



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

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday Night Net
Every Wednesday at
8:00PM on the Club
Repeater
Coffee Klatch every-
other week. See page 3.
D-Star Academy in
Socorro February 18;
8:00 AM-4:00 PM.
Google NM D-Star
Academy Socorro, NM to
register by February 9.

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Directions to Clubhouse:

Go East on Reinken Rd/NM
309 in Belen. Reinken Rd
will become River Rd after
RR Tracks bridge. Cross
over Rio Grande river and
bear right onto Highway
47 / NM 304. Proceed 0.6
Mile on Hwy 47. Turn right
just past "My Bank". Park
behind bank.

Clubhouse is the building
just north of "My Bank",
upstairs via outside
stairway in suite 302.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Cliff KE0CP, VCARA President

I want to thank James McNutt KC7YWB for acting
as our Newsletter Editor these past few years.
We will miss you James. Thanks for your service
to our Club.

With James moving to Arizona we are in need of
someone to take over the Newsletter Editor re-
sponsibilities. It is not a difficult or time consum-
ing job, just takes a little organization,
knowledge of MS Publisher and commitment to
get it out early each month. The Club President
provides a monthly column and several other
club members often submit articles. So content is
not typically a problem.

If you have a computer with Publisher and have
enjoyed receiving a Newsletter each month now's
the time to come forward and volunteer to be the
editor. James tells me it takes only 2 to 3 hours
per month.

I am willing to help with the first issue or two till
you get your feet on the ground. Please email me
at ke0cp@frii.com if you are interested.

Until we have a permanent editor please submit
articles to me at ke0cp@frii.com

Cliff KE0CP, VCARA President

Happy New Year! I hope you had a safe and joy-
ous holiday season and your new year will be a
happy one. The Club is off to a good start. We
held a special event at the clubhouse on January
6 in celebration of New Mexico becoming the 47th
state. We ran an HF station and a PSK-31 digital
station and though relatively few were in attend-
ance we had fun.

We started the New Year with our 442.700 MHz
repeater back on the air. We had a false start
when it when down within the first 24-hours but
with John Erni's WA5VJY considerable expertise it
was back up and running shortly thereafter. John
not only donated his time but also funds to ac-
quire several parts necessary to bring the rather
old equipment back into service. Thank you John.

Through the generosity of Richard Ybarra AB1Q,
we are in possession of some used commercial
grade VHF and UHF radios, both HTs and mo-

Late Breaking News

New Club Secretary

Aaron Ridley W5ADR has volunteered to become
the Club secretary and has been approved by the
VCARA Board of Directors. Aaron replaces Randy
Ridley N5DAY who recently submitted his resig-
nation in order to pursue other local interests in
ham radio. I want to welcome Aaron and wish
him well in his new assignment. Thank you
Randy for a job well done and good luck in your
new pursuits.

Just so you know the Board has made several
changes that affect the secretary's job. All mem-
bership dues should now given to the secretary,
Aaron Ridley W5ADR who issues a receipt and
passes the funds along to the treasurer, Chris
Gillespie W5CLG who deposits the funds. The
secretary is also responsible to keep our roster
up-to-date.

VE Testing to Begin at Clubhouse

Chris Gillespie W5CSG recently announced that
W5YI VE testing will be held on Saturday every 6
weeks at the Clubhouse from 9:00 AM to 12:00
Noon beginning February 11, 2012. Invite a
friend to become a ham or upgrade your license.
It's never been easier.

See the VE Test Schedule on page 3.

Presidents Corner

biles, and some used test equipment. The Board
of Directors approved a loaner plan I presented
at our January monthly meeting. Our goal is to
assist our members to have "a radio in every
shack." With this infusion of used equipment we
should be able to accomplish just that. So far we
have nearly a dozen radios tested and pro-
grammed to local ham repeater and simplex fre-
quencies and more are on the way. What's nice is
they're simple to operate. Thank you Richard.

Thanks to James McNutt KC7WYB we have an
EchoLink node set up in the clubhouse that works
with our 146.700 MHz repeater. James not only
spearheaded the project but also donated a com-
puter and other equipment to the Club. James
recently announced that he has accepted a job in
Arizona. As he intends to remain somewhat in-
volved with the club this will enable him to partic-
ipate in our Wednesday night net. I know we all
have to do what we have to do, but I'm sorry to
see him leave.

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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: Aaron Ridley W5ADR aaron@ridley.net
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-The Club-
house is located at 386 Rio Communities Blvd, Suite 302, Belen,
NM. Suite 302 is upstairs on the south side of the building.

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



Changes to Wednesday Night Net on 146.700

The Board of Directors has recently been approached about making changes to the Wednesday night net at 8:00 PM on 2 Meters. This has been prompted by feedback from members who desire to participate on the net but don't have much time. Others would like to get on and visit. We hope these changes will help increase participation.

So to accommodate both types of users the Board is asking the net control operators to: ask for officer check-ins as we do now, then ask for general check-ins (callsign, name and if they have traffic of general interest or questions for the officers). After each group of check-ins ask for the traffic to be passed. When there are no more general check-ins, turn the net over to those who wish to visit, but continue under net control. Thanks for your efforts in following these procedures. We hope it will be a win-win for all.■

Christmas from Bethlehem Special Event

The annual Christmas from Bethlehem, NM special event was held on December 17th at the Clubhouse in conjunction with an open house celebrating our move to the new location.

Paul Ridley N5PR reports that there were 86 contacts from the clubhouse, about evenly divided between PSK31 and SSB. Charlie Lyon NM5CL made 8 contacts from his QTH and Paul N5PR made 17 contacts from his home. A total of 111 contacts made.

Thanks to John Cressup KD5MHO for providing the Special Event QSL cards.■

New Mexico 47th State Special Event

A special event commemorating the 100th anniversary of New Mexico becoming the 47th State was held at the Clubhouse on Friday January 6th.

We had an HF SSB station up and running as well as a PSK-31 digital station. The total number of contact made were 8 on SSB and 10 on PSK-31. Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy the event. The KC5OUR website still has information about the event.

Thanks to John Cressup KD5MHO for providing the Special Event QSL cards.■

Wellness Clinic for Club Equipment

A first ever Wellness Clinic will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday, February 25, 2012 starting at 9:30 AM until whenever. The purpose is to decide how to arrange the Project room and to test/repair several pieces of equipment such as a 12V linear power supply. We can also discuss what type of projects you would like to build. We have the makings of a dual-band VHF/UHF yagi we could use for satellite communications. Bring your own ideas and help us get things organized. And if you have some old screwdrivers, pliers, etc. you could donate to the Club toolbox that would be great.■

From Page 1... Presidents Corner

When I reflect on the past six months I've been your president I'm impressed with the amount of time and effort many of you have been willing to donate to the Club. Its success cannot be measured in physical terms, though these assets enable us to function, but more importantly are the ways you each add to the enjoyment of the group. In the final analysis the club is its members. Thank you all.■

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Word to the Wise

Paul, N5PR

Thought I would relate a happening to me that might help someone in the future.

I had put together a nice "go-bag" for ARES and any emergency where I might need radio tools, connectors, wire, etc. It was in a canvas satchel and was full to the top of stuff I thought was relevant to the need.

We moved to the new clubhouse and in the process of getting an antenna and station going, we needed a length of coax for the antenna. I remembered that I had placed a 100 foot coil of RG-8X into my go-bag and the bag was in my pickup. When I pulled the coax from the bottom of the bag, it was sticky in my hand. Upon examination it had a number of places where the outer insulation was gone and the braid was exposed. It looked like a mouse or other rodent had chewed it off in places. That was a brand new length of coax and had never been used before! We sure couldn't use any of that coax for the station.

Several days later I was thinking about the incident, so took the go-bag out of the truck and started taking items out to see if maybe I had placed a battery in it that might have leaked. Most items I had put into quart zip-lock bags to protect them from getting scuffed, tangled or lost. Down in the very bottom I found a half can of Deep Woods Off Mosquito spray, with the cap off. When I put it into the bag, it was a new, full can. Some time during one of my times of digging into the bag I had knocked the cap off and then items must have shifted around until something got up against the nozzle and sprayed a half can of Deet....right onto my new coil of coax! Some chemical in that repellent was strong enough to melt the outer insulation of the coax in numerous places. Think about that the next time you douse yourself with Mosquito repellent!

Good thing most other items were in the plastic bags, but now I wish I had used one more bag and put the Mosquito spray can into one. Another expensive lesson learned.■

WANTED: NM Ham Radio Plates

Bill Johnston 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.■



Club Meeting—January 24th

Coffee Klatch:

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

- Wednesday, February 8th
- Wednesday, February 22nd
- Wednesday, January 11th
- Wednesday, March 7th
- Wednesday, March 21st
- Wednesday, April 4th
- Wednesday, April 18th
- Wednesday, May 2nd
- Wednesday, May 16th

Wednesday Night Net Schedule:

- Feb. 1 - Paul N5PR
- Feb. 8 - Russ KD5UJR
- Feb. 15 - Charlie NM5CL
- Feb. 22 - Ralph NM5RC
- Feb. 29 - Joyce KD5IAI
- Mar. 7 - Goose K5EMH
- Mar. 14 - Elvira KD5UJQ
- Mar. 21 - Paul N5PR
- Mar. 28 - Charlie NM5CL
- Apr. 4 - Joyce KD5IAI

VE Test Schedule at Clubhouse Saturday 9:00 AM—Noon:

- February 11th
- March 24th
- May 5th
- June 16th
- July 28th
- September 8th
- October 20th
- December 1st

Contact: Chris Gillespie w5csg@arri.net

Randy N5DAY, VCARA Secretary

7:00pm - Meeting start.

Salute flag led by Mark Johnson N9YEX
Attendees announce names & call-sign

Program

Melissa Leymon, Senior Program Developer, PNM Energy Efficiency Program Delivery, gave a presentation about conserving energy in the home and the programs PNM offers to its customers. She mentioned that a Kill-A-Watt device which helps determine the energy usage of various household appliances and electrical devices is available from the Belen & Los Lunas public libraries.

Officer's Reports

Cliff, President, mentioned that since we last met John Erni WA5VJY got the 442.7 repeater operational. He also encouraged us to visit the Project Room and check out the new used radios & equipment made available by Richard Ybarra AB1Q and a signal generator on permanent loan from Dick Doyle NO5T. Charlie, Vice President, discussed the loan policy for the radios donated by Richard. He suggested a \$10 deposit when checking out one of the radios, to be returned when the radio comes back. If you want to keep the radio you can without additional payment.

Chris, Treasurer, gave a brief financial report including recent expenditures associated with the new clubhouse.

Chris, Past President, indicated that there will be regularly scheduled W5YI VE testing sessions every 6th Saturday from 9:00 AM till done. The sessions will begin on February 11, 2012. (See Jan/Feb 2012 newsletter for full schedule)

Old Business

Cliff mentioned that nothing has been done yet about putting a lock on the 2-meter repeater door at W. Aragon.

New Business

- Cliff discussed the new lease for clubhouse, due by February 15, will be for 9 months to end on November 30, 2012. This was approved by Board of Directors and the cost is within current funding allocation.
- Cliff also discussed the following items:
 - The Club needs a volunteer to handle the Club Newsletter now that James McNutt KC7YWB has moved to Arizona.
 - Joyce KD5IAI is looking for someone to replace her in the ARES leadership. The Club now has an EchoLink station in the shack. Equipment was donated by James KC7YWB.
 - When you use the shack's 2M, 70cm operating position please use Low power only. The power supply can't handle anything higher and would be unsafe RF radiation at higher levels because the antenna is atop the power supply.
 - We need to get a crew together soon to take the antenna down from Becker Ave, remove the tower behind the bank next door and put it up behind the VIA building.
- There will be a D-Star Academy Saturday, February 18 in Socorro.
- Margette Pulis KF5MIQ indicated there will be a "wish list" posted in the Project Room. Items on this list are things we'd eventually like to get for the club.
- We adjourned at 8:20 PM



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Dots 'n Dashes

KC5OUR

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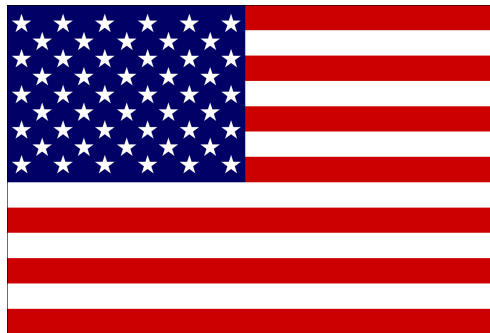
To report any errors, omissions or general letters to the editor, please contact:

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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, February 8th 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