.

Other options for updated Study Guides for the Technician Test available are:

HamBook.org (HamStudy) -

<https://hambook.org/?ref=hs>

HamRadioSchool.com -

<https://hamradioschool.square.site/>

HamStudy.org is a great resource for studying regardless of which test you are planning to take. Register for a free account on their site and use "StudyMode". This enables you to see every question in the question pool and better prepare for the test.

Upcoming Colorado HAMFESTS

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (PPRAA)
Megafest

Saturday, 25 July 2026

0800-1300 MST

Lewis-Palmer High School
Monument, CO

<https://ppraa.org/megafest>



WCARC Member Spotlight

Not Quite the Cover of the Rolling Stone

Larry Bullard
NØWRK

Larry Bullard moved to Grand Junction in 1993 following his retirement from the Albuquerque Police Department. Settling into the Grand Valley, he continued his dedication to public safety by joining the Grand Junction Police Department and later transferring to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. He coordinated Search and Rescue (SAR) for the Sheriff's Office until his second retirement in 2005. Even then, he couldn't stay away from the action, contracting with the Coroner's Office and the GJPD Cold Case investigative unit until a double bypass surgery finally steered him toward a slower pace.

Discovering Amateur Radio

Larry's passion for ham radio was born out of necessity during his time with SAR. Backcountry emergency communication outside the Grand Valley was notoriously unreliable, and he recognized that amateur radio could bridge that critical gap. He earned his license in 2006, secured his vanity callsign **NØWRK** shortly after, and quickly joined the WCARC. He currently holds a General class license.

Larry has remained deeply involved with SAR Communications, ATV teams, and River Rescue until 2021. Today, he still loves getting out on his Motorhome, ATVs and river boats—and, true to form, absolutely everything he owns has a ham radio attached to it!



Contesting and Club Service

When he isn't exploring the outdoors, Larry is an avid tester. While those marathon sessions in the shack aren't as frequent as they used to be, he still thoroughly enjoys shorter contest runs and hunting down POTA, SOTA, and Special Event stations. Larry is also a familiar face at WCARC events, frequently volunteering his time to provide communications for local foot and bicycle races. Although he sees technology changing Amateur Communications and opening up amazing abilities, he admits being an analog man in a digital world.

Wild Backcountry Tales

Over the years, Larry's time in the Mesa County backcountry has led to some incredible experiences:

- **The Bookcliffs Outlaw:** He successfully located a pirate CB station hidden in the Bookcliffs that had been aggravating locals for years. The discovery was a true team effort, supported by WCARC members who "fox-hunted" the cleverly concealed setup.
- **Backcountry Rescues:** Larry has been involved in multiple rescues while out recreating. Most notably, during a recent river boating trip through Canyonlands National Park, he discovered the victim of a flash flood who had been swept away all the way from Moab. Ham radio has provided a useful tool over the years.

Larry celebrates his **75th birthday** this month! As one of our active members, you're bound to run into him at the next club event. Be sure to take a few minutes to say hello to NØWRK – he is always guaranteed to entertain you with a story or two.



Wish Larry a Happy 75th!

WCARC Member Spotlight
Larry Bullard NØWRK



ARRL Information



What Is ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national nonprofit association for amateur (ham) radio operators in the United States. Founded in 1914, ARRL works to promote and protect amateur radio through advocacy with regulators, education and licensing support, technical resources, and public service programs.

It benefits amateur radio operators by representing their interests, providing trusted training and publications, supporting emergency and public-service communications, and helping grow and sustain the amateur radio community.

<https://www.arrl.org>

WCARC has been an ARRL
Affiliated Club for 87 years!
Since 21 October 1939

ARRL Membership

There are a lot of benefits to being an ARRL member. Go to <https://www.arrl.org/membership> for more information about the benefits of ARRL Membership.

ARRL has a Club Commission Program. By joining or renewing your ARRL Membership through WCARC under the ARRL Club Commission Program, the WCARC receives a small commission (\$20.00 for new members, \$5.00 for renewals) from ARRL. If you renew through WCARC, you do not receive any promotional items offered by ARRL

Go here:

<https://www.w0rrz.org/club-membership-information>
or talk to Cathy KF0OKV for information on how to join or renew your ARRL membership.

Wyoming HamCon

Rocky Mountain Division – Casper, WY
28-30 August 2026
<https://wyohamcon.org/>

Best Western Hotel & Convention Center
123 West E Street in Casper, Wyoming
Early Bird Registration extended to 30
June

There will be lots of Amateur Radio related activities throughout the three days with forums, and guest speakers.

Our Keynote Speaker for the Saturday Evening Banquet will be Rick Roderick, K5UR the President of the ARRL. Banquet tickets can be purchased in the registration system.

HOW I WANT THE
WIRING IN MY
STATION TO LOOK:



REALITY:



Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (MC ARES)

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.

<https://ares-mesacounty.org/>

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 NØWKR chip.ferron@gmail.com

July MC ARES Meeting

Saturday, 25 July 2026 – 09:30

Mesa County ARES/EMCOMM UHF/VHF Net

Every Thursday at 1900 MST on the
WestCo Repeater System

Once a quarter on the second Thursday, the net starts on the WestCo System and moves to the Rocky Mountain Ham Rocky Mountain Central talk group for those members with a DMR radio.

Statewide Colorado ARES UHF/VHF Net

Every Sunday at 2000 MST. Multiple Repeater groups and modes are available.



MC ARES Community Support

Western Colorado Retriever Hunting Club Dog Trials

18-19 July 2026 on the Grand Mesa

Members of Mesa County ARES will complete their final scheduled activity of the event season on July 18th and 19th when they provide emergency communications support to the Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Club's Hunt Test on the Grand Mesa. The Hunt Test brings together hunting dogs from all over the country for a weekend of water and land trials, with 200+ dogs participating. Since there is virtually no cell coverage on the Mesa, we provide backup communication for emergencies and administrative traffic. There is still time to sign up to participate.

Contact Chip NØWKR chip.ferron@gmail.com for details



AuxComm Deployments

The Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm) Unit is a part of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, operating under the Office of Public Safety Communications. AuxComm team members are amateur radio operators who have special training under the State and FEMA/CISA and deploy through resource requests issued by the DHSEM to assist with disasters and statewide emergencies. AuxComm operators have been deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center this week to assist with radio traffic as wildfires continue to burn and expand throughout the state. Many of our Mesa County ARES members are also part of AuxComm and are standing by to deploy and assist if needed.

Colorado ARES presents Amateur TV Training Saturday, 18 July 0900

ATV or Amateur Television is a capability we can use to improve situational awareness for first responders and emergency managers. You will learn about the RF, Video Codec and camera equipment used.

This training will be presented by the ATV Team of Boulder and Broomfield County ARES.



Contesting Information

A Few Upcoming Contests

11-12 July – IARU HF World Championship

<https://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

18-19 July – North American QSO Party, RTTY

<https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

18-19 July – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest

<https://cqww-vhf.com>

1-2 Aug – ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

<https://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>

1-2 Aug – North American QSO Party, CW

<https://ncjweb.com/naqp/>

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/>



Mission Statement

GMCC's mission is to promote and encourage contesting enjoyment for its members while striving to be the best statewide contesting club in Colorado, involving all levels of contest operations, encouraging contest use and activity of all models, all bands and frequencies and increasing contesting operations and activities in the state.

Benefits of Membership

- * Colorado's statewide contest club
- * No dues or membership fees
- * Web reflector for contesters

Awards Presented For

- "Top Gun" Award
issued at 1 Million contest points
- "Contest Club of Champions"
in SSB - CW - RTTY - Digital

<https://grandmesa.org>

Club Member Businesses



John Fuller WJ0NF

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

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



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

Club 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 secretary@w0rrz.org 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.

Club Sponsors

The following organizations have provided services or monetary donations in support of the mission of WCARC



N2KNK
KERI VARELA

**WESTCO SYSTEMS
REPEATER NETWORK**

<https://w0rrz.org/n2knk-westco-repeater-system>



THE UPS STORE®



Store #1349
2695 Patterson Rd Ste 2
Grand Junction, CO 81506
Village Fair Plaza
12th & Patterson

970-241-6103

Mon - Fri 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Sat 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sun 10:00AM - 3:00 PM



Community Rewards Program

Link your digital loyalty card to Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club (NPO 55693) and City Market donates a percentage to WCARC every time you purchase using your loyalty account. Works at all Kroger owned stores in Colorado.



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO™

WCARC THANKS THESE GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLUB

General Club 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*. **This year we will have our April, May and November meetings on the 1st Saturday due to conflicts. Please update your calendars.**

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 <https://www.w0rrz.org/wcarc-events-calendar>

We provide via Microsoft Teams. Members should receive an email on the Friday before the meeting with a link. Non-members may email secretary@w0rrz.org for the link.

Amateur Radio License Testing

Taking an exam to get or upgrade your Amateur Radio License could not be easier. Full details about testing are available on the Club

Website at:

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

Please register at least a week in advance at <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/WCARC> to verify the test date & time & 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.

Club Website Information

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

Current announcements are posted on the main page of the website.

Access to the Club Members Area requires you to be a *current* 2026 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.



Are you a City Market Customer? **Help Support WCARC**

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.



Here is the link on the to enroll:
<https://www.citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Thank You for Supporting WCARC!
 Questions? Contact Cathy (KF00KV), secretary@w0rrz.org

Content Needed for the RF Carrier

Do you have information that you think would be valuable for other members to know? Are you a tester & would like to help list upcoming contests? Do you have something funny to add or saw a Ham related meme? Do you have photos of your radio equipment or an event? Please send it to secretary@w0rrz.org by the first Monday of the month and I will add it to the RF Carrier!



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 970-210-8597	Max Taylor KF0LHO	Paul Frey N2COL paul.frey@mesacountysarc.org 970-434-6063	Cathy Maddox KF0OKV secretary@w0rrz.org 719-246-9479
1-Year Trustee	2-Year Trustee	3-Year Trustee	Club Station License Trustee
Rick Miller AK0HS rickisdoingok@gmail.com 970-260-5059	Dave Bratcher AK0MR ak0mr@arrl.net 970-263-7875	Andrew Maddox AE0WZ ae0wz@outlook.com 719-325-9639	Forrest Hoskins AD0XC ad0xc@protonmail.com 970-201-4132

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!