

The CERN 911 Sentinel



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The founder of the Colorado Emergency Reporting Net.
KE0GNS /SK, Sydney M Cleveland, Hartsel, CO 80449.

Ham radio daily Colorado Emergency Reporting Net

Provides layer of safety during emergencies in poor cell phone coverage areas

- By Syd Cleveland Special to The Flume Feb 8, 2018

According to The Denver Post
(www.denverpost.com/2016/08/02/hike-Colorado), more than
260,000 people climb Colorado's high mountains each year.



And many snowmobilers, motorized off-highway enthusiasts, hikers, skiers, para-gliders, bicyclists, tourists and locals travel into the wild areas of our state where cellphone coverage is often sketchy or non-existent.

Since Syd passed away the Colorado Emergency Reporting Net has been Co-managed by:
Mike Ranalls, KE0QQR and Richard DiGiacomo, AC0HW. They have increased the volunteer
monitors to almost 50 and kept the organization running,

Syd Cleveland's dream is still alive!

<https://www.theflume.com/>

Colorado Emergency Reporting Net

CERN Reports 2018				
Month	Nets	Checkins	Minutes	Remarks
Oct	31	356	350	
Nov	30	517	618	
Dec	31	593	430	
Total	92	1466	1398	
CERN Reports 2019				
Month	Nets	Checkins	Minutes	Remarks
Jan	30	502	603	
Feb	28	532	556	
Mar	30	507	603	1 emergency, 8 hours, 2 welfare calls, 7 follow up calls
Apr	29	424	570	2 welfare relays
May	30	545	564	1 emergency, 8.5 hours
Jun	30	427	579	
Jul	27	424	508	Two 911 relays, 45 minutes
Aug	28	438	560	One relay to 4x4 rescue, two hours total.
Sep	30	521	516	Two welfare calls, one 911 relay.
Oct	31	506	545	One relay to AAA from motorist stuck during blizzard
Total	293	4826	5604	

That old standby, A ham radio saves the day in the backcountry

<https://www.elevationoutdoors.com/magazine/september-2019/vintage-rescue/>

DOUG MORSE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS “THE WORLD’S worst ham radio operator” and that speaks to how easy it is to use the century-old tool he loves. Ham (a.k.a. amateur) radios operate on FCC controlled VHF and UHF frequencies and can connect to radio repeaters which significantly extend their broadcast range. In Colorado, calling for help on a ham radio from the backcountry is quite easy. Morse found this out while backcountry skiing with his wife last February in the Pennsylvania Creek Drainage near Breckenridge. At the bottom of their second run and a little more than a mile from their cars, his wife fell and fractured her fibula near the ankle. For Morse, a rock climbing guide and do-it-all adventurer, calling for help required humility, but he knew he needed help.

“I didn’t have cell service so pulling out my radio was an obvious first step,” he said.

Instead of hiking to higher ground or pushing an SOS button and holding his breath, Morse tuned into a radio repeater tower in Breckenridge which rebroadcast his transmission for help to a wide area. Mike Ranalls of the Colorado Emergency Reporting Net (CERN) heard his call and was able to pass along Morse’s location and situation to Summit County Search and Rescue. With a radio operator on staff, they got back in touch with Morse to facilitate a snowmobile rescue. He and his wife were out of the woods in hours.

Any sort of wireless communication is far from perfect in the outdoors as the signal will have a hard time getting out of deep valleys or canyons to connect with either a satellite in orbit (for SPOT or InReach), a cell tower or an amateur radio repeater. But Morse, who has regularly carried a radio with him into the woods since getting his license in the mid-90s, says the benefits of real-time communication are invaluable. Different from standard walkie-talkies, amateur (ham) radios are more powerful (hence they require an FCC license) and can hit any of the thousands of repeaters scattered across the country—many of which cover remote areas—making it easier to get in touch with someone near a telephone. And, Morse argues, they are simpler and more effective way to communicate with rescuers.

Set up in 2018 as an option for small-townners in areas without cell service, CERN is unique to Colorado. It uses a system of linked repeaters across the state, dubbed the Colorado Connection, that put ham radio operators on one shared airwave all the way from Durango to Denver, and everywhere in between. That network makes it possible for a few dozen volunteer CERN operators, like Ranalls, to tag team listening duties—monitoring the repeater system for radio calls for help from anywhere in the state, and passing them along to the authorities. CERN volunteers have answered calls corresponding to car accidents and other issues, but Morse’s call was the first they had received from the backcountry.

Morse often heads into the backcountry with his cell phone, a more modern satellite communicator, and his ham radio. “That way I can assume that I should be able to get help with

one of those items if something goes wrong.” This time, it was the oldest of those three technologies that did the trick.

The above incident was used to make our training videos found at:

www.co-cern.org

As always we would like to thank all of our volunteers, past, present, and future.

They provide their time equipment and expertise to make The Colorado Emergency Reporting Net a fully functional group of amateur radio operators providing a public service.

Not a ham operator yet... Join us at our 6:30pm local time for our check in net.

On your scanner, frequencies are listed on our web site.

WWW.CO-CERN.ORG

On our Smart Phone or PC. Enter this in your browser.

<https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/20608>

If you have any questions or input to this newsletter please email them to ke0qmj@gmail.com

73

KE0QMJ Sam

