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**ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update – July 2009**  
Division website: [www.RockyMountainDivision.org](http://www.RockyMountainDivision.org)

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This month's Division update is packed to the rim with information...let's get right to it!

**===== Field Day 2009 has come and gone =====**

Whether you enjoyed the weekend by yourself, with your club, or with your close group of ham buddies, thank you for participating in Field Day with thousands of fellow hams this year. It was great to work many stations across our Division from the field.

If you've not done so already, please share your Field Day story and pictures on ARRL's Field Day Soapbox. Visit [http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con\\_id=176](http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=176) and pitch in!

One of the most interesting Field Day efforts in the Division happened right in New Mexico. W9UFO, club call of the "Purveyors of Doom" set up shop near the alleged Corona UFO crash site. Believe what you want, these participants just wanted to have fun. Turns out this group was composed of five hams who traveled all the way from Indiana to put W9UFO on the air, as well as one from Colorado. Some of them have been travelling to the boonies of New Mexico for Field Day since 2002. If you worked W9UFO during Field Day, be sure to QSL them! I've heard from their fearless leaders (Mike Koss W9SU and Brian Smith W9IND) that it'll be one of the most unique QSL cards you've ever seen.

It's never too early to plan for Field Day 2010 (what worked, what could be done better, etc.)!

**===== Rocky Mountain Division HF Net – NEW FREQUENCY! =====**

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

DATE: Wednesday, July 8  
TIME: 7:30 PM MDT (see note below)  
FREQ: 7240 kHz +/-

We hope you'll join us!

**===== Teleconferences with ARRL-affiliated Clubs =====**

During the months of May and June each of the 78 ARRL-affiliated clubs in the Rocky Mountain Division were invited to participate in a series of teleconferences with Director Brian Milesosky N5ZGT and Vice-Director Dwayne Allen WY7FD to voice ideas, concerns and other information on behalf of their club members with your Division leadership. Section Managers were also invited to participate and the teleconferences were a great opportunity to find out what's on the mind of ARRL members and hams in general so we can represent you better.

We plan to conduct a similar teleconference later this year. If you are a club leader, please ensure that your club contact information is current on ARRL's affiliated club database at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml> This is how we'll get in touch with you.

**===== July ARRL Board of Directors meeting =====**

The ARRL Board of Directors convenes twice a year to represent their Division on ARRL policy matters. Our second meeting of the year will take place in mid-July. Your concerns, questions and ideas concerning ARRL policies are always welcome. Please help us represent you better by letting us know what's on your mind.

**===== Promote your Ham Classes on ARRL's website =====**

Ham Radio licensing classes are a great way to help a bunch of people learn what they need to take and pass their first (or next) VE exam. Did you know that you can promote your classes through the ARRL website? Visit <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/courses/> and post your upcoming class so prospective hams can find out about them.

**===== Club meeting program ideas =====**

We all know that a fun and interesting program is essential for any ham club to succeed, attract new members, and keep the interest of existing members. Few people – especially brand new and young hams – get excited over the “new business, old business, we're adjourned, let's talk about more business next month” routine. If you're looking for tips on making your club meetings more appealing to new and existing members alike, here are some tips:

--- Consider a brand new ham who walks into your club for the first time. Will someone reach out and greet him, or ignore him? Will he feel welcomed, or feel like an outsider? Will he go home thinking about the fun meeting he attended, or bored from the evening's agenda? Will there be something for him to look forward to at the next meeting, or will it be another round of business or coffee? Looking at your club's operation from the eyes of a brand new ham can be a very revealing exercise and identify ways to make your club better.

--- Perform the exercise above, this time through the eyes of a young ham.

--- Every club should be fun in some form or another. Don't be afraid to take a risk and do something that's never been tried before (even if it's not 100% ham related) as part of a club activity or program. Nobody looks forward to “new business” or “old business”. Nobody will remember those business agenda items either. However, everyone will easily think back and remember that time when your club set up a special event station to commemorate something and threw a pie in the president's face for every 100 QSOs made. This example may seem profound but, unlike a business agenda, it'll make new and existing members say “we can't wait to see what happens at the next meeting/activity.”

--- Surf the web. There are thousands of club websites on the internet, and many of them contain successful program and activity ideas. Why not give them a try in your club?

--- Check out all the information available to you and your club at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/>

**===== Tech Tip of the Month: Tower Safety =====**

The purpose of this Tech Tip section is to offer a platform for our ARRL members (that's you!) to offer concise technical advice and suggestions for all. Our aim is not to teach someone how to design a radio, but to offer brief hints and kinks for hams to learn from. If you have a Tech Tip you'd like to offer – any topic pertaining to ham radio is welcome – please send it in a few paragraphs to Vice-Director Dwayne Allen WY7FD ([wy7fd@arrl.org](mailto:wy7fd@arrl.org)) for consideration!

And now for this month's tech tips from Dwayne WY7FD of Devils Tower, Wyoming:

I just spent the last few weeks revamping the antenna farm here at WY7FD and at Field Day. I want to take a few minutes to stress tower safety. The ham community lost one of its own during this year's Field Day. I don't know the particulars, but it was a tower accident.

The number one rule is that NO tower designed to be guyed is suitable for climbing unless it IS guyed. This simply means that one should temporarily guy every section as it is being built. After the construction is complete the temporary guys can be removed and the permanent ones left to keep your sky-hooks standing.

Another thing to remember is when climbing on riveted towers, one should not depend on the cross members for tying off. Do you really want to trust your life to a small pop-rivet?

Hard hats for the ground crew are a must. I can't ever recall doing tower work without dropping something by accident. Imagine a screwdriver falling 60-100 feet...

Be safe and live to use the antennas you've worked hard to put up.

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

July 18	Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Megafest (Monument, CO)
August 14-15	Duke City Hamfest (Albuquerque, NM)
August 16	Denver Radio Club Hamfest (Golden, CO)
August 28-30	Mountain ARC CampFest 2009 (Lake George, CO)
September 5	Alamogordo Hamfest (Alamogordo, NM)
September 27	Boulder ARC BARCFest (Longmont, CO)
October 3	Pecos Valley ARC Swapfest (Roswell, NM)
May 28-30	2010 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (Casper, WY)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site: [www.RockyMountainDivision.org](http://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  
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