

MINUTES OF SPRING CCARC MEETING 2006

As amended and approved at the 10/7/06 CCARC Meeting in Silverthorne, CO

The Colorado Council of AMATEUR Radio Clubs met April 29 at the Valmont Community Church in Boulder, Colorado at 3262 N 61st in Boulder, Colorado.

The meeting was called to order by Tim Armagost (WB0TUB), Chairman of the CCARC.

Everyone present introduced themselves. Those in attendance were:

Judy Hilton KC0HVD PCRC CCARC SEC' Y

John Maxwell N0WBW RMHAM CCARC VICE CHAIR

Jeff Ryan K0RM PPFMA CO SEC MGR ARRL

Tim Armagost WB0TUB DRL CCARC CHAIR

Wayne Heinen N0POH GMCC CCARC TRES

Kerry Driggers N0URK BEARS

Paul Shackelford WB0QMR COLORADO CONNECTION

Gary Peterson KB0DEB SUMMIT COUNTY ARC

Glenn Cascino WN0EHE RMRL

Scott Brauer N0OWY ARA

Dave Novotny WA6IFI CMRG

Peter Dewees N7TDJ WARS

Eileen Armagost WD0DGL DRL-GUEST

George Packer WB0CDI BARC

Jack Ciaccia WM0G BARC

Bob Witte K0NR COLORADO VHF GROUP

Rob Gentry KA0VNB WELD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Dan Scott KB0PPM PPRAA

Brian Steinberg KC0CUA BARC

Nate Duehr WY0X CRA

Eric Dyce W0ERX CO ARES

READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING

The minutes of the fall meeting were read by John Maxwell, Vice Chairman N0WBW in place of Judy Hilton, Secretary, KC0HVD who's voice is too soft to be heard in the back of the room. Thanks, John! Motion to accept the reading of the minutes was made by KC0CUA second by N0URK. All approved.

TREASURERS REPORT- Wayne Heinen, N0POH

Fall Balance.....	\$6260.13
Income.....	338.00
Expenses.....	473.36
Ending Balance.....	6124.67*

*amended 10/7/06 (originally read 6124.77)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BPL

This is a brief summary of recent developments concerning Broadband Over Power Line (BPL).

BPL DEPLOYMENTS-NATIONWIDE

City of MANASSAS (VA) and COMTek continues to deny that BPL Interference is occurring, presenting flawed measurement from a third party. ARRL continue to call on the FCC to shut down this BPL system. The local community is doing an excellent job of documenting the interference. (Main.net equipment)

BPL interference continues in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The ARRL sent a letter to both BPL operator Ambient Corporation and the FCC to task, documenting continued interference on Amateur RADIO FREQUENCIES. (AMBIENT EQUIPMENT)

Cinergy Corp's BPL deployment in Cincinnati, OH using Current Technologies equipment, has proceeded without major interference problems.

A BPL field trial in Cottonwood Arizona, that drew complaints from Amateur Radio operators from 2004 until earlier this year apparently has shut down for good. The small system, which Mountain Telecommunications Inc (MTI) operated under FCC Part 5 Experimental license WD2XMB, went silent in April this year. (Mitsubishi Equipment).

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative(SMECO) has ended a limited Broadband Over Power line (BPL) pilot project, concluding that the technology is not yet ready for prime time in its service area.

Avista Utilities announced that they are re-evaluating its plans to deploy a broadband over power line (BPL) project in north Idaho. The company, which serves 300,000 electrical power customers in three western states, said it and a BPL vendor had "mutually agreed " to end contract negotiations for the test deployment.

The latest FCC statistics on the high-speed Internet services indicate a minuscule market share for broadband over power line (BPL) { FCC Wireline Bureau report, "High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of June 30, 2005}.

BPL DEPLOYMENTS- COLORADO

There are no known deployments in Colorado at this time.

City of Fort Collins Utilities is investigating BPL but in not moving ahead with any specific plans at this time.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

Several BPL equipment venders are having success with avoiding interference to ham radio frequencies.

A demonstration at ARRL Headquarters of D52 BPL equipment suggest the manufacturer is working to minimize-if not altogether eliminate-interference from its products on amateur bands. The new D52 technology is capable of 40 dB notches in the ham bands.

Current Technologies BPL equipment has been deployed successfully in Cincinnati without significant lines, by using low-band VHF (30-50MHz) instead. Current's system uses Humplug modems, which avoid all ham bands except 60 meters, to connect individual customers.

A Motorola "Powerline LV" BPL system has been installed and tested at ARRL Headquarters, operating without interference to ham radio frequencies.

BPL Team

If you hear about a BPL deployment in Colorado, please contact the Colorado BPL Team via Bob Witte at bob@k0nr.com, <http://www.k0nr.com/bplteam.html>

CCARC FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug wished that he could have been at our spring meeting. He was out of the area on a family matter. We missed you, Doug!

The following is the report he sent to the Board.

State of the Database

Coordinated Repeaters (on-air and active)	335
Coordinated Repeaters (off-air)	11
Coordinated Repeaters (overdue and no response to mailings)	58
Coordinated Repeaters (waiting on initial activity sheets)	25
Uncoordinated Repeaters	0
Former / Released / Inactive / Dismissed	27

Database Software

Database software improvements occurred over the past six-months. Many thanks to Kent Roberts, N0PSR, for his efforts! A few bugs were found and fixed, some new report generators were created, and the software migrated to a new server courtesy of Rocky Mountain Ham Radio and Top Mountain Associates. We will continue to improve this software to provide the features needed to support to provide the features needed to support coordination activities, and add automatic off-site backup. Other "nice features" will be added as time permits, but priority will always be given to stability and core features.

NFCC

CCARC continues to be active within the National Frequency Coordinator's Council. I serve as President, as well as serve on the Board of Directors of this Council. Participation in this group is important to CCARC as it provides recognition of CCARC as the official coordinator from our neighboring frequency coordination groups. The current NFCC direction is to update the membership records, and establish stronger ties with the FCC. There are no initiatives that are in conflict with CCARC goals, and are directed otherwise by the Council, I will continue to support the NFCC on behalf of the CCARC.

Active Process

All RSE forms received to date have been processed with the exception of those involving Auxiliary Operation. Last year CCARC adopted a policy to coordinate auxiliary spectrum (links) in addition to repeaters. Since that time I have received very requests for auxiliary coordination, so I have intentionally "dragged my feet" before issuing documents. A coordinator is only as good as their data base, and we have a lousy auxiliary operation database. I plan to start moving forward with caution, and will ask the newly coordinated links to "tread lightly". In addition I will exercise coordinator discretion and place a six-month non-interference clause to all new auxiliary coordination's.

Currently in the process we have requests from:

Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group - 12 auxiliary and 1 repeater

Big Sandy ARC - 2 auxiliary

Rocky Mountain VHF Society - 2 auxiliary

KA5DVI - Hesperus, CO - 1 repeater and 3 auxiliary

KA5DVI - 1 repeater and 1 auxiliary

Coordination Documents

Four new Frequency Use Plans (a.k.a. band plans) were approved at the meeting one year ago. they are official and approved despite being marked as "proposed". The website will be updated soon.

The Frequency Coordination Policy Guidelines are also available on the website. This document also shows "proposed" despite being approved by the general membership. I also have two updates that were approved but never posted. As everyone knows that we had some problems with the website, and as soon as these are resolved we will have updated documents to download.

I am currently writing a new process flow document the exact steps taken during the coordination process. This is intended to partially serve as documentation for those opening the database, but also might be useful to the general membership. I will post this document as soon as possible.

Electronic access to the database is not currently function beyond the method provided for the annual updates. Kent and I wanted to provide full electronic access to all, but have not had the resources to achieve this goal. Please disregard the forum on the website that requests electronic access. It just doesn't work. Instead we designed the annual update process that many have used. In fact, we have received numerous positive comments regarding the ease of electronic updates. Someday when we run out of critical things to improve on the database we will try it again for electronic access

Annual Updates and ARRL Repeater Directory

The annual updates were sent out in the late-fall of 2005. All repeaters responding either updated electronically on-line by the trustees, or if responding by US Mail manually entered by myself. Repeater responding to any of the mailings sent over the past four years were included in our submission to the ARRL Repeater Directory. We made our submission on time, and have received our check from the ARRL to cover our expenses,

Repeater Activity and Database Updates

Bryan Steinberg has volunteered to assist with data collection to be sure our database is accurate. He will not be a "repeater cop" but rather assisting the committee to determine if repeaters are active with correct information on file. I'll be working with Bryan over the coming months to kick off this process. Hopefully when we are done we will have identified the "paper repeaters". Later this month we will begin establishing the process for assuring accuracy of our coordination database, and then soon after begin the work of tracking down the unknown and overdue repeaters.

Submitted April 29, 2006
Doug Sharp, K2AD
CCARC Frequency Coordinator

Colorado Section Report, Jeff Ryan, K0RM

Jeff showed a slide presentation of the ARRL describing how many volunteers there are in Colorado....there are over 200 volunteers that help with the Colorado Section. We are looking to fill the Public Information Coordinator (PIC) position at this time.

Jeff also talked about HAMCON COLORADO 2006 in Estes Park June 9-11 this year. There will be many great speaker, forums, exhibits, tech sessions, etc. The convention website is www.hamconcolorado.org

OLD BUSINESS

Maps

When we publish new maps, It was agreed to print 500 copies at a time (500 copies = 1 REAM) without further action from the membership. (M) John Maxwell (S) Kerry Driggers It was also agreed to sell the remaining maps to the clubs at \$1 each.

WEBSITE

A motion was made to get rid of old website and update to a new one fully on the CCARC domain organized for ease of use and simple to navigate. (M) Nate (S) Wayne

John Maxwell will rebuild the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Tim Armagost agreed to stay on as CCARC Chairman.

Doug Sharp agreed to stay on as Frequency Coordinator.

Judy Hilton resigned as Secretary due to health and other problems.

Nate motioned to change the rules for nominating officers just for this meeting Jeff Ryan made the Motion, Kerry Driggers made the second.

It was unanimous.

Eileen Armagost nominated Jeff Ryan for Secretary. Jeff agreed.

WA6IFI made the motion that nominations be closed. It was unanimous. Jeff Ryan Will be the new CCARC Secretary in the fall of 2006.

A GOOD-BYE FROM THE OUTGOING SECRETARY

I am sad to resign, but due to health and other thing going on in my life, I had no choice. I enjoyed serving as the CCARC Secretary for the last two years.

As I took the minutes for the Spring 2006 meeting, I was already missing all of you to the point of almost crying during the meeting.

God bless you one and all, you are a bunch of nice gentlemen, I will never forget any of you,

73 and 88
Judy Hilton, KCOHVD