

## 2025-08-26 Hamlet Net - Colorado State QSO Party

### Announcements:

- Test Session Info
  - Had a good test session this weekend - there were four unlicensed candidates. Two passed Technician while two passed both Tech and General. If any of them are listening tonight, congratulations!
  - Next VE session is this Saturday, September 22nd in the Clover Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, and starts at 9 am. It is a PVET session, so there is no 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.
- Club Activities
  - LARC had a POTA activation this weekend at the Saint Vrain State Park. If someone was present and can give a summary, please give your call now.
    - John - Was a fun event. 5 people there. Chuck brought both GoBoxes. 2 Chucks, 2 Johns, and one Bob. Half of the fun was putting it all together! New GoBox was great - Chuck did a good job putting it together. Made some contacts, and had a good time. Looking forward to doing it again.
    - Chuck - had a total of 27 QSOs. Chuck brought some masts and other items that worked good for a show and tell.
    - Used Wolf River coils (10-12-15 meters) and JPC-12 vertical (20 meters) from the new GoBox.
  - Sunday was RMHAM's hamfest. A Digirig was donated for the new GoBox, so it can run Winlink, FT8, or any other protocol you want.
  - 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
  - Last Wednesday at the LARC General Meeting, Violetta Latham (KN2P) gave a presentation about her activities leading up to an upcoming DXpedition to the

Manihiki Atoll in the North Cook Islands. I should have the meeting video up on Youtube in the next few days.

- Next month's General Meeting will be held on September 17th at the Clover Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds. LARC equipment that is available to be checked out will be exhibited. We will be having food (hotdogs and hamburgers). Please bring a dish to share if you like. Please contact [elmer@w0eno.org](mailto:elmer@w0eno.org) if you need a ride and would like to come socialize with other club members.
- Elections for the Board will also be held. Your current Board has offered to stay on if the club wishes. If you would like to run for an Executive position, please let one of the current board members know.
- Proxy voting forms will be out in the next few weeks. If you are not able to vote in person at the September meeting, please vote via proxy as this will help us meet our quorum requirements. Proxy voting will be available starting the second week in September.
- Upcoming Club Volunteer Opportunities:
  - September 20th is Miner's Day in Fredrick. Looking for volunteers to help run a table at the event and also support the Burro race. For help at the table, contact Chuck ([k0itp@w0eno.org](mailto:k0itp@w0eno.org)). For the Burro race, contact Bob Henderson at [wb0nrv@yahoo.com](mailto:wb0nrv@yahoo.com).
  - BARCFest is October 5th. LARC will have a table there, so if you can help staff it, please get in touch with him.
  - 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](http://hamconcolorado.com) They are also looking for presenters.
- Upcoming Radio Activities
  - MRHS Enigma Challenge
    - On August 30th, there will be an interesting transmission from the Maritime Radio Historical Society, MRHS, consisting of a message encoded on an Enigma machine.
    - Enigma machines were electromechanical rotor cipher devices used by Nazi Germany during World War II to encrypt and decrypt secret messages. The machines utilized a series of rotors, a plugboard, and a lampboard to scramble messages, creating a complex cipher that was initially thought to be unbreakable. Allied cryptanalysts, particularly at Bletchley Park, including Alan Turing, were able to crack the Enigma

code, providing crucial intelligence that significantly impacted the war effort. This event gives you a chance to try your own skills at intercepting a coded message and decrypting it!

- If you don't happen to have an Enigma machine at home, there are plenty of simulators available on the web that can be used.
  - While encryption intended to obscure the meaning of messages is prohibited in amateur radio, these transmissions will occur on commercial frequencies.
  - The message will be transmitted by coast station KPH on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 2000Z. The transmissions will occur on multiple frequencies and will consist of a CW message which will be repeated via RTTY.
  - For more details on the event, including the frequencies to be used, see: <https://www.radiomarine.org/mrhs-events>
  - Note that if you don't have an HF setup (or are unable to hear this station), you can still participate by using a web-based software-defined radio such as those listed at: <http://websdr.org/> or the ones at the MRHS site at: <https://www.radiomarine.org/kph-sdrs>
- 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](mailto:elmer@w0eno.org)**

**Presenter: Bryan, AFØW**

**Topic: Topic: Colorado State QSO Party, Hurricane Watch Net**

### **Colorado State QSO Party**

- Objective is for amateurs outside the state of Colorado to make contact with as many Colorado stations as possible, and for Colorado stations to try to activate as many counties as possible

- Runs this Saturday from 7am to 10pm (always occurs on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend)
- CW, phone and digital modes on all bands, including VHF, UHF, and 6 meters, except WARC bands (30, 17, 12 meters). FT8 / FT4 will use the normal exchange (so nothing special for the QSO party).
- No satellite or repeater contacts allowed
- 5 categories:
  - Single Operator: One person performs all operating and logging functions. Spotting nets are not permitted. Only one transmitted signal on the air at any time.
  - Multi-Operator: Those using any form of assistance (loggers, spotting nets, etc.). Only one transmitted signal on the air at a time (multi-single).
  - Mobile (in-state only): Operating in or on a movable vehicle, independent of all commercial power sources, and able to travel at any time without having to disconnect any wiring or change antennas. Must log QSOs from more than one county.
    - Single operator: One person performs all operating, logging, and driving (note that they don't encourage doing all of these simultaneously!)
    - Multi-operator: Any number of operators.
  - Portable (in-state only): Station is temporary and must be able to be moved in a reasonable amount of time. Only one radio transmitting at a time. Must submit logs from more than one county or specifically identify as portable in your log submission. May not operate from your home or home county.
    - Single and multi-operator classes
  - Schools: Must be a school amateur radio club, and operation must take place from station on campus (or member's home if there is no club station). Operators can only be students, faculty, staff and alumni from school.
- Multipliers
  - Mode
    - Digital: 2
    - Phone: 1

- CW: 2
    - DXCC (not US, Canada, Alaska or Hawaii) is double the above
  - Power
    - All contacts QRP (5 watts or less): 3
    - All contacts Lower Power (150W output or less): 2
    - Any contacts high power High Power (> 150W): 1
    - Note that mobile, portable, and digital stations are limited to 150W or less
- Contest Exchange
  - Colorado stations send call sign, name, and county (three-letter designation) - "Boulder" is "bou" (county abbreviations: <http://www.ppraa.org/coqp/>)
  - W/VE stations send call sign, name, and state or province/territory (two letter designation)
  - All other DXCC stations send name and DXCC prefix
- Scoring
  - In addition to QSO points and the power multiplier, there are also county, state, Province, and country multipliers
    - 64 Colorado counties, 50 states + DC, 13 Canadian province/territories
    - DXCC countries, maritime mobile/aeronautical ITU regions (3)
    - Multiplier can be counted once per mode, regardless of number of bands on which it is worked.
    - Colorado mobile and portable stations that change counties are considered to be a new station and may be contacted again for QSO and multiplier credit
    - Colorado stations on a county line may be claimed as a QSO and multiplier for each county
  - Bonus points
    - 1000 bonus points will be awarded for each Colorado County activated by a mobile or portable stations. At least ten contacts must be made to receive the bonus points.

- 500 bonus points will be awarded for each confirmed QSO made with a PPRAA club station (AFØS or WAØVTU)
- Portable stations must submit separate logs for each county activated
- Mobile stations submit a single log of all QSOs
- Logs must include band, mode, date, time in UTC, call signs, sent and received exchange.
- Logs must be received no later than midnight on the fifth Saturday after the contest.
- Sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association
- For more info, see [ppraa.org/coqp](http://ppraa.org/coqp) - also have county abbreviations, log and other forms available
- Perfect excuse to check out one of the LARC GoBoxes and operate as a portable station from a couple of counties!
- The PPRAA web site is fairly out of date - they have a list of "covered counties" on their web page, but it's from 2023. Back then, they only had 12 out of the 64 counties covered, which makes it less exciting for all stations.
- You could help out greatly by taking one of the club's GoBoxes and working multiple counties during the event. As with POTA, 10 contacts are needed to activate a county, but remember that each county activated will add 1000 points to your score!
- There is a "Worked All Counties" award - to receive it, you must either have made at least one contact with each of the 64 Colorado counties, or have made at least one contact while being physically present in each of the 64 counties.
- The Kansas and US Islands QSO parties are also this weekend.

### **Hurricane Watch Net**

- The Hurricane Watch Net is a group of licensed Amateur Radio Operators, trained and organized to provide essential communications support to the National Hurricane Center during times of Hurricane emergencies.
- The primary mission of the Hurricane Watch Net is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas.

- They also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm-affected area as well as any post-storm damage and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National Hurricane Center via the amateur radio station in the center (WX4NHC).
- The Hurricane Watch Net generally activates whenever a system has achieved hurricane status and is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass or at the request of the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center or the Canadian Hurricane Centre.
- When activated, you will find us on 14.325 MHz (USB) by day and 7.268 MHz (LSB) by night. When required, we will use both frequencies simultaneously.
- The net is also available on Echolink via the WX TALK conference, and streaming audio is also available on their web site.
- The net aids in getting timely information to locations where public media is not readily available, such as islands and boats
- The net celebrated their 60th anniversary yesterday.
- The HWN traces its roots to Hurricane Betsy in 1965, when amateur radio operator Jerry Murphy, K8YUW, heard urgent calls for information from people in the Bahamas. At the time, 24-hour news and weather coverage did not exist, and storm forecasting and communications technology were still in their infancy. Jerry began coordinating reports from hams in the Bahamas, Florida, and across the region — relaying vital surface data and storm conditions. Out of that effort, the Hurricane Watch Net was born, built on a simple but powerful principle: when information is scarce and lives are at stake, amateur radio can be a lifeline.
- Since that time, the HWN has been active for 156 hurricanes, including 60 major hurricanes (Category 3 or stronger). Of those, 12 struck as Category 5 hurricanes.
- The Net's longest continuous activation occurred during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, when operators remained on the air for 151 hours straight. Among the deadliest storms ever recorded by the Net was Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which claimed more than 11,000 lives in Central America.
- You can directly help by participating in two ways - as a net controller or by providing reports from affected areas
  - There is a training process for net controllers to familiarize them with all the systems used by the net

- When providing reports, they ask for information such as city, state, and GPS coordinates, observed information like wind speed or flood heights, how those values were measured, and any other information related to the location.
- For more information and to see whether or not the net is active, check out the web site at: <https://hwn.org/>

### Questions:

- **The question for the week is:** Have you ever participated in a contest before? If not, does this sound interesting or not?
- **In my case,** the very first contact I made over HF was during a contest. I don't recall which contest it was, but I believe it was one of the state QSO parties. I remember that it was pretty stressful - as this was the first time I was using my HF radio, I had all I could do to figure out how to work my radio and antenna tuner, as well as remember my phonetics and operate in a bit of a pileup.

I was ecstatic when I made my first contact, so it was worth it.

I'm generally fairly introverted, and working contests seemed a lot easier to me than calling CQ and having a rag chew. Contests are very regimented in their exchanges so you know what you're going to say, and if you're operating search and pounce, you can listen to the calling stations information and exchange to make sure you understand them fully before attempting your contact.

I've since participated in a number of contests, and while I've never finished at any sort of competitive level, they have been a lot of fun.

### More Info:

- Colorado State QSO Party: <https://ppraa.org/coqp>
- 2024 Colorado State QSO Party Results: <https://ppraa.org/coqp/coqp-2024-results>
- State QSO Parties: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.php>
- Hurricane Watch Net Website: <https://www.hwn.org/>
- Hurricane Watch Net: [https://youtu.be/zvAbZ\\_bVI9Y?si=wliUddBj4jMs9IMM](https://youtu.be/zvAbZ_bVI9Y?si=wliUddBj4jMs9IMM)

### Email to [elmer@w0eno.org](mailto: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](mailto:k0itp@w0eno.org)

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

1. KØITP - Chuck - Firestone
2. AEØDO - John - N of Longmont
3. AFØW - Bryan - Longmont
4. KFØUSF - David - Longmont
5. AFØXS - John - N Thornton