



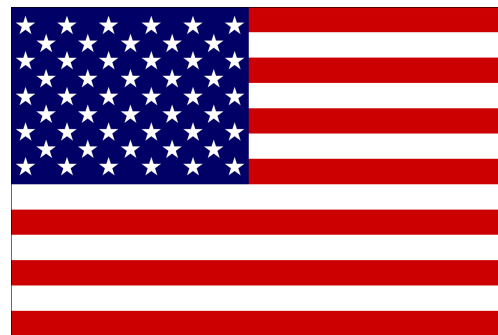
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The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. The association accepts no liability for misprints or inaccurate information.

Don't Miss the Coffee Klatch:

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



PO Box 268
Peralta, NM 87042



General Contact:

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

Upcoming Events:

- VCARA Club Meeting
October 25, 2011
7:00PM Local Time
Calvary Chapel, 19381
NM 314 in Belen

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 Lentos Road

Wed, November 2nd
Wed, November 16th
Wed, November 30th

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

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Presidents Corner

Cliff, KE0CP, VCARA President

I'm sitting in the ham shack wondering what to write about for the September Club Newsletter. Several things come to mind I'd like to share with you. A couple of weeks ago James, KC7YWB called and asked if I'd like to attend a seminar in Albuquerque. Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, was giving a discussion on the APRS digital mode he invented a few years ago. I've had a budding interest in ham digital modes in general and recently got an APRS system operational which I use while traveling. So yes, I wanted to go.

APRS stands for Automatic Packet Reporting System. It's sometimes interpreted as Automatic Position Reporting System because of its GPS position reporting capability. It's a relatively new digital mode that according to Bob was originally intended to be a communications mode suitable for short messages, something like Twitter, but exclusively for hams. But as will happen sometimes the inventor could not foresee how the invention would be used. Most of us use APRS to indicate position information. Thus the original intention of simple message communication takes a back seat probably because it's cheaper to develop a stand-alone APRS transmitter that will report our position than a full-fledged transceiver to handle transmission and reception of message traffic. Bob has some energy around this saying it's a great way to hold short conversations with hams anywhere in the world. You don't have the usual problems with propagation since the primary APRS frequency in this country is 144.390 MHz and once the information is received by a repeater iGate, it's available on the internet. To my mind that's exactly what makes the mode so attractive. Consider the following scenario.

Margette and I recently visited relatives in Las Cruces. It's a 3-hour drive and we didn't know exactly when we'd leave. So I simply phoned our relatives and suggested they go to the www.aprs.fi and look up my callsign. They had a real-time view of our progress on a Google map and could easily anticipate our arrival time based on when and where we might stop and so forth. I suppose I could have just phoned them before our arrival but there are several spots along our route where the cell doesn't work well. It doesn't take much imagination to see how such position reporting is useful during emergencies to know where all ham resources are positioned. No wonder APRS has developed into a positioning system. Sorry Bob.

And finally: We've lost our meeting place and station location. Asbestos was discovered in our old meeting place and the building is now completely off limits to everyone. When I think of asbestos abatement I think of lots of time and lots of money. I'm now of the opinion we need to find another location if we want a permanent place for our club activities. So this has become my number one priority. And if that was not enough the 146.700 repeater went down last Friday. It's now joined its twin the 442.700 repeater which has been down before I arrived on the scene. It's my intention to get both operational ASAP.

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IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

Club Officers:

President: Cliff Pulis KE0CP ke0cp@frii.com
Vice President: Charlie Lyon NM5CL nm5cl@att.net
Treasurer: Chris Gillespie W5CLG cricket87068@yahoo.com
Secretary: Randy Ridley N5DAY
Past President: Chris Gillespie W5CSG w5csg@arrl.net

Club Repeater: 146.700 -600 100hz Tone

Club Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM—Currently the Clubhouse is closed. Stay tuned to local nets and www.kc5our.com for info on meeting locations.

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



The Art of CW

Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member

Some say CW on the ham bands is a dying art, but if you would listen to the CW bands during a major world wide contest you would see that it's still alive and well! It's hard to find a frequency that is not busy with cw speed demons from all over the world. Now that we're not required to learn cw for our licenses, one can learn in a relaxed manner, not rushed or pressured.

There are now several free computer programs designed to help one learn the code and one of the better ones is located at <http://lcwo.net>. There are several services available on this site. There is a 41 lesson course to learn CW from scratch, as well as practice with random code groups, plain text, words, call signs, and messages. You can set the speed you start at and the site will increase the speed as you get better and reduce it as you make mistakes. If you sign up for a free account, it will track your progress on the various lessons. You don't need an account to use the site though. It will also track your progress with other users.

There are other programs available that help you learn and practice off the air and we'll preview several of them in future articles.

Free is No Longer Free

Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member

When World Radio magazine was purchased by CQ Communications, one of the first things they did was to cease printing WR (convenient, huh, buy out the competition and then shut them down). But, no they didn't shut the doors on WR, they put the issues onto the Internet and offered them free for the download! Well, now that we're used to reading WR online, change is coming. As the old English proverb says, "All good things must come to an end."

Beginning with the November 2011 Issue, WorldRadio Online will be available for a variety of online platforms, including those for tablet and mobile devices. Joy of joys! We'll now be able to hold our tiny, little smart phone up close to our eyes and read the tiny print of a ham magazine. But, of course, all this wonderful news comes at a price. They will now return to a paid subscription, \$19.95 per year for 12 issues.

Whoops, that's where they lose me. Since I don't have a tablet, smart phone or an I-pad, I don't think this wonderful news does me much good. I don't want to pay \$19.95 just to read what we've been reading for free. Good-bye WorldRadio Online, I think you will soon join the ranks of 73 Magazine, Ham Radio and others over the years that have tried to "improve" what works for best and have ended up SK.



WANTED: NM Ham Radio Plates

Bill, K5ZI

WANTED: New Mexico Amateur Radio License Plates, all years. Especially need 1959-1964, inclusive, plus 1976, 1977, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, and 2000. Will buy or trade. Bill Johnston, K5ZI, P.O. Box 640, Organ, NM 88052-0640. Tel. 575-382-7804. e-mail: K5ZI@arrl.net.

From Page 1... Presidents Corner

October Supplement

I'm very happy to announce two new club officers. As you may have heard Sean Tyler, our VP moved to Washington and Leslie Wirts, our Secretary recently resigned. My heartfelt thanks to them both for the service they gave the Club. The following individuals stepped forward and volunteered to fill the vacancies for the duration of the current term: Charlie Lyon, NM5CL as Vice President and Randy Ridley, N5DAY as Secretary. Please join me in extending a hand of thanks for their willingness to serve.

We are changing the procedure to renew your membership. Please direct all membership payments to our secretary (Randy) instead of to Chris (our treasurer).

Thanks to John Erni, WA5VJY and Paul Ridley, N5PR the 146.700 MHz club repeater is back in operation after some debilitating vandalism. A segment of coaxial feed cable and the backup battery was stolen. So the repeater will be off-the-air of a commercial power failure occurs. We inspected the 442.7 repeater after it also suffered vandalism. We replaced the coaxial feed cable and John took the inoperable repeater to his home for inspection. We are still waiting for word on what can be done to get it going again.

We have a full agenda for our next meeting on October 25, 2011 at the Calvary Chapel. We will be discussing options for a place to meet and possibly set up a club station. We need your input so I hope you plan to attend.



Club Meeting August 23rd

Meeting was called to order by Cliff KE0CP

Cliff KE0CP Announced, Margette, his wife, passed her Tech and General test. Listen for KF5MIQ on the air

Cliff KE0CP also asked everyone to join the Wednesday night net.

James KC7YWB announced the August newsletter went out on time and that the club would use the Website as an Information Exchange tool

The Pot Luck was announced for September 20th. The club is providing the meat and soda. Members were asked to bring a dish

Ralph NM5RC reminded everyone of the Tour of Rio Grande Valley bike event. Volunteers are being sought

There was brief discussion for a new location for club meetings and station

Meeting closed at 7:48PM

Door prize winners were:
Ralph NM5RC - Digital Volt Meter
Paul N5PR - Calculator

Jim Gale, Director of Engineering and Operations of KNME-TV did a presentation of Mobile Digital Television.

- Coffee Klatch:
Village Inn, Los Lunas at 2:00PM, Main Street and Los Lentos Road
- Wednesday, November 2nd
 - Wednesday, November 16th
 - Wednesday, November 30th
 - Wednesday, December 14th
 - Wednesday, December 28th
 - Wednesday, January 11th
 - Wednesday, January 25th
 - Wednesday, February 8th
 - Wednesday, February 22nd



- Wednesday Night Net Schedule:
- October 26 - Joyce KD5IAI
 - Nov. 2 - Ralph NM5RC
 - Nov. 9 - Goose K5EMH
 - Nov. 16 - Elvira KD5UJQ
 - Nov. 23 - Joyce KD5IAI
 - Nov. 30 - Russ KD5UJR
 - Dec. 7 - Paul N5PR
 - Dec. 14 - Charlie NM5CL
 - Dec. 21 - James KC7YWB
 - Dec. 28 - Joyce KD5IAI

