



VCARA Dots 'n Dashes

KC5OUR

January 2011

Volume 11, Issue

General Contact:
VCARA
PO Box 268
Peralta, NM 87042
Website:
www.kc5our.com

Upcoming Events:

- VCARA Club Meeting
January 25, 2011
7:00PM Local Time
Belen EOC at 6th and Becker Ave

All parties interesting Amateur Radio are Welcome to Attend.
- Coffee Klatch
There will be a Coffee Klatch on the following dates, at 2:00 PM. The location is the Village Inn in Los Lunas at the corner of Main Street and Los Lentes Road

Wed, Jan 26
Wed, Feb 9
Wed, Feb 23

See page 4 for more info
- Wednesday Night Net
Every Wednesday at 8:00PM on the Club Repeater

Welcome New Hams

Ralph, NM5RC, VCARA Member (and class leader)

Several club members presented a youth oriented Technician License Class between Christmas and New Year's Day. Three students took the class; two Boy Scouts (ages 10 and 12) and one adult scout leader/parent. All three earned their Technician licenses. Both scouts also earned the Radio Merit Badge during the three day class. Thomas Smith, the ten year old, is the younger brother of club members Kenneth (KE5LZY) and Daniel (KE5SBF). At the completion of the class the parent-scout team (Otto and Pablo King) joined our club.

During the exam session, club members Charlie Lyon (KF5JEC) upgraded to General and Ty Tyrone (KE5YGV) upgraded to Extra.

Club members assisting with the effort were Chris W5CSG, Phil KE5LZX, Charlie KF5JEC, James KC7YWB, Kenneth KE5LZY, Ty KE5YGV, and Ralph NM5RC.■

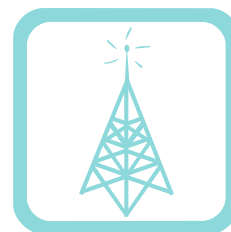
Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member and James, KC7YWB, VCARA Newsletter Editor

Congratulations to Thomas Smith for passing his Tech exam. Thomas's call sign is KF5JKL. He may have to stand in line to use the radio, as his brothers are also licensed hams. Daniel is KE5SBF and Kenneth is KE5LZY.

VCARA member Tye Till has changed his call from KE5YGV to AE5VR....congratulations, Tye!

Congratulations also to Otto and Pablo King for passing the Tech exam. Otto's call sign is KF5JKJ and Pablo's is KF5JKK.

Otto and Pablo also joined VCARA, be sure to welcome as new members as well as new Hams when you see them.■



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Ham of the Year Award

James, KC7YWB, VCARA Newsletter Editor

On December 11, 2010 during the Valencia County Amateur Radio Associations Christmas Dinner, John Cresap, KD5MHO was awarded the Ham of the Year Award.

Congratulations John and Thanks for all of your hard work.■



IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

Club Officers:

President: Chris Gillespie W5CSG w5csg@arrl.net
Vice President: Sean Tyler KE5LSO tylersprs@msn.com
Treasurer: Chris Gillespie W5CLG cricket87068@yahoo.com
Secretary: Leslie Wirts KE5RSG denisemarie70@msn.com
Past President: Mark Halliburton K5WMH k5wmh@arrl.net

Club Repeater: 146.700 -600 100hz Tone

Club Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at 6th St. and Becker Ave in Belen, inside the courthouse. Please enter through the door behind the building.

Club Net: Every Wednesday at 8:00PM on the club Repeater



President's Corner

We Need Your Ideas

Chris, W5CSG, VCARA President

We are starting to get some special event station QSL cards in the mail, (15 so far) we will have to discuss getting together in a month or so to get them all responded to.

As most of you know, Harvey Briggs WA7HWQ passed away a short time ago. Harvey had indicated that he wanted to donate his ham gear to the club, so we will be getting together a list of equipment that the club will have available from his estate. Harvey will be missed by all of us who knew him, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for the gift he gave to us from his knowledge of the world of emergency services.

W5CSG
Chris Gillespie

Technician License Study Books Available

Ralph, NM5RC, VCARA Member

Ralph, NM5RC has several of the Gordon West's Technician Books for the new 2010-2014 question pool and would be willing to part with them for \$20 each if anyone knows of someone who wants to prepare for the Technician exam. Contact Ralph at nm5rc@msn.com or 821-7636.

James, KC7YWB, VCARA Newsletter Editor

OK, I'll be direct; I want our newsletter to be better.

I need your ideas, comments, suggestions, even stories. If you anything you would like to submit for the newsletter, please send it on over. Call me, email, US Postal Mail, even call me on the radio. I'll get in the newsletter.

I can relate stories about computers, electronics and networks, but I know there are folks out there reading this right now that know a lot more than I do on many subjects. Do you know good grounding techniques that every operator should know before installing a station? Did you read a great story or see a news item that would be of interest to club members? Send those stories and ideas on in.

Of course, electronically is preferred, but if you do not have a computer, write it down and get it to me, I'll do my best to type it in for you.

So how do you get stories, ideas, ect to me:

- USPS Mail to the Club Address, ATTN Newsletter Editor
- E-Mail: news@kc5our.com
- In person at club events
- Over the air on the club repeater

I am out of town most of the week, but give me a call on the radio, when I am in town I try to listen to the club repeater as much as possible

So get those submissions coming.



VCARA 2010 Christmas Dinner

James, KC7YWB, VCARA Newsletter Editor

Photographs courtesy of:

Goose, K5EHM and James, KC7YWB

On December 11, 2010 many of the Association's members gathered in Belen for the annual Christmas Dinner. Thank you to Charlotte, Goose and everyone else that made the 2010 Dinner an event to remember.

In addition to the great food and fellowship, several door prizes were drawn. Charlotte, KD5OHZ will not be looking for a new VHF/UHF radio any time soon as she won both the Handy-Talkie and Mobile Radio. Way to go Charlotte.

You can be just as lucky as Charlotte. You may ask, How? By getting your raffle tickets at the monthly meeting. All ticket sales from the monthly meetings go towards the Christmas Diner grand prize drawings.





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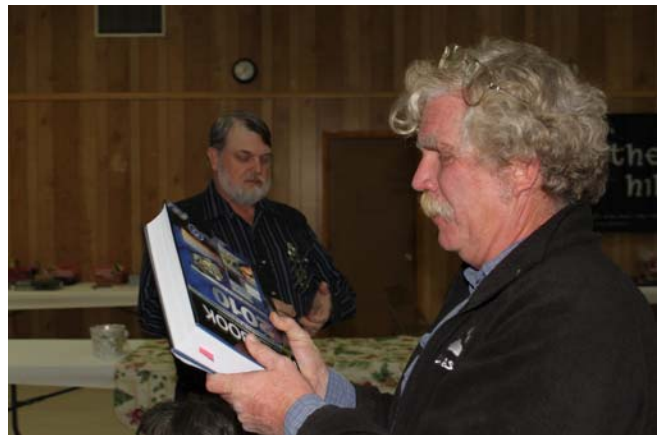
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Radio Equipment Donated to Club

Paul Ridley, N5PR, VCARA Member

Harvey Briggs, WA6HWQ passed away in the VA Hospital late in December from cancer. It was his wish that his ham station be given to VCARA, items to be sold and the proceeds used for the next Field Day. Harvey always enjoyed Field Day with the food, fellowship and fun that goes with it.

If you're interested in purchasing one of the following items, please contact one of the club officers or Paul N5PR for price. First come, first served.

- Kenwood TS-50 transceiver (no power cord)
Kenwood TS-120 transceiver (no power cord)
Radio Shack HTX 202 (without battery....Harvey was running it from his 12v house supply)
Dentron Jr. Monitor Tuner

- MFJ Model 784B DSP filter
Pace Model P5453 Power meter
Mirage B1016 2 meter amplifier 10-160w
Worthmore 160-10 meter mobile amplifier (CB?)
Heathkit HM102 Power Meter
Kenwood SW-100 remote power meter-swr
Curtis EK430 CMOS Keyer
Box of misc small cables
box of misc connectors
2- 30 ft(?) metal pushup poles.....1 with CB antenna
1- broken vertical antenna

Equipment will also be on display at the January Association meeting.

VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION AGAIN ACHIEVES HIGH RANKING IN NORTH AMERICA RADIO EXERCISE

Ralph Clark, NM5RC, VCARA Member

The June 2010 North American Field Day attracted over 2,600 Amateur Radio stations to demonstrate their emergency operating capabilities. The contest objective was to contact as many other stations and North America locations as possible during the 24-hour exercise. Competing against stations that had as many as nine radios operating, the local club used two radios to again this year achieve high national rankings for its efforts which were held at Willie Chavez Park in Belen.

VCARA's participation level resulted in 20th place nationally finish placing them in the top one-percent of all 2,617 stations. Of the 423 stations in their class, VACRA participation level resulted in a second place finish. The local Ham Radio club's participation level using their club call sign K5OUR beat out

the 23 other New Mexico stations for a first place finish.

VCARA has had similar Field Day success for a number of years. Commenting on the club's success, President Chris Gillespie (W5CSG) of Bosque Farms noted:

It's amazing we achieve this national recognition because points and scores are only incidental to our Field Day activities. The three objectives we have when we plan this annual exercise are: 1) To have fun, 2) To get inexperienced Hams on the radio with experienced mentors, and 3) To improve our ability to provide emergency communications. Our 60 club members make a concerted effort to get other Valencia County hams and the general public to visit and participate in our family oriented activities.

Volunteers needed

Ralph Clark, NM5RC, VCARA Member

The 2011 New Mexico Kida Roundup is still a few months off, however, put Saturday, May 21st, 2011 on your calendar.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Ralph Clark at nm5rc@msn.com or 821-7636.

This is an all ages, licensed or non-licensed event, bring your kids, grandkids, youth groups, etc. You may also get in on the fun from your own station.

Please see the flyer insert for more information.





Club Business

Wednesday Night Net Schedule:

- Jan 19 - James KC7YWB
- Jan 26 - Joyce KD5IAI
- Feb 2 - Ralph NM5RC
- Feb 9 - Goose K5EMH
- Feb 16 - Mark K5WMH
- Feb 23 - Joyce KD5IAI
- March 2 - Elvira KD5ULQ
- March 9 - Paul N5PR
- March 16 - Russ KD5UJR

Coffee Klatch:

Village Inn, Los Lunas at 2:00PM, Main Street and Los Lentos Road

- Wednesday, January 26th
- Wednesday, February 9th
- Wednesday, February 23rd
- Wednesday, March 9th
- Wednesday, March 23rd
- Wednesday, April 6th
- Wednesday, April 20th

Name the Newsletter Winner

James, KC7YWB, VCARA Newsletter Editor

During October and November the Association held a contest to name the newsletter. During that time we received on suggestion, but it was a good one.

Congratulations to Bob Bryan, KF5DW for his submission of Dots 'n Dashes. Bob even sent in a suggestion for how the title of the Newsletter should look. I sure hope I did his ideas justice. As you can see in this issue, we have VCARA over the Dots 'n Dashes, separated by the Morse code of the associations initials (VCARA).

Bob will receive his choice of a one year association subscription or an association polo shirt.☐

Club Meeting November 23rd

Meeting was called to order by Chris W5CSG

Chris (W5CSG) started the meeting by showing the prizes for the Christmas Dinner and Thanked HRO for doubling the discount on the radios.

It was announced that the Association received a high rank for the Field Day exercise (see story in this edition). The Association ranked in 20th place nationally (top 1%), 2nd place in the Association's class and 1st place in New Mexico. Chris (W5CSG) thanked everyone who made field day a great experience.

This meeting was the deadline for paying for your tickets to the Christmas Dinner, however, Charlotte, KD5OHZ let people RSVP as long as they paid at the door.

Old business started with the Battery Boosters needed to

provide power from 12V battery sources during field activities, such as field day. A price of \$129 was provided from Giga Parts. Paul, N5PR motioned to purchase the Booster and Goose, K5EMH seconded. Motion Passed

Goose was able to deliver the check and collect the Shirts from Pat, KA5PAT.

Charlotte announced the open house/special event station for December 18th and asked if we needed cookies ect.

Goose announced that Richard had a Tower, Rotor and Antenna that needed to be removed.

There was discussion around the raffle tickets sales were not covering the cost of the Christmas Dinner giveaways.

Sean, KE5LSO motioned for adjournment.☐

December Silent Keys

Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member

Jerry Yost N7YYA, husband of Mary N7WUJ, passed away December 7, 2010 after a massive heart attack at age 79. Jerry and Mary had been members of VCARA for several years. Jerry was a regular check-in every morning on Rusty's Raiders Net and many times you could hear Mary calling Jerry on the 146.96 repeater to let him know she was leaving work and he could watch the time to make sure she arrived safely and on time. Jerry will be greatly missed by all.☐

Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member

Chris W5CSG, VCARA President

Harvey Briggs, WA6HWQ passed away in the VA Hospital late in December from cancer. It was his wish that his ham station be given to VCARA, items to be sold and the proceeds used for the next Field Day. Harvey always enjoyed Field Day with the food, fellowship and fun that goes with it. Harvey will be missed by all of us who knew him, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for the gift he gave to us from his knowledge of the world of emergency services.☐



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To report any errors, omissions or general letters to the editor, please contact:

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Peralta, NM 87042

news@kc5our.com

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. The association accepts no liability for misprints or inaccurate information. ☐

Don't Miss the Coffee Klatch:

The next Coffee Klatch will be Wednesday January 26th at 2:00PM. Join us at the Village Inn in Los Lunas at the corner of Main Street and Los Lentos Road.

Our February Coffee's are the 9th and 23rd.



Did you know the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association has a new web address?

Please be sure to update your bookmarks to:

www.kc5our.com ☐



PO Box 268
Peralta, NM 87042

NEW MEXICO KIDS 2011 ROUNDUP

A HANDS-ON HAM RADIO ACTIVITY FOR KIDS

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - Drop by between 9 AM and 1 PM

What is New Mexico Kids Roundup - A hands-on Amateur Radio activity for kids under 18 to contact other Amateur Radio stations around New Mexico, the United States and the world.

Activity Goals

- Each kid contacts other stations using different radios and frequencies.
- Each kid gets individual instruction and mentoring.
- Each kid receives a participation certificate and each Cub Scout earns a badge.
- Each Boy Scout who wants to completes the Radio Merit Badge requirements of visiting a radio station and making a radio contact.

Where - 460 Barnett Road, Bosque Farms, NM. East off Main Street onto Abo Road (between the south and middle stop lights), north on Barnett to first house on west side of street. Call 869-8525 if you get lost. Activity will be outside.

All kids invited - Follow the scout practice of having a buddy or an adult with you. You do not need to be a scout to participate.

Can adults come - Sure! Adults are welcome to come and observe. But, only kids will talk on the radios.

I have a ham license. Can I participate? Can I help? - Yes!

- Inexperienced kids - come and get on the air.
- Experienced kids - come get on the air and help other kids get on the air.
- Adults - Come help the kids get on the air.
- Within your license frequency privileges, use your own call sign.

Hot dog lunch and drinks - Lunch will be provided for everybody. Early birds get donuts too.

What do I need to bring - A desire to have fun and learn a little about Amateur Radio

I have a Ham license but can't come. Can I still help? - Yes!

- Host your own New Mexico Roundup station and get a bunch of kids on the air using as many rigs and frequencies as you want, or
- Contact as many kids using as many frequencies as you can at our and other Roundup stations.

Need additional information? - Ralph Clark (NM5RC), nm5rc@msn.com, 821-7636 or Ginger Eldridge (KC5MTI), apoemge@q.com, 869-8525.

Fine print for New Mexico Kids Roundup stations:

- No overall sponsor, no points, no awards and no specified contact exchange. Not a contest. NM5RC would appreciate an after activity email from other New Mexico Kids Roundup stations.
- Suggested CQ: CQ CQ New Mexico Kids Roundup station 'callsign' 'callsign.'
- Re-contacting a Roundup station is encouraged when the kid at the mic, band or call sign changes.
- Bands: HF (except no WARC bands), VHF and UHF (repeater use OK, but be considerate and give each repeater a break after using for a reasonable period), EchoLink and IRLP.
- Remember some DX countries have third party restrictions.
- Primary objective is to have fun and let a bunch of kids experience the thrill of Amateur Radio.
- Other Roundup stations wanting Cub Scout patches, contact Ralph early to be included in order.