



## UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

N7UW

P.O. BOX 3625

LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

September, 2002

<http://picasso.uwyo.edu/uarc>

\*\*\*\*\*

PRESIDENT: Anthony Arnerich KD7TA

VP/SECRETARY: Suzanne Luhr AC7SZ

TREASURER: Brent Gurnsey KC0FUP

\*\*\*\*\*

EDITORS: Wayne M. Sutherland NQ7Q and Bill Wright AF7E

\*\*\*\*\*

## UARC MEETING

The regular meeting of the University Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2002 in the UW Engineering Building Rm. 2101 at 7:30pm. Talk-in on 146.61 MHz repeater in case of room reservation malfunction.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back from summer break, and welcome to the start of the 2002/2003 activity year of the University Amateur Radio Club. We managed to have a pretty busy 3 months since our last meeting, what with hamfests, Sunday pizza, Field Day and the two public service events we supported.

This year we decided to approach Field Day on the basis of maximizing fun rather than points. I think we got our wish on both counts, with our claimed points at about 1/3 of last year's score. After a couple of years of taking the competitive road we decided to relax this time around. Everybody settled into that spirit from what I saw! Probably the only thing people really missed was being able to have a campfire, which was shut out due to this year's big fire season.

The Dead Dog Classic bike race was resurrected after a few years off, and Bill Frazier spotted an opportunity for the club to help them out which was much appreciated. We were able to keep track of a field of over 60 riders as they sweated their way up to the top of the Snowy Range and back. Watch for the story in COTW later on this year.

We also supported the MS150 bike ride again this year. It ran the same route as last year but in the opposite direction. As a result we were able to use last year's experience as a direct planning aid. It all came together very well, and it also was a superb way to polish our communication skills. Samantha Gardner of the National MS Society ran an impressively well planned event, our Net Control operators ran a tight ship, and the synergy between the MS150 Committee and UARC was obvious. Sam is going to drop in to one of our meetings (hopefully this next one) to thank us for our assistance.

Finally, we traditionally use the September UARC meeting to hook (er, that is, "elect") club officers. Yeah, we all saw what happened last year! I'm sure there must be something in Robert's Rules of Order against electing someone in absentia. Trouble is, I couldn't find it. Anyway, be sure to come to this meeting because there are few things more satisfying than putting somebody else to work.

73,  
de Tony KD7TA

\*\*\*\*\*

## UARC CALENDAR

<b>Sep</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>UARC Regular Meeting (Election of new officers)</b>
<b>Sep</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>High Plains Roundup at Yellow Pine Campground</b>
Sep	14-15	ARRL VHF QSO Party
Sep	21-22	Panama Anniv. Contest 20 & 40m phone
Sep	21-22	Classic Radio Exchange 160-10m* CW & phone
Sep	21-22	QRP Afield Contest 160-10m* CW/phone/digital
Sep	28-29	CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Contest 80-10m*
Sep	28-29	AL QSO Party 16-10m* CW & phone
Sep	29	Swapfest in Boulder, CO
<b>Oct</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>UARC Regular Meeting</b>
Oct	19	Swapfest at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, CO
Oct	19-20	Boy Scouts Jamboree on the air

\* Note: Contesting does not include WARC bands (30m, 17m, & 12m)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UARC MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 8, 2002**

### Call to Order:

President Tony KD7TA called the May meeting to order at 7:34 pm in room 2101 of the Engineering Building. Introductions were made: all officers were present; 18 members were in attendance. Those present were: Tony Arnerich KD7TA, Jim Ackerson N7SPH, Bill Wright AF7E, Bill Frazier N7SXC, Wayne Sutherland NQ7Q, Judy Sutherland K7JMS, Jerry Tastad N7JT, Bob Hansen WS7C, Lynn Hamblin KB7SGP, Suzanne Luhr AC7SZ, Laura Harris KD7KMT, Doug Wheeler KD7W, Brent Gurnsey KC0FUP, Red Peters KK7BR, Bob Gonzales N7OBS, John Harrison KD7NAE, Fred Crowell KS7Q and Rhett Downing ND7O.

### Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Wayne NQ7Q moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting. This is where I hold my breath, afraid of what I snoozed through at the last meeting. But luckily, everyone approved of the minutes. Wahoo!

### Reports:

Treasurer Brent KC0FUP reported: Bills: Phone: \$21.73; QSL cards: \$5.14; Deposit: \$30.00; Balance-regular account: \$522.69; Balance-maintenance fund: \$500.00.

COTW-Wayne NQ7Q, is hoping for newsletter entries from any and all over the summer. Pitch in, if you have something! Anything!

### Old Business:

Jerry N7JT reported that the Field Day Site Selection Committee couldn't get to last years site, but investigated a potential new site, on the Blair-Wallis road. Foxpark, the site of Field Day in past years, was also put forth as a possibility. After discussing the possible problems with the Blair-Wallis site, such as Pole Mountain interfering with 2 m, therefore it would not be a good VHF/UHF site, and the likelihood of a fair amount of traffic, although there is lots of parking, the masses voted for Foxpark. It has outhouses nearby.

Wayne NQ7Q, the food committee, will order food and use the net to round up volunteers. Rhett was quick to volunteer his wife, actually admitting she enjoys it.

The consensus is to set up for Field Day on Friday.

Bob WS7C put in a plug for the state ham convention in Casper on Memorial weekend, May 25 and 26, and encourages everyone to support it. (Of course we all will because Jerry will be awarded the Wyoming Ham of the Year, though he doesn't know it yet.)

Tony KD7TA says he will be gone during the ham convention so will not be able to return the Field Day plaque, and will be gone for the next meeting. Promises, promises!

Brent KC0FUP wants to pay off all bills for summer before he leaves. Motion was seconded, and carried.

Jerry N7JT suggested getting another '450' radio. Wayne NQ7Q moved to let Jerry do some shopping and trade 2 radios for one. Motion carries. Jerry will take it on. The question came up about the tuner previously discussed, and it was agreed that the '450' radio would take care of that.

Comments:

Wayne NQ7Q suggested that Tony appoint a committee to come up with a list of possible officers for next year. Alright!

Tony KD7TA thanked the COTW group for the great newsletters throughout the year.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Adios!  
Suzanne AC7SZ

\*\*\*\*\*

## **2002 MS150 BIKE RIDE AUGUST 3-4**

Once again we provided communications support for the charity fund raising event, the MS150 bicycle ride. This is the longest and most definitely the most difficult of all the rides that the Multiple Sclerosis Society organizes. It goes through some 150 miles of some rather remote areas between Laramie and Saratoga - remote, that is, if you want to place a cell phone call! We were able to set up a nearly seamless net of communications coverage.

Much of the time the group of riders was stretched out as much as 60 or more miles along the route, yet there needed to be a reasonably quick method of responding to potential emergencies experienced by the riders. In the words of Samantha Gardner, the ride coordinator ("call me Sam"), "We couldn't have done it without you."

I had to work extra hard in the last few days to round up a sufficient number of volunteers for the event because of some business trips I had to make in the prior weeks interfering with what I'd rather have been doing. But we pulled it off, with 14 volunteers, some of whom worked both days of the ride weekend. Thanks, folks!

As before we set up Net Control at ten and a half thousand feet at Libby Flats. Working simplex NC was able to talk to all the participating stations, with just a few occasions where relays were needed. There were a few equipment problems that were resolved via loaner radios that were brought along as just-in-case extras. You never can tell what will happen, and we were obviously prepared.

On Saturday, Walt W7SE stood by the phone to handle any 911 calls that might have been required. In fact we did make use of his services when a few motorcyclists were on the ride route exceeding the speed limit by a factor of 2. The agency he called didn't take any action, not having any officers within many tens of miles. The take-home lesson there is that you're pretty much on your own out there. Be ready and be watchful.

Net Control on Saturday was handled with superb skill by Doug KD7W. Bob KC7GUP from Cheyenne was the driver for one of the paramedics, and spent the day working up and down the line looking for anyone in need. Dick KA7MVA took care of Rest Stop #1, half way to Centennial. Lynn KB7SGP was stationed at Centennial where the riders got their first look at some real climbing. This year the sag vehicles (sag = "Support And Gear") shuttled any rider who wished for help all the way up to Libby Flats where lunch awaited. Dick KD7FHE did double duty at Rest Stop #3 along the steep climb, then was stationed later on at Stop #5 in Ryan Park on the back side of the hill. I was in Sam's vehicle all day so I got to see every part of the course between 3 and 7 times, with all our shuttling around. That also involved smelling 50 pounds of fried chicken for half the morning, as we ended up bringing lunch to the hill top. Need I mention that I was extremely hungry by noon?

The only accident of note encountered during the weekend happened in the afternoon. A slip on gravel resulted in a fall, and the fall resulted in a probable concussion. The first vehicle at the scene had a paramedic and a radio. Using our radios as a relay link to another vehicle that was within the cell coverage area we were able to contact the rider's spouse who happened to be a physician, who then picked up the rider and assumed control of the situation. Our help saved a significant amount of time in getting the rider into medical care.

We were all pretty tired by the end of Day One. The last rider rolled into Saratoga at about 5 pm. 15 minutes later there was a torrential rain, the first drops that fell that day!

Sunday started early for me, Dick KD7FHE, and Lloyd WA7SVH. We left Laramie at 4:30 am to be able to coordinate the days activities at 6 am in Saratoga. Dick rode along with Sam that day, and Lloyd rode along in the sag vehicle for the mountain bike contingent. The fat tire riders were shuttled to Ryan Park for the start of their 45 mile dirt ride to Fox Park. Their ride finished at about 4 pm. Meanwhile, the skinny tire riders were able to choose between Saratoga and Riverside for their starting points. I deployed myself sequentially at Stop #1, then Stop #2 in the morning.

Handling 911 duty back in Laramie on Sunday was Mac WB7K. At one point in the morning I was on Highway 230 South of Saratoga, yet I heard him full quieting as he was talking with Sunday's Net Control, Bill AF7E and Bill N7SXC. If I recall correctly, that was a 17 element Yagi he pointed our way. I'd say it gets the job done, almost like the Medicine Bow Mountains weren't there.

Jim KD7KMU handled Rest Stop #3, 10 miles this side of Riverside and a superb relay location for the radio holes not reachable from Libby Flats. Suzanne AC7SZ put some miles on her new call sign at Rest Stop #4, about 8 miles from the Colorado border. When she was released after the last rider passed she went up to help the two Bills up at Libby Flats. My station was Stop #5 at three corners in Colorado. I

got there just in time to see the lead rider pull in.

At the border coming back into Wyoming was Lynn KB7SGP back for his second day in the sun. Barry KB7VQV joined Lynn for a bit. Jerry N7JT set up at Stop #7, Woods Landing. When I was relieved from Stop #5 I leap-frogged over to Stop #8 near Harmony. There was a lot of coordinating between Rest Stops #1 through #8 all day long as the riders moved along. The level of supplies of water, PowerAid, and snacks were "just enough" that day. But what that means is that the supplies had to be constantly shuttled around to be where the riders were, or were going. We kept the frequency VERY busy that day. By the time the ride ended at 6 pm we were one tired bunch. But it was excellent experience so nobody minded a bit.

It's really impressive how much you can get done with simplex on 2 meters. There were many times when you were sure you had a terrible signal path you could still talk with Net Control 20 miles away using a hand held radio at both ends. Then there were the times when a good roof mounted antenna being fed by 50 watts didn't stand a chance of making a direct link to NC. But there was always someone available who could relay between the two stations. What makes it all work is that we're good at what we do, we know our equipment and how to get the most out of it, and we know how to work together. I'm very proud of the fine work we did that day. Well done, one and all.

So, what exactly did we accomplish? The ride went like clockwork. Things that were needed were delivered on time. We greatly improved the day for dozens of volunteer ride workers. They in turn created a fun day for the riders, the ones who worked very hard at pulling in the charitable donations. This is the kind of success that brings them back every year. Which is a very good thing, because this time around they raised over \$30,000.

73,  
de Tony KD7TA

\*\*\*\*\*

## **EDITORS' NOTES**

If you do write an article, editorial, or other comment for the COTW, please send your material to our e-mail addresses at: [nq7q@arrl.net](mailto:nq7q@arrl.net) and [af7e@juno.com](mailto:af7e@juno.com).

Found in the July issue of CQ magazine is this very helpful list of "The Big Four Contact Information".

ICOM: ICOM America, Inc., 2380-116<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425-454-8155; web: <http://www.icomamerica.com>).

Kenwood: Kenwood Communications Corporation, Amateur Radio Products Group, 3975 Johns Creek Court, Suwanee, GA 30024; or P.O. Box 22745, Long Beach, CA 90801-5745 (310-639-4200; web: <http://www.kenwood.net>).

Ten-Tec: 1185 Dolly Parton Parkway, Sevierville, TN 37862 (865-453-7172; web: [www.tentec.com](http://www.tentec.com)).

Yaesu: Vertex Standard, U.S. Headquarters, 17210 Edwards Road, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562-404-2700; e-mail: [amateursales@vxstdusa.com](mailto:amateursales@vxstdusa.com); web: <http://www.vxstdusa.com>).

Jerry N7JT found a large nylon tent that should serve well at any portable operation such as field day, etc. There is a general consensus that the old heavy, difficult to manage, dark canvas monster has served its day. This is a club tent and the membership should decide the replacement of the old tent is warranted. Think about this and we'll decide on this issue at the upcoming meeting.

73, Wayne NQ7Q & Bill AF7E

\*\*\*\*\*

“If ye love wealth better than liberty, tranquility of servitude better than the animated contest of freedom, go home.... in peace. We ask not your council.... Crouch down and lick the hands that feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen.” – Samuel Adams

qtx