

## BARC's BARK

December, 2009

Repeaters: 2 m 146.70 MHz (-)  
70cm 448.90 MHz (-)

Web Site: [www.qsl.net/w0dk/](http://www.qsl.net/w0dk/)

### Officers:

Pres. Jack Ciaccia ----- WMØG  
V.Pres. Gary Carroll ----- WØQN  
Secy. John Reilly ----- NØTA  
Treas. Mike Derr ----- W3DIF  
Trustee Rip VanWinkle -- NVØM  
BARC Jrs Ellie VanWinkle - NØQCX  
Newsletter Mike Stutzer ----- KDØFDJ

## Coming Events

**Tues. Dec. 15, 7:00 pm** BARC monthly meeting, at the Airport Clubhouse at 3335 Airport Rd. Boulder, featuring Brian Woods, WØDZ, maker and marketer of kits.

## November Meeting

(Photos by Ueli, KB9TTI)

Our second Home Brew Night brought out 26 members and two non-members to see the neat stuff. Eight members showed nifty projects ranging from QRP antenna tuner crammed into a tiny tin to a 600w HF linear amp to a 10Ghz preamp, listed over here →



Members Pour Over Curious Home Brews

### Home Brewers:

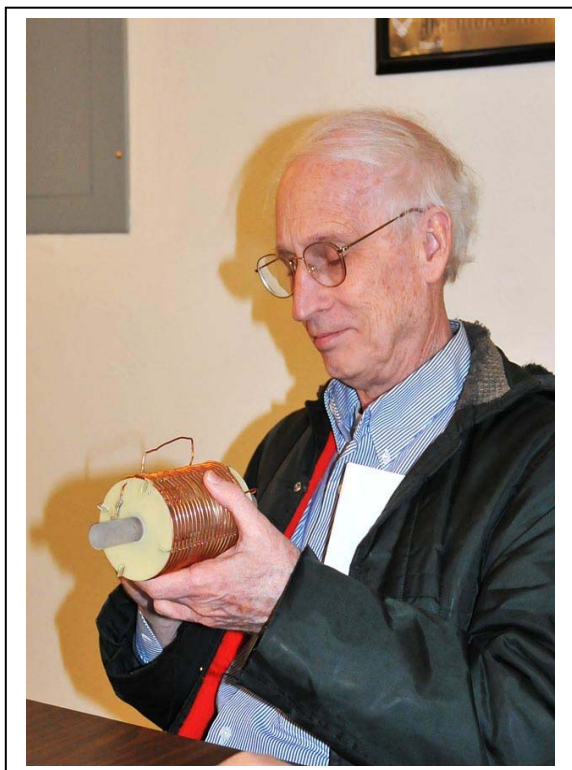
- a. Anne Wilcox, KDØHGE
  - i. EMP resistant ammo box for protecting a handheld
  - ii. 2m J-pole antenna
- b. Tom Thompson, WØIVJ
  - i. Mobile antenna
  - ii. Construction techniques
- c. Cary Fuller, KXØR
  - i. Small QRP antenna tuner
- d. Rip Van Winkle, NVØM
  - i. Power supply for multiple HT's
- e. Larry Benko, WØQE
  - i. Transmitter hunt transmitters
- f. Don Nelson, NØYE
  - i. 10 GHz pre-amp
  - ii. HF vertical antenna
- g. Jack Quinn, KØHEH
  - i. Power line noise receivers and antennas
- h. John Reilly, NØTA
  - i. 600w HF amplifier



Anne, KDØHGE and her Bulletproof Box



Tom, WØIVJ with Wind-Damaged Umbrella



Tom's Coil is Resonating Mike, W3DIF on 40m



Cary, KXØR ready to go with QRP Mini-Tuner



John, NØTA Prepares to Throw Brick at a QRP'er

## QRP Into the Wind

Good News: DX worth reporting. My best time to operate is very early in the day, after I make my daily report to the Colorado Amateur Radio Weather Net via a UHF repeater in Broomfield. After doing so on Sat. Nov. 7, I did my obligatory check of the reliable PSK watering hole on 20m: 14.070Mhz. On most mornings, I am greeted by 5 or so domestic QSOs in progress. But around 7:00am on Nov. 7, the entire passband was filled, mostly with Europeans lookin' for DX. Despite everyone trying to work them, within one hour I worked 4 Deutchlanders, one guy from the red wine capital of France, a Belgian, a Czech, a Ukrainian and an Estonian, all using the 5w from an FT-817 into my trusty 2-element wire beam, dubbed a SuperSloper" by W7WKB in his great 1995 QST article . They are only a bit harder to rig than a dipole, yet are directional with higher gain and improved F/B ratio, like a 2 element Yagi. See <http://techdoc.kvindesland.no/radio/antennas/20061010171224639.pdf>

For dedicated readers of this column who are also blessed with excessively good trivia memories: recall that this past summer, I wrote about special event stations that commemorate the tragic sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. The Fitz was a huge Great Lakes ore carrier that went down during one of the gales that wrack the Great Lakes in November (you may recall the insipid commemorative folk song by Gordon Lightfoot).

As promised, WØJH was on the air Nov. 8, from the scenic Split Rock Lighthouse on Lake Superior's North Shore. Because this is only 6 miles from the marina where my sailboat resides, I wanted that QSO bad! I got it on my first PSK try, again on 14.070, having a nice exchange with the operator that ended with my restaurant recommendation for his use after the band closed. I then tuned to 14.260 to try a voice QSO with a guy sitting next to him. I couldn't break the pile-up created by all the guys running at least 13db more power than me. Yet in the absence of pileups, I have worked voice QSOs all over the place. For QRPers, CW and the digital modes are the way to go with weekend special event stations. The choice is yours, but I am sick of making low-probably shouts into the microphone, and will stick to voice QSOs on occasions when the juice-and-boost crowd is largely absent. Besides, you can see what a great typist I am, so why should that go to waste when on the radio? The XYL appreciates it too, preferring the little key clicks to the stentorian tones of my voice CQs, although I am at a loss to understand why she doesn't thrill to the sound of my voice anymore, like she did before we were married. Any Hamateur Psychologists out there understand this?



## Prez Sez

Hopefully you are finally thawing out from our little Arctic cold snap and the associated snow, sleet and icy roads. I spent much of last week jeopardizing life and limb commuting into Denver and back. I am ready for winter time, this fall weather is way too cold!

As you have read elsewhere in this newsletter, we certainly had an enjoyable Homebrew Night 'Parte Deux' in November. These meetings are some of my favorite... just for looking at, and hearing about, the items that our creative and ingenious membership comes up with for their ham radio projects.

Each December, I reflect back on the BARC accomplishments throughout the year. 2009 was another year of BARC membership growth and another year of ambitious

projects and undertakings for our dynamic ham radio club.

We have nearly 200 paid BARC memberships and we are still growing! Why is BARC on the rise, when almost every other ham radio club in the country is reporting a decline in their memberships? I would like to think it is because BARC offers our members many different and exciting diversions for their annual \$20 membership dues.

The BARC Junior program is still going strong and the accomplishments of those wonderful kids continues to be a source of pride for all BARC members. The BARC Juniors were again at the Youth in Amateur Radio Forum at the Dayton HAMvention (for their 16th straight year!) and they made us proud once again. I know that the Dayton Youth in Amateur Radio Forum looks forward to having BARC Juniors there each and every year with their well-prepared presentations. We were visited by the Youth Forum moderator, Ms. Carole Perry, WB2MGP who stopped by BARC Junior's HQ at '903' and spent some time with the BARC Juniors, their Elmer's, their parents, and of course, with Rip and Ellie. Carole was very taken by the turnout of over 66 people there to visit with her that evening. That crowd just affirmed her feelings of the wonderful support there is for this, the most successful youth ham radio club program in the USA.

In June, BARC and the BARC Juniors both held their annual ARRL Field Day operations at their usual sites. Both efforts were highly successful. The BARC Senior site, up at Betasso Preserve, was active from beginning to end. Our Field Day callsign was the BARC club's WØDK call. Our call must have been heard by a lot of stations during Field Day because WØDK finished in the top 5 percent in all categories as compared to other Field Day stations across the US and Canada. Congratulations to the Field Day Committee and the members who participated!

Another important BARC and BARC Junior supported program is the annual awarding of

the Yardley Beers & Larry Amann Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year, BARC awards a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving undergraduate college student in the Boulder area who is a ham radio operator.

BARC has very interesting and informative monthly meetings too, thanks to our VP and Program Coordinator, Gary WØQN. Due to these great monthly programs we have experienced better meeting attendance.

Another reason for increased membership at BARC is our two HF Remote sites. This technology allows BARC members to have access to a HF station without actually having an HF radio and antenna at their home, condo, or assisted living apartment. New BARC members have specifically joined for this feature alone. It also allows our far-flung BARC members across the world to stay in touch with us. BARC also maintains a very dependable IRLP and Echolink simplex repeater that is available for this purpose as well. Thanks to those BARC members who help to keep these sites up and running.

BARCfest was an unabashed success this year. This important BARC fundraiser was once again very well attended and well-organized due to the efforts of our chairman, Mike, W3DIF. The results brought a tidy little profit to the BARC coffers. Thanks to every BARC member who volunteered to help and made this BARCfest a winner!

During the coming year, BARC will finish the installation of our new D-Star repeater system, the upgrade of our VHF/UHF repeater equipment, the improvement of our equipment and antennas at our HF Remote sites, and whatever else the membership wants to accomplish. Tell us what you'd like to do... because this is your club!

Please be sure to attend this month's meeting when Brian Wood, WØDZ will tell us why there is such a resurgence in ham radio kit-building and show us DZ Kits' new XCVR kit.

73 ES GUD DX DE JACK WMØG

## From the Desk of the ARRL

In areas where cell phone signals just won't work, Amateur Radio gets through. That's what happened when Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, of North Logan, Utah, found out just before noon on Wednesday, December 2 when he came across a dairy truck that had crashed and rolled over in the Logan River as he drove on Route 89 through Logan Canyon.

As 38,000 gallons of dairy products were spilling into the Logan River, Yeates waded through the cold river to help get the driver out of the truck's cab and then put out a call on his handheld transceiver. Another ham, Brent Carruth, AD7VF, of Logan, was monitoring the repeater and heard Yeates make the call. Carruth listened as Yeates give a first-hand account of the condition of the driver and the seriousness of the crash and then called 911. Yeates says he helps a crash victim at least once a year: "When you pull up on an accident, your first concern is to make sure the driver or passengers are okay. I grabbed my fire extinguisher because there was smoke coming from the truck and I could hear the driver talking and he said he was okay."

Carruth explained that a radio operator virtually anywhere in the mountains of Cache or Rich County can broadcast a signal to the repeater that sits atop Logan Peak in the Bear River Mountains east of Logan. The cluster of communication equipment rises about 5200 feet above the valley floor, giving gives the spot a strong vantage point over much of the [Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest](#).



BCARES AmTV Crew at the Game



The Inside BCARES Jobs at the Game: Controllers

### **The K7RA Solar Update (Dec 4, 2009)**

Recent sunspot activity -- which ended on November 22 -- pushed up the moving average we've been tracking for several years. Because we have all the data for November, we now have the most recent 3-month average of daily sunspot numbers, which centers on October. For 2009, the 3 month moving average centered on January through October was 2.19, 2.02, 1.49, 2.01, 4.23, 5.2, 4.0, 4.0, 4.64 and 7.1. The latest value is the highest since April 2008, when it was 8.89. The monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers are also rising, although not as smoothly as the three month average. The monthly averages for March through November 2009 are 0.77, 1.27, 3.97, 6.6, 5.07, 0.39, 6.6, 7 and 7.7. The November average is the highest since March, 2008 when it was 15.87.

N4KZ wrote about 40 meters: "I've been operating 40 meters for a little more than 40 years now and the band has impressed me with its daylight DX numerous times during the past few years. Bob Elek, W3HKK opined "What is going on with 40 meter propagation? While the short skip is less frequent, about half the US is coming through during the daytime with 59+ signals. And at night time, tuning around 7.125-7.2 MHz SSB, the world is at our finger tips. So there is plenty of DX out there to be had. And vertical/ground plane antennas that are far short of the optimum 120 radials, will get you through far better than most dipoles or inverted Vs. So grab a fishing pole, a rebar, some duct tape and #14 wire and go see for yourself! Go get your share of the DX. They're listening for you."

## Put Your Thoughts on the Keyboard

There are many stories waiting to be told about hams from all walks of life who spent their hobby time contributing to their communities, their radio clubs, or just enjoying being a part of ham radio history. Try writing something about your favorite ham or Elmer. You don't have to write a novel... just send something to me! <mailto:michael.stutzer@colorado.edu>

### **BARC Board Meeting**

Nov 10, 2009 at Rip & Ellie's house

1. Attendance:

Jack Ciaccia (WMØG) – BARC President  
Gary Carroll, WØQN, BARC VP  
John Reilly (NØTA) - Secretary  
Ellie Van Winkle (NØQCX) – BARC Juniors  
Rip Van Winkle (NVØM) – BARC Trustee

2. Secretary's Report: October minutes were approved

3. Treasurer's Report: As of October 31, 2009: \$7,834.30

4. Membership: 185

5. BARC JRs: 31 members:

- Dayton preparation in process: three interested
- Large Ham gear donation: KBØJO (Colorado Springs)
- Held a Homebrew night – 40 attended
- Xmas party coming up

6. Repeater: Operating very well.

- Planning to install a new controller
- Thinking about obtaining backup Rx/Tx equipment

7. D-Star:

- Waiting for equipment tri-plexer and antenna purchased via Arapahoe County FEMA
- Have a 2m pair: 147.39 / 147.399 MHz
- CRA site unusable, looking for alternative

8. Remote HF Site:

- North site:
  - Kenwood TS-480 still out for repairs.
  - Working on site grounding and lightning solutions.
  - Installing club SteppIR yagi
- Airport site:
  - Current has fan dipole and Ueli's vertical
  - 2m now working

9. BCARES: Last CU ATV football game over Thanksgiving

10. BARC Programs – Gary Carroll:

November: Homebrew II  
December: Short program and elections  
January (2010): Holiday party  
February: Tom Behler

- March: open  
April: BARC Jrs Dayton presentation(s)  
May: Homebrew  
June: Bill McCae - Propagation  
July: Picnic
- 11: 2010 Slate of Officers: Current Board is available
  12. VE Session (October): No news
  13. Field Day 2009: Results on ARRL website and will be published in December 2009 QST. We did great.
  14. Tom Behler initiatives:
    - 2m net operating on Wednesday night at 8 PM
    - Planning Saturday breakfast
  15. Next Board meeting: December 8 at Rip and Ellie's house
- Adjourned 2045.

## For Sale

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**Alinco DJ-X10 handheld scanner;** VHF,UHF+*HFSSB!* (make an offer, I hate Alinco)

<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/widerxvr/3610.html>

**WinRadio Planar Log-Periodic Amplified VHF/UHF Receive Antenna:** \$65 sort-of firm

<http://www.winradio.com/home/ax31b.htm>

**CONTACT:** Mike Stutzer <mailto:michael.stutzer@colorado.edu>

## OBITUARY

### **Richard Silberstein, WØYBF – BARC MEMBER**

Richard (Dick) Silberstein, died Sunday, November 30. He died in his home of natural causes, and was 103 years old. He was born to Abraham and Hattie Silberstein in New York City on September 18, 1906. Richard Silberstein received an Electrical Engineering degree from Columbia University in 1930, then obtained some graduate credits from the University of Pennsylvania. Richard first became fascinated with radio when, at age 9 he saw equipment operating aboard a coastal steamship. This interest produced a lifetime hobby (amateur radio) and eventually a professional career. Dick's interests also included travel and photography, but amateur radio was always his primary hobby. During the Great Depression he held various jobs or was self-employed in the radio industry. In 1941 he joined the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. In 1948 Richard married Florence K. Baker and in 1954 the couple moved to Boulder where Richard was involved with radio-propagation research for the Department of Commerce. Then after a 6-year period of working as a radio engineer for the Army in New Jersey, Dick took retirement. He and Florence returned to Boulder in 1967. Richard is survived by his wife, Florence.