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

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===== Newsline Young Ham of the Year nominations due May 30 =====

Nominations for one of our nation's two prestigious youth awards – the Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) award -- are due no later than May 30. Do you know a young ham, 18 years of age or younger, who's gone out of his/her way for the betterment of ham radio and their surrounding ham community? You can ensure that his or her efforts are recognized by submitting your nomination. Details and a nomination form can be obtained from <http://www.yhoty.org/>

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

Less than a month remains til the 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (May 29-31). Close to 250 hams (and growing) will meet up in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado...gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. Registration online and by mail is happening right now.

Among the guest speakers: Rick Roderick K5UR (Second Vice President of ARRL, and uber DX and VUCC operator), 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), Cheryl Muhr, N0WBV, YL columnist for WorldRadio Online (formerly WorldRadio Magazine), Editor for YL-Harmonics the Young Ladies' Radio League's (YLRL) Bi-monthly magazine, and Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Director, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division).

Nearly 30 technical and non-technical forums, great meals, transmitter hunts, special event station W1AW/0, and much more await you. Not to mention one heck of a time meeting and greeting hams from all over the Division and country. It'll be 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 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, May 12
TIME: 7:30 PM MDT (see note below)
FREQ: 3939 kHz +/-

(Note on time: The New Mexico Roadrunner net occurs on this frequency and is usually finished by 7:30pm MDT. In the event that it's still in progress at that time, we'll begin the Division net immediately afterwards.)

Propagation has been mediocre the last few nets, but we'll press on regardless!

===== Tech Tip of the Month: Failure rating versus current carrying rating =====

This month's Tech Tip is offered by Kevin K5KMC of Las Cruces, NM.

He reminds us that our friends across the pond once labeled their fuses by the failure rating rather than the current carrying rating.

He drives a 1972 Triumph. The manual says that a particular fuse is a 35 amp fuse. The fuse was replaced with a like sized "American" fuse. Kevin stated that the fire wasn't too bad and he had fun replacing the wiring harness.

Should you buy any older British gear or be in Jolly Olde England, be mindful that the ratings were once different. The approximate exchange rate from Brit to our standard is 0.6. Sizing from ours to theirs, the rate is about 1.6667. Just multiply by the exchange rate to have the fuse size more or less.

It should be pointed out that this only applies to older equipment. Somewhere along the way, they adopted the international standard of rating fuses by the current carrying rate rather than the blow or failure rate.

If you have a concise tech tip you'd like to offer for a future Division-wide email, please send an email to Vice-Director Dwayne Allen WY7FD (wy7fd@arrl.org).

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

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 14-15	Duke City Hamfest (Albuquerque, NM)
August 16	Denver Radio Club Hamfest (Golden, CO)
September 5	Alamogordo Hamfest (Alamogordo, NM)

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
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