



Table Mountain Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 2

October 2005

Model Airplanes Test Aerial Computer Networks in Table Mountain Research

By Prof. Tim Brown, University of Colorado

If during the past couple of years you've seen model airplanes flying near the North end of the Table Mountain Field Site, you have witnessed a test of the University of Colorado's ad hoc Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Ground Network (AUGNet). This is a cooperative research program between the University of Colorado and the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences to study the behavior and performance of ad hoc computer networks.

Unlike a fixed hardwired network where the location and characteristics of each part of the network is static, in an ad hoc network the location and number of devices connected to the network is constantly changing. To complicate matters, the communications route between any two devices on the ad hoc network can change at any time.

(Model Airplanes. Continues on page 2)

Membership Drive Features Drawing for Brunch-for-two at the Greenbriar

It's Fall, otherwise known as Renewal Time for your TMA membership – or time to finally join, if you haven't already done so! This year we are especially pleased to be able to offer you a tangible incentive for joining or renewing promptly, as if you needed one in addition to knowing all the amazing benefits this organization already provides.... We will enter ALL new memberships AND renewals received between October 1 and December 31, 2005 into a drawing. Two lucky members will win **BRUNCH FOR TWO AT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT, THE GREENBRIAR INN!**

It could be your lucky day! Please fill out the membership application form located on the back of this newsletter and mail it with your check TODAY.

We'd also like to invite you to participate more actively in the organization, as well. Opportunities abound for volunteers to help with TMA activities. Examples might include helping plan next summer's event, organizing other association activities, restoring the Grange, and joining the Board of Directors. Board meetings usually take place the fourth Wednesday of each month at a different Board member's home or at the Altona Grange. Contact any of us for information.

Please – help make this YOUR organization. Get involved. Yes, YOU! 

MISSION STATEMENT

1. Preserve, protect, and enhance the unique quality of life of the area.
2. Educate, develop lines of communication, and provide opportunities for social activities among residents of the area.
3. Work to develop a cooperative relationship with the management of Table Mountain.


(Model Airplanes. Continued from page 1)

To study this kind of network, the CU researchers have constructed a number of model airplanes (UAV's) equipped with on board computers, GPS receivers, and wireless networking cards. These UAV's can communicate with each other, with computers located in cars, and with computers located at a number of fixed locations on the ground. Each of the computers is programmed to gather data about the network from it's particular point-of-view and to report this information back to the researchers for subsequent analysis.

Real world applications for ad hoc networks are numerous. For example, dynamic quickly deployed network systems are needed to provide communication between police, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel during rapidly changing emergency situations, such as in the recent hurricanes. Ad hoc networks incorporating UAV systems can extend the communications range and effectiveness of such systems by relaying signals over and around obstacles. This means that a relatively small and inexpensive UAV such as what the CU researchers have developed could be used to relay communications between emergency personnel on urban streets or mountainous terrain.

More information about the AUGNet research program can be found on the web at <http://augnet.colorado.edu>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Table Mountain Field Site please contact Wayde Allen, the Table Mountain Site Manager, either by email at wallen@its.blrdoc.gov or by phone at 303-497-5871.

Tim Brown is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering with a joint appointment in Interdisciplinary Telecommunications at the University of Colorado. He can be reached either by email at timxb@colorado.edu or by phone at 303-492-1630. 

Spurgeon Tour was a Great Time – Wish You'd Been There

By Claire Bovet

On May 21 half a dozen TMA members joined a similar number of Left Hand Water District staff for an educational, entertaining tour of the Spurgeon Water Treatment Plant on Nebo Rd.


Our tour guide for the day, Hank Schmidt, started by tracing the route of an imaginary drop of Left Hand Water from the high snowfields above Brainard and Isabelle Lakes, down through Gold Lake into Left Hand Creek, out into a ditch diversion near the Greenbriar. From there, on the day of our tour, our droplet joined enough other droplets to make 6 million gallons' worth of treated water at the Spurgeon Plant as they wended their way through an impressive series of sedimentation basins, filters, meters, chemical tanks, pipes, and backwash ponds on its way to the taps at homes west of 63rd Street (the Dodd Plant at Nimbus Rd. processes Left Hand Water for homes east of 63rd St). Combined, the two plants process around 10 million gallons of water a day in the summer, dropping to only about 2 million gallons in winter. (For the irrigators among us, 10 million gallons is about 2 acre-feet). Obviously, a major use of treated water is keeping our landscaping green!

Left Hand Water has long enjoyed a reputation for purity and taste, and the fine folks at the Water District have recently spent more than \$7 million to make it even better. We walked along catwalks over the deep settling ponds and climbed down ladders to peer at new computers, new tanks and scrubbers, and a new security system. This year they are also busy building a new pump station to be able to take more water from Left Hand Valley Reservoir. Finally, we learned about some of the recent environmental upgrades to the system, including rotating new ponds from which sludge can be removed every 6-8 years and used as a soil enhancement. They've even turned the old

(Spurgeon Tour. Continues on page 3)

(Spurgeon Tour. Continued from page 2)


backwash ponds into wildlife habitat, complete with cattails and shrubs to provide cover for birds and small mammals.

At the end of the tour we all enjoyed a big tall glass of – cool, refreshing Left Hand Water, of course! It was a great way for the Table Mountain Association to kick off a hot summer season. 

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Poudre Valley REA Election Results

The February 2005 issue of this newsletter featured a questionnaire for the three candidates running to succeed Harold Steele as one of Boulder County’s two PVREA Board members. Robert Lock prevailed, winning with 316 votes to Robert Greenwald’s 250 votes and Todd Ficken’s 153. A total of 798 PVREA members voted, 350 of them by mail, and the remainder at the Annual Meeting. Some 80 co-op members did not vote in the Boulder County contest. 

ADVERTISING POLICY AND RATES

Business card size:
\$25 for Table Mountain Association members
\$50 for non-members, and \$100 for out-of-our-area ads (Crestview/Lake of the Pines -- 75th St; North Rim/Lake Valley -- St. Vrain Road).
Classifieds \$10/max 5 lines; kid-provided service
Classifieds (lawn-mowing, babysitting, etc) free.
More Info: Contact Kevin Markey, 303-682-0810

**Table Mountain Association
Newsletter Editor**

Is a **great editor** or **layout artist** locked inside, just waiting for a terrific opportunity to express his or herself? Practice your art and support the Table Mountain Association at the same time.
TMA’s newsletter needs a **new editor**. Are you the one? Of course! Contact Suzanne Webel today.
303-485-2162

TABLE MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION

A Colorado Nonprofit Corporation
5735 Prospect Rd.
Longmont, CO 80503

OFFICERS

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Jan & Fred Stengel	303 449-0628
Jim & Wilda Swift	303-938-9693

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The TMA Website is located at
<http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/tma>

**Homeowners in the Table Mountain Area
Visit our website
www.tablemountainareanews.com**

Place free private classified ads and use it as an interactive website for the community

Brought to you by the real estate and mortgage brokerage businesses of Walter Maschmeyer and Joshua Stevens

Wish to contribute to your community? Have concerns to air? Issues to address? Ideas for neighborhood fun or activities?

The TMA Board of Directors is looking for YOU!
Call Suzanne Webel to volunteer: 303-485-2162



Swainson's Hawk (immature) – *Buteo swainsoni*

The sudden die-off of several hundred prairie dogs due to bubonic plague left a family of Swainson's hawks quite hungry. Two immature hawks screeched dawn to dusk, waiting for Mom or Dad to drop in with a treat from more distant fields. Often we would find one or more youngsters cluelessly sitting at the opening of a burrow, waiting for its late residents to reappear. Occasionally, they would awkwardly hop around after a grasshopper, or dive on a family of young Say's Phoebes, who would deftly avoid the hapless hawks even while grabbing a fly or butterfly for dinner. Finally the young hawks found the half-dozen burrows with the few surviving prairie dogs and kept watch, but to little avail. Recently, they lost patience and got hungry enough to fly elsewhere in search of more plentiful grub.

Photo Copyright 2005 John Britton. Reprinted by permission.

More photos of this hawk, and some other Table Mountain critters, can be found at <http://www.jbbritton.com/latesummer2005/index.htm>

There was considerable discussion whether this is a Red-tailed or Swainson's hawk. Red-tailed hawks are quite varied but feature a distinctive dark patagial mark on the leading edge of the underwing at all ages and among all varieties. Other photos (see the website) show that this young bird does not have this marking.

City and County Start Assessment Process for the Boulder Feeder Canal Trail

The City of Boulder and Boulder County held an open house October 6th at the Altona Grange and have announced more meetings to discuss the proposed construction of a multi-use trail along approximately 11.5 miles of the Boulder Feeder Canal from the Boulder Reservoir to the intersection of US36 and State Highway 66 just south of Lyons. They also released a draft report on the proposed project.

About 50 attended the Grange open house. The primary purpose was to get people's opinions about the trail's effect on water quality, which, of course, most people weren't there to talk about. Attendees tried to discuss their real concerns about safety, parking, neighborhood impacts, and the relationship of the project to the Colorado Front Range Trail, a system anticipated to attract as many as 100,000 visitors per year. But staff repeatedly postponed such discussions for "later." Of course "later" is after the City Council and County Commissioners have given their blessing, by which time the project will have taken on an even stronger life of its own, and after which less weight will be given such concerns.

Staff did not take notes of attendees' comments. They asked people to put their comments in writing and forward them to staff. Unfortunately, people are unlikely to take the extra time to do this, and it seems that the burden should be on staff to ensure that all public meeting comments are recorded and responded to.


The past several TMA newsletters have included articles on the proposed trail. TMA asked members for thoughts and feedback about the trail. Thus far the feedback seems evenly divided pro and con, and the Board of Directors has not taken a position. However, it seems that regardless of the Association's ultimate position, it may be time to at least ensure that residents' concerns are not dismissed. Thus, we encourage members and residents to continue to attend public meetings. We also wish to hear more from you if you have any opinions about the proposed trail. (Email Suzanne Webel: swebel@earthlink.net)

Like the meeting, the draft report focused on possible impacts on the City of Boulder's water supply. It only briefly discussed safety of people who use the trail. The feeder canal has conduits, siphons, and baffles which can be dangerous to people or animals who fall (or jump) into the canal. The report proposed signage and cited the Conservation District's requirement that an adult accompany children. But the report largely dismissed the risks, observing the large number of people who now illegally use the maintenance road and asserting, "It is expected that provision of a trail specifically designed for recreational use will improve the safety of trail from the existing conditions." TMA has been concerned that restrictions would be hard to police along an 11-mile long trail, and that construction of the trail would attract significantly more users than currently use the canal, ignoring signs prohibiting trespass.

Still to be addressed by the trail planning effort are exact trail alignments, trailhead locations, and impacts to adjacent property owners. The latest map aligns the trail on the side *opposite* the existing maintenance road. Thus, without changes, the trail would typically be on the west side of the canal.

Additional meetings currently planned include:

Oct 17: City of Boulder Water Resources Advisory Board	Nov 9: City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees
Oct 24: City of Boulder Parks & Recreation Advisory Board	Nov 15: City Council Consideration (tentative)
Oct 27: Boulder County Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee	Nov TBA: County Commissioner Consideration

To provide feedback on the proposed trail or for more information, contact Jean Gatza, City of Boulder 303.441.4907 gatzaj@ci.boulder.co.us or Tim Swope, Boulder County 720-564-5468 tswope@co.boulder.co.us, or check the City of Boulder's web site for this project for reports, feedback, and more information: http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/buildingservices/long_range/Bldr_Fdr_Canal.htm. 

Guest Opinion by Walter Maschmeyer

Beware the St. Vrain Valley Schools Mill Levy Override

A few weeks ago a brochure arrived in my mailbox announcing the proposed 2005 Mill Levy Override for the purpose of raising the St. Vrain Valley Schools district funding, which Colorado State law allows school districts to propose, subject to voter approval.

During the last election, the 2004 mill levy override lost by a small margin. Now they are at it again, hoping you won't notice and won't bother to vote. The school district mill levy currently is at 40.089. Checking with the Boulder County Assessors office, I was advised that St. Vrain is proposing to raise it 8.717 mills to nearly 50 mills (a 22% increase). This is even more than they asked for in 2004. It will result in a fairly drastic increase in your taxes for the year 2005, payable in 2006.

They claim that taxes will increase by \$182 per year for a residential property worth \$250,000 (market value). All tax assessments are, however, calculated based on the assessed value of your house. If you want to figure your additional tax burden, please refer to the upper right hand corner of your Real Property Tax Notice of 2004 and look for the total assessed value. Multiply this amount by 50% and divide by 10 to get the proposed school tax for 2005. You can then compare it to the School taxes on listed on the left side and find out what this proposed override would cost you.

The school district wants more money because of the tremendous growth experienced in recent years. Developers are building new houses and subdivisions at a rapid pace and more children are attending the 31 schools in the St. Valley School District, which encompasses 411 square miles and includes 13 communities including Longmont, Hygiene, Lyons, Erie and Niwot in Boulder County. It also includes parts of Weld, Larimer, and Broomfield counties.

In the Table Mountain area, properties are generally larger in size and therefore our tax burden increases every year due to higher valuation of your property as well as increases in tax levies. This creates particular hardships for owners who are retired and live on fixed incomes. If your house is worth more now on the real estate market you really don't profit by this unless you sell it..

Also on the ballot are the widely discussed Amendments C and D, which will allow Colorado to retain sales tax refunds for worthwhile projects such as improved roads and funding for K-12 and higher education. They will also allow the State to restore the senior Homestead Exemption, which alleviates the property tax burden on seniors. If you vote for referendums C and D, I believe there should be no need for the proposed St. Vrain Mill Levy increase, as the school district will receive additional state funding without having to raise our property taxes. Therefore, you might wish to consider voting **for referendums C and D and against the Mill Levy Increase.**

Watch for your mail-in ballot, and make sure to send it in.


This article represents one member's opinion. The TMA Board of Directors has not taken a position on this issue. We urge our membership to conduct their own research into this important topic. Additional information may be obtained from the St. Vrain School District website www.stvrain.k12.co.us. Click on the Mill Levy Override. Arguments for and against the St. Vrain tax increase are presented in the "Coordinated Election" booklet from the Boulder County Clerk and Recorder and in the "Community News" section of Walter's website www.tablemountainareanews.com.

Several tax-related measures will be on the ballot, including a TABOR waiver for Boulder County and State referenda C & D. The election will be conducted by mail. Each active voter will receive a ballot. However, if you have not recently voted, contact the County Clerk, 303-413-7740, for more information.

Altona Grange Fixup and Cleanup

Volunteer work and donations by Table Mountain Association members to the Altona Grange fund have helped clean up and fix up the Altona Grange. TMA arranged and paid for much needed plumbing and flooring repairs in the Grange's restrooms. In 2004, the association sponsored new roadbase for the parking area.


In preparation for an August fundraising event, volunteers from the Boulder Mental Health Center (BMHC) helped clean up and paint the Grange, refreshing the worn out "Altona Grange" sign. New TMA Board member Michael Johnson helped organize the work. He also repaired tiles, patched holes, cleaned up weeds, and arranged for a local beekeeper to advise on a problem hive. Michael is installing a new furnace purchased with Grange funds, and he has been keeping a list of other opportunities to fix up the old building. There are additional holes to patch, and the basement needs a sump pump and waterproofing to keep out water infiltrating from a nearby irrigation ditch.

TMA wishes to thank Michael for his efforts, plus Ky Fox and the BMHC, plumber Daryl Oshiro, carpenter Paul Gelatt, and everyone who made donations to the Grange fund. The Grange fund, more than \$900 donations from TMA members collected since 2001, is now depleted. We invite new contributions toward the health of the old building. 

County Reviews Land Use Code

Boulder County has started a process to review and possibly revise its Land Use regulations. It hopes to clarify the land use code, improve its fairness and its ability to protect environmental values and preserve the County's rural character. Thus far county staff and public comment has resulted in more than 200 "issues" ranging from minor housekeeping amendments to wholesale revisions of the Site Plan Review Process. TMA board members who have observed this review process, say it seems confusing and disorganized, more of a brainstorming process at the moment. Indeed, only at the next County Commissioners' meeting (Monday, October 10) will the commissioners and staff start to prioritize.

Potentially, this process may have far reaching consequences for county residents. Anyone who has gone through a Site Plan Review or other permitting process knows how powerfully and thoroughly the County regulates land use. The review may make that process easier or much more difficult and complicated. If you have had dealings with the County's land use permitting process and have feedback or suggestions, now is an opportune time. Your early participation in this code review may pay big dividends in the future.

For more information, to participate on-line, and for email updates, check the website or contact **Michelle Krezek** at mkrezek@co.boulder.co.us or **720-564-2623**. The code review website is www.co.boulder.co.us/lu/code/input.htm. 

And now, an update from our neighbors to the north

While we have been vigilantly watching out for the quality of life of the Table Mountain area, a group of folks along the St. Vrain corridor have been looking out for their area. The St. Vrain Valley Watchdogs has focused on the burning of tires and petroleum coke at the Cemex plant on Highway 66 east of Lyons, as well as fugitive dust that may result from heavy truck traffic. Their efforts have resulted in the matter receiving a lot of scrutiny by the Boulder County Health Department, legislators, and the media. Their goals include recruiting the Sierra Club to file a lawsuit against Cemex and/or Boulder County to require stricter regulations on industrial waste from the cement plant.

If you are interested in more information about this group, please contact Richard Cargill, P.O. Box 82, Hygiene, CO 8000533-0082, www.stvrainwatchdogs.org. 

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Inside this Issue:
Renew/Join & Win a Greenbriar Brunch!
Feeder Canal Trail Meetings
County Land Use Code Revisions
Computer Networks Fly Over Table Mtn!
And More...

Join or Renew Now!

WIN

***Brunch For Two
at the Greenbriar***

The Greenbriar has generously donated a couple of brunches-for-two for a drawing to be held for renewing or new members whose dues are received between October 1st and December 31st this year.

Annual dues are payable during that period each year. Your mailing label should indicate when you last paid. New members who joined and paid dues after July 1, 2005 will be considered paid through Sept. 2006 (but dues received before October 1st will not be eligible for the drawing).

One winner per member family. Officers and board members are not eligible. Dues must be received at 8853 N. 55th Street by December 31st, 2005. Drawing will be held by mid-January. Winners will be notified by phone or email.

Renewal New membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail _____

FAX _____

Volunteer for ...

- Newsletter
- Grange fix-up
- Special events
- Boulder Feeder Canal Trail
- County land use code review
- Other? _____

Payment Enclosed:

Dues	\$10.00
Grange Fund	\$ _____
Extra donations	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to the
Table Mountain Association.

Please mail to: **TABLE MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION**
8853 N. 55th St., Longmont, CO 80503

Several of you are still mailing dues to the old Treasurer. Please revise your address book or accounting system with the new address. Thanks.