



General Contact:

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

Upcoming Events:

- VCARA Club Meeting
July 26, 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 Lentos Road

Wed, June 29
Wed, July 13
Wed, July 27
- Wednesday Night Net
Every Wednesday at
8:00PM on the Club
Repeater

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VCARA Field Day

Cliff, KE0CP, VCARA President

The 2011 Field Day is over but for those who participated it was as an enjoyable event. I want to thank everyone who contributed in any way to make it a success, from planning to logistics and food, those who helped set up and take down, and the operators. It takes a lot of effort to bring it together. All involved can be proud of a job well done.

Ninety-one people signed the register. That's a bit down from last year's attendance. We had several rigs on the air throughout much of the event, one each for SSB, CW, Digital (PSK31) and 6-meters. Not all were active the entire 24-

hours but we made enough contacts to rack up a total score of 2,328 points, of which 1,270 were bonus points. We had 172 CW QSOs and 185 on phone. The GOTA bonus station started with digital contacts but eventually switched over to SSB due to the low number of completed contacts in digital mode. Bonus points included 100% emergency power, media publicity, GOTA station, youth participation, educational activity and other categories.

Thinking ahead to 2012 some of the things we can do to increase participation and improve the final score might include a sign-up sheet to indicate who would like to operate each station

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Presidents Corner

Cliff, KE0CP, VCARA President

Happy New Year! Seems strange to think of a new year starting mid-summer with the temperatures hovering around 100-degrees. But the Club fiscal year does start on July 1 so it's time to begin thinking what we want to do during the next 12 months.

More about this in a minute. As your new club president I want to take this opportunity to formally thank Chris, Shawn, Leslie, Christine, James and everyone else who has helped run the Club during the past year. All of the officers have graciously agreed to stay on. (I suspect they felt they'd better continue what with a newbie club president being elected.) Just so you'll know my wife Margette and I moved from Colorado and purchased a home in Rio Communities last November. We're retired—sort of—and really like here. I've been in ham radio since 1956 when I passed my Novice exam. It was shortly after WW-II, I was a pre-teen and the world was a big place.

Listening to foreign stations was a thrill. I will never forget the excitement of "tuning in the world". I still enjoy CW and making DX contacts. A lot has changed since the 50's but there were some things I think would be fun to bring back, though in modern form.

Since becoming president I've been thinking about what we might do. How we can honor the past but move forward with some of the new technologies available in our hobby. Three questions come to mind: 1) how can we increase our monthly meeting attendance and make the meetings more compelling, 2) how can we make club membership and experience more valuable, 3) how can we assist the community as part of our ham radio public service commitment? I'll share a couple of ideas with you but I'm more interested in learning what you have to say. Please feel free to email me at ke0cp@frii.com (that's a zero in the call, not the letter O).

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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 though the door behind the building.

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



Presidents Message Cont.

OK, for starters. Would you like to build a few inexpensive kits you could use around the shack, things like a relative field strength meter to test your antenna, a 6-meter receiver and transmitter or a kit to experience what that APRS is all about and learn how it could benefit ARES? We might pool resources and build them together, so no worries if you've never built an electronic kit or don't have a soldering station. What if you could operate the Club station to contact some DX? Or if you could remotely operate the station via your home computer in case your antenna won't perform as well as the Club's 6-element Tri-band Yagi? Would you like learn what an Elmer is and how to be one? Generate your own ideas and let's discuss them at our next Club meeting on July 26. Till then, 73.☐

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.☐

For Sale

Kenwood TR-7800 2-meter, with manual & service manual
Tempo One Plus 2-meter transceiver

Both radios in working order, contact David Pemberton 865-4066☐

VCARA Field Day Cont.

so we can see when the station will be idle and find additional operators. For instance, the CW station whose points are doubled in the final scoring was inactive for 8 hours during the night. An organizational/ informational meeting could be held one or two months in advance so those new to Field Day can see how they might fit in. Occasionally we might open the clubhouse and become more familiar with how to operate the excellent equipment available to us and receive useful operating tips from more experienced club members. I'm always eager to learn something new about ham radio.

Again, thanks to all who braved the heat and helped make Field Day a success.☐





Wednesday Night Net Schedule:

- August 10 - James KC7YWB
- August 17 - Ralph NM5RC
- August 24 - Joyce KD5IAI
- August 31 - Goose K5EMH
- Sept. 7—Mark K5WM
- Sept. 14—Elvira KD5UJQ
- Sept. 21—Paul N5PR
- Sept. 28—Joyce KD5IAI
- October 5—Russ KD6UJR
- October 12—Charlie NM5CL



Coffee Klatch:

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

- Wednesday, August 10th
- Wednesday, August 24th
- Wednesday, Sept. 7th
- Wednesday, Sept. 21st
- Wednesday, October 5th
- Wednesday, October 19th
- Wednesday, November 2nd
- Wednesday, November 16th





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Dots 'n Dashes

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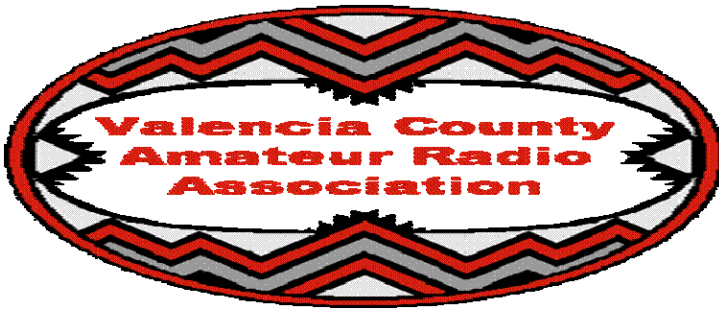
To report any errors, omissions or general letters to the editor, please contact:

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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, August 10th 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

VALENCIA COUNTY HAMS NEEDED TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE TOUR OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY BICYCLE TOUR

Tour of the Rio Grande Valley - September 18, 2011

This popular bicycle tour ran for more than 20 years during the 1970s-1990s with over a thousand riders is being revived. It includes rides of 25, 50, 65, and 100 miles originating in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. The route goes through Isleta, Los Lunas and Belen then loops south to the NM 346 bridge and back to Belen before returning to Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. By July over 400 riders had signed up for the event. Ham Radio Operators at rest stops, with event officials, mobile along segments of the course, and in support vehicles will provide communications for the event.

The event web site is at <http://www.bikenm.org/action/tour-of-the-rio-grande-valley-09182011> (but the easy way is to Google “Tour of the Rio Grande Valley”) has route maps.

Valencia County Hams

Responsible for communications for the route and rest stops south of Isleta Pueblo.

Exception - Some sag wagons and other mobile event staff will have Hams with them which we will not need to provide.

Need eight Valencia County Hams and could use more to:

Provide communications at the Los Lunas and Belen rest stops.

Operate mobile along the route to provide communications as required.

What equipment do I need?

- For rest stops, a hand held 2-meter rig (plus extra battery) with an antenna better than the HT's original rubber duck would be sufficient. Although not necessary, if someone wanted to be fancy and cross band repeat from HT to mobile rig then to the repeater it might be fun.
- For mobile rigs patrolling the route, a mobile rig with an exterior antenna is desired. A HT with a mag mount antenna would probably be sufficient south of Los Lunas .
- We will probably be using the URFMS 2-meter Capilla Peak 146.96 – 100 repeater.

I'd like to help, but I've never done something like this before and/or do not have the necessary equipment. Is there still a role for me?

Absolutely! You can be paired with someone who has the radio and/or experience. Having two folks at the rest stops and two in the mobile rigs is always desired.

I'm ready, how do I sign up?

Send email indicating you will help and any assignment requests to all of the following:

Ed N5LI	assembling the list of Ham volunteers	n5li@arrl.net
Dick AD5CS	coordinating this event's Ham volunteers	dpowellabq@comcast.net
Earl K1ERL	coordinating the Valencia County Hams	shepard.earl@gmail.com
Ralph NM5RC	recruiting Valencia Hams for the event	nm5rc@msn.com