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ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update – February 2009
Division website: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

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===== New Wyoming Section Manager =====

We welcome Garth Crowe N7XKT, who has been appointed to fill the remainder of the Section Manager term previously led by LeeAnne Sachau WY7DTW. LeeAnne made the difficult decision to step down, but will remain an active member of the Wyoming section and within ham radio. LeeAnne, thank you for your service and great enthusiasm.

Garth has previously been active within the Wyoming Section as an OO, VE, and local EC and RACES officer for Campbell County. He is also on the board of Directors for NE7WY North East Amateur Radio Association. Garth has also been an active volunteer to many served agencies over the past 18 years, serving as the ECC and volunteer director for the Greater Houston Area Red Cross. Since becoming licensed in 1990 he has enjoyed rag chewing on HF, VHF/UHF, and digital.

We look forward to working with you, Garth!

===== Rocky Mountain Division HF Net =====

Our next monthly Rocky Mountain Division HF net will occur next week to disseminate information and give us a chance to meet you and your ideas in QSO. Here are the details:

DATE: Wednesday, February 11
TIME: 6:30 PM MST (see note below)
FREQ: 3939 kHz +/-

(Note on time: The New Mexico Roadrunner net occurs on this frequency and is usually finished by 6:30pm MST. In the event that it's still in progress at that time, we'll begin the Division net immediately afterwards.)

Propagation hasn't been great the last few nets, but we'll press on regardless!

===== January Board of Directors Report =====

A few weeks ago Brian and Dwayne traveled to Newington, Connecticut to represent you, the members of the Rocky Mountain Division, at the January meeting of ARRL's board of directors. Several important items were acted upon included:

The authorization of funds to execute the final phase of ARRL's website redesign. This includes migration of content from the existing site to the newly designed site. The new ARRL website is scheduled for released in late 2009, and we believe you will find it very useful something to be proud of as an ARRL member.

The creation of a policy statement with regard to state and local legislation aimed at cellular telephone use while operating a motor vehicle, and the often unintended consequence of prohibiting the use of ham radio. Further details about this can be found later in this Division update.

The authorization to participate in and support the K2BSA amateur radio exhibit at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Many of nearly 40,000 scouts and scouters will be exposed to the wonderful world of ham radio because of K2BSA.

A change to ARRL bylaws to allow members, for the duration of their active military deployment outside the ARRL operating territory, to maintain their membership free of charge as described in Bylaw 30, with or without the delivery of QST at the member's option.

And more...complete minutes are available for your review at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/23/10585/?nc=1> and <http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0901/>

The second and final board meeting of 2009 will occur in July. As always, we continue to welcome your concerns, questions or ideas regarding ARRL policies.

===== Mobile Amateur Radio Operation Policy Statement =====

As mentioned earlier, the ARRL board voted to create a policy statement with regard to mobile Amateur Radio operations to address the growing number of state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications.

At this time there is pending state legislation of this sort in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Through contact with hams and various legislators, Section Managers and State Government Liaisons of these states are coordinating grassroots efforts to eliminate the bills' potential impact on mobile amateur radio communications, or to oppose the bills entirely. This issue isn't new, and it's not going to disappear either, which is why ARRL has created this policy statement which includes suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes.

A brief story about this action and the actual policy statement can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/03/10609/?nc=1>

Please keep in close contact with your respective Section Managers and his appointed State Government Liaison when it comes to addressing these sorts of bills. A closely coordinated effort is crucial to success when engaging lawmakers, informing them of drawbacks to their legislation, and lobbying them to make changes to it.

===== 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention =====

A little over THREE months remain until the 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (May 29-31). Have you made plans to join up to many hundreds of hams in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado...gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park? Registration is happening as we speak, and special hotel rates have been negotiated for convention attendees.

Among the guest speakers: Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH (retired Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau), Harold Kraemer WJ1B (ARRL Chief Operating Officer), Gordon Hardman W0RUN (2009 Desecheo Island DXpedition participant and chief engineer of Alpha Radio Products), Mike Gruber W1MG (ARRL EMC Engineer and contributor to "The Doctor Is IN" QST column), and Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Director, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division).

There will be plenty of technical and non-technical forums, great meals, and one heck of a time meeting and greeting hams from all over the Division. A great event with a very fitting theme: "Amateur Radio: Resilient, Relevant, Ready"

Please mark your calendars and visit the Division convention's website at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org> for more details, including registration information. Join us for a great time at an awesome venue!

===== Rocky Mountain Division Awards – Call for Nominations =====

There are many hams within our great Division who deserve to be recognized for their achievements – and we'd like to honor them. The following annual awards are now being offered by the Division:

Rocky Mountain Division Ham of the Year Award
Rocky Mountain Division Young Ham of the Year Award
Rocky Mountain Division Technical Achievement Award

Complete details, rules and a nomination form can be found on the Division website (www.RockyMountainDivision.org). Awards will be announced and presented at the Rocky Mountain Division Convention immediately following the close of nominations.

===== Upcoming hamfests, tailgates & conventions =====

February 8	Aurora Repeater Association Swapfest (Brighton, CO)
April 4	Longmont Amateur Radio Club LARCFest (Longmont, CO)
April 25	Utah ARRL State Convention (South Ogden, UT)
April 26	Mesilla Valley ARC Beanfeed (Las Cruces, NM)
May 22-24	Wyoming ARRL State Convention (Casper, WY)
May 29-31	2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (Estes Park, CO)
July 18	Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Megafest (Monument, CO)
August 16	Denver Radio Club Hamfest (Golden, CO)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

If you're organizing a Hamfest, convention or tailgate, please consider having your event ARRL-sanctioned. Sanctioning details can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/hamfests/>

===== Upcoming on-air activities =====

In addition to chewing the rag with fellow hams, here are some additional on-air activities which await you on the airwaves.

Upcoming special event stations: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>
Upcoming contests: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>
Operating awards: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/>

===== Final note... =====

Please touch base with your Section Manager if he can be of assistance to you:

Jeff Ryan K0RM (Colorado): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=CO>
Don Wood W5FHA (New Mexico): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=NM>
Mel Parkes NM7P (Utah): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=UT>
Garth Crowe N7XKT (Wyoming): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WY>

Vice Director Dwayne Allen and I continue to welcome your concerns, questions or ideas regarding ARRL policies. See you on the airwaves!

73,
Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain Division Director
Dwayne Allen WY7FD, Rocky Mountain Division Vice-Director
Division website: www.RockyMountainDivision.org