

2025-07-29 Hamlet Net - Special Event Stations

Announcements:

- Test Session Info
 - Next VE session is Saturday, August 23rd in the Clover Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, and starts at 10 am. It is an ARRL session, so there is a \$15 fee to test. For more info, and to pre-register, see the Licensing/Testing page on the club web site, <https://w0eno.org/>, under the Education menu.

- Radio News

- AST SpaceMobile is a company developing a satellite constellation-based cellular network designed to connect directly with standard mobile phones in cellular dead zones.

They had proposed utilizing spectrum from the amateur radio 70cm allocation for telemetry, tracking, and control (TT&C) of its satellites - a total of 248 satellites to communicate with five ground stations using up to five channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth

(<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-files-comments-to-protect-70-centimeter-amateur-band>).

The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) notes that AST's experimental satellite BlueWalker-3 has already caused interference to amateur satellite service operations.

Thankfully, they've dropped their request to utilize this range of frequencies - it's now specified as emergency use only outside of the US.

- Club Activities

- The August LARC Event will be a POTA activation on August 23 after the test session. If you can participate, get in touch with Chuck to discuss and help plan the location.
- Breakfast Saturday at 7:30 - 8:00 am at the Hidden Cafe.
- LARC Members can now check out Club equipment via the Club web page at: <https://w0eno.org/> - click on the "LARC Equipment Check Out Form" link on the "LARC Equipment" menu item at the top of the web page once you log in.

- Upcoming General Meeting Topics

- August 20th - Violetta Latham (KN2P) - ARRL Section Youth Coordinator for Colorado will talk about an upcoming DXpedition to the Manihiki Atoll in the North Cook Islands
 - Sept 17th - Fred Nichols (AF4BY) - Demonstrating setup of the club's Spiderweb Antenna. The meeting will include an outdoor picnic with food provided.
 - Upcoming Club Volunteer Opportunities:
 - HAMCON Colorado 2025 for Rocky Mountain Division is October 23-26, 2025 in Grand Junction. For more information and to register, see their web site at: hamconcolorado.com They are also looking for presenters.
 - Looking for help for Boulder County Fair Parade - August 2nd, 2025 - Contact Steve Robbiano or Chuck
 - August 16th - Longmont Try-a-Tri Triathlon (<https://longmontcolorado.gov/recreation-services/community-events/triathlon-weekend/>). This is a super sprint distance triathlon. These are the distances: 200 yard swim, 5 mile bike ride, 1.2 mile run. HTs should be fine. Contact Steve Robbiano if you can help out.
 - RMHAM is running the summer swapfest at the Adams County Fairgrounds on Sunday August 24th from 9am to 1pm. Admission is just \$6, so plan on dropping by! Tables are also available for \$13 in advance, and \$20 at the door. For more info see: <https://www.rmham.org/the-swapfest/>
 - If you are interested in find out more about the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (or ARES) in the local area, check out the Boulder County ARES web site at <https://bouldercountyares.org/>
- They have a VHF net on Monday nights at 8:00pm, as well as a DMR net on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays at 8:30pm.
- If you are an ARRL member, remember that you have digital access to four magazines - QST, On the Air, QEX, and National Contest Journal.
 - We have a new net on the LARC repeaters. It's run by Timothy Moss, KFØLAR, on the 22nd of every month at 6pm. The 22nd was chosen to highlight the average of 22 vets who commit suicide each day. While the purpose of the net is to connect veterans, non-vets are welcome to participate as most all of us have friends or family who are or have served.
 - The ARRL Colorado Section Net occurs on the second Monday of the month from 7 to 8pm. The net is run by Amanda Alden, K1DDN, our Colorado ARRL section manager, and is open to hams and non-hams alike. This net is a place where Colorado hams can

ask questions of ARRL leadership and request help, guidance, club support, and technical support. This net meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm Mountain time. The net is on the Colorado Connection, Rocky Mountain Ham Radio DMR Talk Group 700, The Fun Machine, WE0FUN, and the NCARC Buckhorn Repeater 447.700 – with 100 Hz tone.

- We have some volunteer opportunities available where you can help out LARC:
 - Photographer / videographer - record team activities and upload to web site / YouTube
 - Newsletter Editor - put together the monthly Splatter newsletter
 - Event Coordinator
- Time's up for this year, but you can earn your 2026 membership or future renewal by acting as NCS for at least 5 nets next year. You can run either this Tuesday night net or the Thursday night net (or both). We have scripts available for both, so all you need is a good connection into the repeater, and somewhere to keep track of names and call signs as people check in. If you're going to be on the net anyway, why not save some dough at the same time!
- Chuck has set a goal for the Club of running at least one activity a month. This can be a hands-on construction activity, an operating activity like Field Day, a fox hunt, or a special event station. The goal is to get people together to have fun with amateur radio! We have multiple locations at our disposal, as well as lots of Club equipment, so if you have an idea for something you think others hams would like to do, please let us know, and if you're willing to run it, even better!
- The Club is also looking for presentation topics for 2025. If you have any ideas, or better yet, would like to present, please let Chuck know and we'll get you on the schedule! We would like to get some presentations from club members on stuff they've been doing, projects they're working on, or just things that interest them.
- 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**

Presenter: Bryan, AF0W

Topic: Special Event Stations

- We're pretty used to working call signs that belong to other hams or even to ham clubs (such as LARC's WØENO call sign) - another situation is when working a special event station.

- A special event is one or more stations operated in observance or commemoration of a special or historical event, usually having some special significance to the amateur radio community
- These stations generally operate for a short time and may have special QSL cards or certificates for those who make contact with them
- The stations may also provide some background on or answer questions about the event being observed to those who contact them
 - a. If there is a pileup, QSOs are usually kept brief
 - b. During slow periods, the station may provide more info to try to generate additional activity
- Some interesting special events include:
 - a. The special event stations celebrating National Sasquatch Day (October 20), where you can seek out the elusive "bigfoot" represented by 6 special event callsigns, which would nab you the coveted BIG STOMP on the BIGFOOT Certificate!
 - b. The 2024 Night of the Living Dead Halloween Special Event Stations K2V and K2Q to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the movie. Station K2V will operate from the actual cemetery.

Call Signs

- One major advantage special events have is that they can apply to use a 1x1 call sign - such as LARC's WØT (whiskey-zero-tango) for the 75th anniversary of the invention of the transistor or NØP (november-zero-papa) for Santa on the Air
- Due to their length, these call signs are more likely to stand out on the air, as well as being shorter to send
- The call signs themselves do not authorize any operating privileges - those are handled as they would for any amateur station
- The call signs consist of a prefix (K, N, or W), followed by a region number (Ø to 9), and end with a single suffix letter (A through Z excluding X)
 - This results in a possible 750 special event call signs
 - Apparently, the X after the number was issued only for experimental stations until the late 1990's

- The FCC has approved five coordinators to handle these call sign requests, the largest of which is the ARRL
- You may reserve your call sign up to one year in advance. Short notice requests may also be granted, but of course there's no guarantee of availability or turnaround time, so you'll want to get your request in as soon as you have the date nailed down
 - One posting I saw mentioned a turnaround time of up to a week, so don't wait until the last minute!
 - If your event date changes, you will have to cancel your initial request and submit a new request for the new date - you can't just move your reservation
- They may be requested by any licensed amateur radio operator, regardless of license class
- When you make a request, you can specify up to 10 candidate call signs - you will be assigned the first one available
- They are assigned for the duration of the special event, with a 15-day maximum duration - the assumption is that most events will last from 1-3 days
 - You cannot reserve multiple back-to-back events to circumvent this limitation
 - Reserving more than one 1x1 call sign per year is also discouraged - this is probably so that other stations can get in on the fun
- You must have an actual special event you are commemorating - you can't get a 1x1 callsign just so you can increase your QSO rate in a contest, for example
 - If you do happen to have a legitimate special event, you can use the special event call sign for any contests or other amateur radio operating events during that time
 - If you do abuse the special event call sign system, you may be denied any future requests
- Your special event call sign assignment is complete when it appears in the 1x1 call sign database
 - Note that it will not appear in the FCC call sign database
- Remember that while the operators of a special event station may use the special event call sign to identify transmissions (with the standard "every 10, and at the end" timing), they must still transmit their assigned call signs at least once per hour to provide identification for the transmissions

- You don't need a special event call sign to run a special event station. You can use a club call sign (with the club trustee's permission) or your own call sign if you wish

QRZ

- One other item you may want to look into is getting the QRZ page for your special event updated with your event information
 - I'm not familiar with this process, but hopefully Chuck, can address it
 - If you don't have your station information on QRZ, be prepared for some confused operators, as many people use that site for looking up callsigns!

Finding Them

- So how do you find out about upcoming special event stations?
- Since there are 5 licensed coordinators, there had to be some place where a list of all assignments was kept
- These coordinators maintain a consolidated list of assignments that is available on the web at: <http://1x1callsigns.org/> (one-xray-one-callsigns.org)
 - a. You can search for granted 1x1 call signs using the "Search 1x1 Calls" link on the left of that web page
- I ran a search for special event callsigns from today until the end of the year - there were 417 call signs returned
 - a. Some events had multiple call signs such as the Air Force MARS annual special event with 6 call signs, and Wyoming Ghost Towns on the Air with 23 special event call signs
 - b. The web page mentioned that there were 24,143 total entries - the database appears to go back to August of 1997, with the first call sign being whiskey-4-bravo which was granted for the Bristol Autumn Chase Festival - I guess this means the "significance to amateur radio" requirement is pretty loose!
 - c. I looked at the November-zero-papa call sign for LARC's Santa on the Air event
 - The detailed information included the coordinator and requisitioner, including name, call sign, address, email, and phone, so some individuals may have privacy concerns

Running a Special Event Station

- If you are running a special event station, there are a number of tasks you may need to complete in addition to obtaining the call sign, such as:
 - a. Deciding what hours you will be operating
 - b. Deciding which frequencies and modes you will be using, and whether they will change during different dates or times
 - c. Designing a QSL card or certificate for the event (if you are going to send them out)
 - d. Putting together a web page to advertise your event
 - e. Doing PR work, such as submitting your event to QRZ, posting it on social media, mentioning it during nets, submitting it to clubs for inclusion in their newsletters, etc.
 - f. Getting equipment to use during the event
 - This may also include getting digital communication software, such as WSJT-X, and logging software set up for special-event operation
 - g. Identifying volunteers to help with station setup, operation, and teardown, as well as handling QSL and certificate requests after the event
- Of course, the main concern here is to have fun commemorating the event!
 - a. I've included a number of web sites in the net notes if you'd like more information
- The special event station WØT was to commemorate the invention of the transistor, and it was run using the club's GoBox, so lack of equipment is no excuse!

Questions:

- **The question for the week is:** Have you ever contacted or worked at a Special Event station? Do you have any ideas for Special Event stations that LARC could run?
- **In my case,** I've worked the radios at one special event station, which was when LARC commemorated the Boulder County Fair. We operated from a park in Longmont, and the first year I worked the event, we had a special event call sign. Unfortunately, the QRZ entry for that call sign showed the information from the previous event, so we had some operators who were confused about what we were doing.

I've contacted a few special event stations over the years - the ones that stand out are the Museum Ships Weekend Event (held in June) where last year 89 ships participated over voice, CW, and various digital modes such as RTTY and FT8. If you contacted at least 15 different ships, you could request a certificate.

The other is the Indianapolis Motor Speedway special event stations, which are three stations commemorating the Grand Prix, Indianapolis 500, and NASCAR 200 races starting in May. They provide individual station QSL cards as well as a certificate for those who contact all three stations during the week.

Backup Questions:

1. What hobbies do you have other than ham radio? Do you (or could you) use ham radio in these hobbies?
2. Share an "a-ha" moment you had with amateur radio?

More Info:

- ARRL's Special Event Call Sign page: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-call-signs>
- ARRL Search for Special Events: https://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:2/model:Event
- Planning and Operating a Special Event Station: <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/planning-and-operating-a-special-events-station.249795/>
- How to Run a Special Event Station: <https://w4amc.com/2022/02/19/how-to-run-a-special-event-station/>
- Special Event Operating Procedures: <https://www.m0mcx.co.uk/special-event-operating-procedures/>
- IMS Special Event Station: <https://www.qrz.com/db/w9ims>
- Museum Ships on the Air: <https://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>
- DX Special Event Stations: https://www.qsl.net/va3rj/spevents_dx.html

Email to elmer@w0eno.org

- 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

Email to elmer@w0eno.org

1. KØITP - Chuck - Firestone
2. WAØJJC - Bob - Boulder
3. AEØDO - John - N of Longmont
4. KFØUSF - Dave - Boulder
5. AFØXS - John - Thornton
6. AFØW - Bryan - Longmont

7. WØAKI - Aki - Longmont

End: 7:55pm