

VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

December 2008 &
January 2009 Issue

Valencia County
Amateur Radio
Association
P.O. Box 268
Peralta,
New Mexico
87042

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VCARA Minutes of Nov 25, 2008 Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Jim KE5NIC at 7:00 PM

Old Business:

Charlotte reminded everyone that the Christmas Dinner will be 12/6/08 at 6 PM at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Please bring an unwrapped gift for children ages 12 and under.

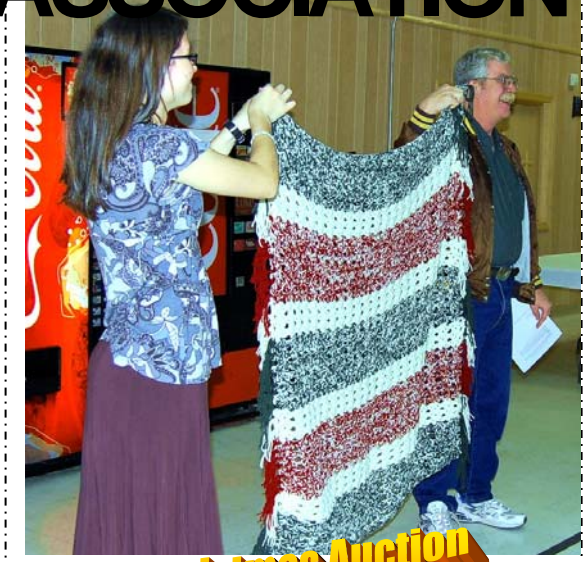
Please leave a monetary donation for the food bank as a thank you for the use of their facilities for our special events.

If you have an item you would like to donate as a door prize, please bring it to the dinner.

New business:

The special events station will be on the air from 12/18/08 to 12/23/08 and the open house will be on 12/20/08 at 9 AM.

Please remember to stay within the bands allowable by your license class, use



Christmas Auction

KC5OUR as the call sign, and please keep a log of the contacts that are made.

If you would like to bring goodies to the open house, it would be appreciated.

Presentation:

Paul did a presentation on the statistics published by ARRL on Field Day. Paul showed the top participants for various activities.

If you would like to see the stats, you can go to the ARRL website and view them.

The door prize was a 38-piece screwdriver set, won by Linda KE5LWW.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

*Dawn Torres KE5LZZ
Secretary VCARA*



Ham of the Year

Events Calendar

Wed, Dec 31, 2008 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Dec 31, 2008 5pm
Straight Key night
See Article at right for more info.

Happy New Year

Wed, Jan 7, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas NM
Coffee Klatch
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

Wed, Jan 7, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Mon-Tues, Jan 13-14, 2009
G300 ICS Interm. Training
Moriarty NM, contact Felecia at 505-476-9633 for info.

Wed, Jan 14, 2009
G400 ICS Adv. Training
Moriarty NM, contact Felecia at 505-476-9633 for info.

Wed, Jan 14, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Jan 21, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas NM
Coffee Klatch
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

While checking through several of the latest issues of ham publications, looking for the announcement of our Special Event, I ran across an article promoting Straight Key Night, January 1st of each year.

Even though it seemed to have taken place only a couple months ago (actually, almost one year ago), I recalled the fun and excitement of making a couple of contacts with other hams while using a tiny, home-brew wooden straight key. This is something different for me, as normally I use a duel-lever paddle and keyer built into the transceiver to send Morse Code.

For me, it takes a lot of concentration to form the dots and dashes manually using a straight key. But, it is fun, different and exciting to use the same type of key as hams of long ago used to

communicate with each other.

I would encourage everyone who has an HF station to try it for one or more contacts, starting this New Year's Day at 00:00 GMT (New Year's Eve 5:00 pm local time).

It only last for 24 hours and if you miss this one it will be a whole year before you find this many hams sending code with straight keys!

You will be able to find someone sending at your speed, or if you call CQ, someone will answer at your speed. Any questions, or if you need to borrow a straight key, call me and I'll help you out.

73,
Paul N5PR





**G300 ICS Intermediate
G400 ICS Advance &
L449 Courses available**

The Training Program with New Mexico's Dept of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is providing you an excellent opportunity to receive the G300 ICS Intermediate and G400 ICS Advanced trainings to qualify you to attend the L449 ICS Train-the-Trainer course in February. We have scheduled G300 for January 12-13, 2009 and G400 for January 14, 2009 in Moriarty for those needing these

trainings to meet the pre-requisites

for our offering of L449 in Albuquerque during February. Class sizes are limited so you are encouraged to register early!

Registration is required for each of the three courses. Our announcements and website <http://www.nmdhsemorg> can help you through the registration process.

Should you have any questions



after reviewing the documents, please feel free to contact Felecia Schreier at 505-476-9633 or Felecia.shreier@state.nm.us.

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505-476-9633
MON 11:00 AM

**Events Calendar -
continued**

Wed, Jan 21, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.



Tues, Jan 27, 2009 7pm
Belen Municipal Court-
house, Belen NM
VCARA Meeting
Monthly Official Meeting.



KC5OUR Repeater & Net Operators Every Wednesday at 8pm

VHF repeater - 146.700 MHz
Negative 600 KHz, 100 Hz tone
UHF repeater - 442.700 MHz
Positive 5 MHz & 100 Hz tone

Dec 31 -KD5UJQ Elvira H
Jan 7 -N5PR Paul Ridley
Jan 14 -KE5KFP Val L.
Jan 21 -KD5--- Cresap Fmy.
Jan 28 -KD5IAI Joyce R.
Feb 4 -KE5OQE Janelle L.

If you can't run the NET when scheduled, please find someone to take your turn

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

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before meetings.

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*It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds,
but the class of the Amateur that holds the license.*



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Required



**Have a safe
New Year!**