

## 2022-10-11 Hamlet Net

### Announcements:

- Test Session Info
  - Next scheduled test session is October 22nd at 350 Terry Street
    - ARRL session, so \$15 there is a \$15 testing fee.
  - To test before this (or online), go to hamstudy.org -> Find a Session (make sure you search for online sessions!)
- RMHAM has published details of their upcoming Tech Talks and 2022-2023 RMHAM University presentations. Topics include Using the Incident Command System for events, Chinese DMR programming, Ham Radio instrumentation and others. For more information, or to sign up for these free presentations, go to the RMHAM web site at rmham.org and click on the RMHAM UNIVERSITY menu item near the top of the page.
- The northern Colorado Amateur Radio CLUB, NCARC, is hosting a Rosin Corps event on Saturday, November 5th from 9-11 am in the CSU Chemistry lab. Each participant will build their own 2m Yagi antenna - perfect for working satellites or fox hunts! There is no cost for the class. For more information and to sign up, see their web site at: ncarc.net (november-charlie-alpha-romeo-charlie dot net)
- The Nashua Area Radio Society has opened registration for their FREE Fall 2022 Online Ham Bootcamp, which is being held Saturday, November 5th from 10am to 6pm Eastern via Zoom. The Bootcamp is a series of demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly-licensed hams to get on the air and use their licenses.

The morning session will focus on Technician level activities, while the afternoon session will focus on HF activities for General and above licenses.

For more info, see their web site at: n1fd.org (november-one-foxtrot-delta dot org) and select the "HAM BOOTCAMP" menu item under the "OUR ACTIVITIES" menu drop-down.

While there is no charge for the camp, you must pre-register.

Links:

Info & Schedule:

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/nashua-area-radio-society%E2%80%99s-fall-2022-ham-boot-camp-registration-is-open.833357/>

Bootcamp info: <https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>

Registration: <https://www.n1fd.org/register-ham-bootcamp/>

- Raman will be presenting his Incident Command System talk at our next LARC general meeting, which is Wednesday, October 19th via Zoom. The Zoom meeting starts for

socialization at 6:30pm, with the club meeting starting at 7pm. Meetings are open to both members and non-members, so please plan on attending!

- The LARC Christmas Party will be held on December 14. We are planning to hold it at the Niwot Grange. If we can get at least 75 people to attend, we can get the cost per person down to \$11. Members and spouses/family members are welcome! (Dick - KE0VT)
- All club activities are open to anyone - members and non-members. ~~If you have questions, ask them on a net or~~ **send email to [elmer@w0eno.org](mailto:elmer@w0eno.org)**
- Club breakfast Saturday mornings at 8am at the Hidden Cafe in Longmont
  - Come meet other Club members and discuss amateur radio

#### **Misc:**

- New York state QSO party this weekend

#### **Presenter: Bryan, AF0W**

#### **Topic: ARRL Rocky Mountain Convention and ShyWy Ham Fest**

- This past weekend, the Shy-Wy and Sweetwater Amateur Radios Clubs hosted the 2022 ARRL Rocky Mountain Convention and hamfest
- The event included 15 technical forums, the ARRL section meeting, VE test session, a satellite university event, an HF special event station, and many prize drawings, including for a grand prize of an ICOM 7300
- My wife Kat, W0UM, and I attended the event, and while we were lucky enough to win two of the door prize baskets, the ICOM eluded us
- We saw a number of LARC members while we were there

#### **Hamfest**

- We were a bit disappointed with the hamfest portion of the event. We expected it to be much larger than the local ones, but in fact, it looked smaller than the recent BARCFest here in Longmont
- We saw a few of the same vendors and items as were at the BARCFest, but they did have Arrow Antennas there. They used to attend some of the local hamfests, but I haven't seen them for a while.
- Something I haven't seen before was their General Store area.

- The idea is that if you have something you want to get rid of, they'll take care of the sale for you so you don't have to rent a table and sit at it for the entire event.
- My wife and I usually serve as VEs for local hamfests, which means we tend to miss most of the event itself, and while I've never tried to sell anything, I imagine it has the same issue.
- Of course, they don't do this for free - I think they charged 10% of the sale price for this service (so I guess you wouldn't owe anything if your item did not sell).
- We got there a bit late, so it looked like quite a few of the items had already been sold, but it is an interesting concept for a hamfest.
- They also had a number of emergency-related equipment there, like a fire truck, air ambulance, and some support trailers.

### **Tech Presentations**

- Since we arrived later than planned, we missed a few of the morning presentation slots.
- The first presentation we attended was titled "Helpful Test Gear and Tools for the Ham Shack," presented by Rob Sherwood, NC0B
  - Rob has been licensed since 1961 and began his company, Sherwood Engineering, in 1974 offering filters and upgrades for the Drake R-4C, a 1970's era receiver.
  - I first heard about Rob for the lists of receiver performance data that he publishes.
  - He started doing this in 1976, and has presented at many events over the years.
  - He has a station east of Ft. Collins that can work 70 cm down to 630 meters.
  - This talk covered affordable options for equipment used for troubleshooting, maintenance and adjustment.
    - Of course, everyone has a different idea of what "affordable" means!
  - It was interesting to hear his opinions on different pieces of test equipment, and the characteristics and limitations of each of them
  - If you want to check out the receiver performance list, go to [sherweng.com](http://sherweng.com) (sierra-hotel-echo-romeo--echo-november-golf dot com) and click on the scrolling note at the top of the page
    - He's got a lot of presentations and articles at the bottom.

- The second presentation we attended was titled "How and Why of DXing and Confirming QSOs" by Roland Smith, K7OJL, and Bob Carter, WR7Q
  - This talk covered how to snag new countries and DX entities, and almost as important, how to get them confirmed
  - In the US, many operators use ARRL's Logbook of the World, or LOTW
    - This service is free for all amateurs - you do not have to be an ARRL member to use it
    - It's primary purposes are to match up logs submitted by multiple operators, and to keep track of your progress towards ARRL awards
    - Even though it is called "Logbook of the World," you don't use it like your typical amateur radio logging application
      - You still maintain your actual logs elsewhere - when you have some QSOs you wish to send to LOTW, you generate an adif file (alpha-delta-india-foxtrot) which is a formatted file containing QSO information, and use the ARRL TrustedSQL or TSQL application to upload this file to LOTW.
      - You can also download a list of confirmed QSOs from LOTW to import back into your logging program
      - Some logging programs include built-in capability to perform the upload and downloads
    - The setup process is a bit elaborate - this is because it includes setting up a private/public key pair to allow your log submissions to be authenticated and encrypted
    - This may seem like a lot of additional work to get a certificate for your wall, but it is done to prevent cheating
    - To get an account and access the LOTW, go to: [lotw.arrl.org](http://lotw.arrl.org) (lima-oscar-tango-whiskey dot org) - there is a link at the bottom titled "Get started today!" to get the process started
  - Outside of the US, many stations still use paper QSL cards.
    - To count toward ARRL awards, these cards must be validated by a "QSL card checker" who then submits the contact info to the ARRL
    - When using QSL cards, you may see mention of a bureau or buro

- Bureaus are a well-established system for sending and receiving QSL cards
- The idea is that instead of paying individual postage for each QSL card you send, you send a batch to an outgoing bureau who then sorts and "batches up" cards from many operators to be sent in bulk at a later date.
- On the receiving side, the cards are sorted by recipient and mailed when there is a sufficient number or when requested.
- The downside of this system is that it can take a while to get a confirmation of a QSO
  - Cards go through two bureaus in each direction, for a total of 4 bureaus per QSO
  - One of the presenters said he's had contacts take two years to be confirmed via this method, but some stations specify that they will only respond to bureau cards.
- You can use QRZ.com to see what forms of QSO confirmation stations will accept - search for the other station's callsign and then click on the "Details" button - at the bottom, it will show the different methods.
  - Be sure to update your preferences on your own entry as well!
- Some foreign stations also request money - referred to as "green stamps" - i.e. three green stamps equals three dollars
  - This is both to cover postage, and sometimes to turn a bit of a profit, especially if they are located in a hard-to-get DX entity
- The final presentation we attended was run by LARC's own president, Chuck, K0ITP and was titled "Keeping Clubs Active and Vibrant"
  - He discussed a number of the initiatives that he has implemented in LARC, including monthly club activities, a more interactive web site, and greater freedom for members to initiate new club activities
  - There were some good questions and information from the participants as well

## **Future**

- Chuck has raised the possibility of LARC hosting an upcoming ARRL convention in conjunction with other amateur radio clubs in the area

- If you would be interested in helping out with this effort, please get in touch with him at [k0itp@w0eno.org](mailto:k0itp@w0eno.org)

## Summary

- In addition to the official events, we also spent a lot of time talking with other participants about things as varied as LARC policies, GMRS radios, and stories from past employment.
- All in all, we enjoyed the convention and are glad we attended this year.
- If you have the opportunity to go to one, I highly recommend it
- Raman, KV0N, has put together a video showing the ShyWhy HamFest and ARRL Convention that took place in Wyoming this last weekend along with 5 POTA activations. The video is listed on the LARC web page at w0eno.org

## More Info

- Shy-Wy Amateur Radio Club: <https://shywyarc.net/wp/>
- 2022 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention: <https://wyhamcon.org/site/>
- What is a QSL Bureau?  
[https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham\\_radio/qs1-cards/qs1-bureau-buro.php](https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham_radio/qs1-cards/qs1-bureau-buro.php)
- ARRL QSO Bureau Page: <http://www.arrl.org/qs1-service>

## Questions:

- **The question for the week is: Did you attend the convention, and if so, what did you think? If not, is this something that sounds interesting to you, or not.**

## Notes:

- If you have ideas for net topics or general meeting topics / presenters, please let us know! Tell us on a net, or send email to [k0itp@w0eno.org](mailto:k0itp@w0eno.org)

## Email to [elmer@w0eno.org](mailto:elmer@w0eno.org)

WB4FAS - Don - Don't like to do too much of that. Wasn't able to make it - busy putting up HF antenna. 288 ft. long loop, and finally got on the air and contacted Slovenia w/SSB and a 57 report.

WA7EM - Ed - Was at Cheyenne event. Had sessions at LARCFest (but not BARCFest). Is important to offer these. Had to drive to south Aurora to get them checked.

AF0W - Bryan -

AE0DO - John - Not able to go. Go up to Cheyenne fairly often for other hobby.

KV0N - Raman - Did go. Did POTA on the way up, and some in Wyoming. Went to Cybersecurity for Hams, learning Morse code, reading Smith charts, banquet and breakfast.

KE0RWV - John - Did attend. Disappointed in swap meet. Said a lot of people left due to weather. Good idea for us to host convention here. Would be willing to help in any way he can.

N0ZFV - Bob - Was in Cheyenne and had a good time. Enjoyed forums. Surprised hamfest wasn't busier. Came home with Wolf River Coils Silver Bullet Mini antenna. Have to figure out how to use VNA for tuning it. Think bringing it to LARC is a good idea.

KF0EAJ - Steve - Been using QRZ logbook (and not LOTW). Making lots of DX contacts. Missed hamfest in Cheyenne.

KC0CT - Joe - Missed hamfest in Wyoming. Also use QRZ log.

Ed - WA7EM - low-level electronics - in spring, a few engaged in this and eventually built a 1-transistor amp. Going to start in fall (November, likely), to study low-level circuit stuff, and then will build examples. Send him an email to join - in QRZ - and will build up a list of who wants to participate

KF0EAJ - Have been using WSJT-X and exporting to QRZ. Will confirm your QSOs if they've done the same.