

VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

November 2009
Issue

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



all the money put towards one radio, or a mobile radio and an HT. The club members voted to purchase the two radios as prizes for the party. The club members

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October 27, 2009 VCARA Meeting Minutes

New Business:

Ralph reminded everyone about the HAM radio technician license class to be held on December 27, 28 and 29th. Ralph will put together an assignment list for the volunteers. The curriculum has slightly changed for this course.

It will include demonstrations as well as bookwork. Ralph would also like the students to participate in the special event station for Christmas.

If anyone is interested in taking over the monthly VCARA newsletter, please let Chris know.

Chris requested the club members input regarding the main door prize for the Christmas party. He asked if the members would like

voted to combine the totals from ticket sales which are approximately \$250 and \$91 in donations to purchase the radios. A committee report will be given at the November meeting on the catering of the dinner for the party.

Program:

Earl Shepard (K1ERL) gave a very interesting presentation on CAP-Civil Air Patrol, which he has been part of since 1960. He spoke about the history of CAP, the equipment they used then and now, and what their roles are in an emergency.

*Dawn Torres KE5LZZ
Secretary VCARA*

**VALENCIA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
ACHIEVES NATIONAL
RANKING**

In results just released by the American Radio Relay League, the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association received high ranking for its performance in June's Field Day exercise.

The annual Field Day contest is an opportunity for US and Canadian Ham Radio operators to practice providing emergency communications from temporary field stations.

The 107 people attending the two day exercise at the Willie Chavez Park resulted in VCARA being tied for 13th place for all 2,612 participating stations. What makes this ranking even more impressive is the club only has 60 members and only used two transmitters while many other clubs had several hundred members and used as many as 17 transmitters. When compared to the 441 stations operating in the same category, VCARA's participants gave them a second place finish.

Talking with 715 other stations during the event resulted in the club finishing in the top 20 percent for all entries and based on a complicated scoring system that involves number of contacts, areas contacted, and the transmitted mode (i.e., voice, Morse code, digital, etc.). VCARA's score placed them in the top 30 percent of their own two transmitter category. Of the 26 New Mexico stations participating, the Valencia County club placed first in the number of

participants and scored second in its two transmitter category.

In reviewing the results, club President Chris Gillespie (W5CSG) noted:

"We are pleased with the club's high national ranking again this year in this national contest. When you remember we only have 60 members and our Field Day focus has always been to get new Hams on the radio and to have fun, rather than trying focusing on a high score, receiving this recognition is impressive.

The other unusual aspect of our Field Days is that we do not have a formal planning committee or coordinator. We just show up at the park on the fourth weekend in June, set up whatever equipment the members have brought, and get on the air."

NM Dept of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

The following are no-cost courses that are currently being offered. Advance registration is required for all courses.

G 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents offered in Aztec, NM on Nov 16-18, 2009.

G 400 Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff Course offered in Farmington, NM on November 19, 2009.

Events Calendar

Wed, Nov 18, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.



Tues, Nov 24, 2009 7pm
Belen Municipal Court
Monthly official meeting.



Wed, Nov 25, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

Wed, Nov 25, 2009 7:30pm
ARES Net 146.700 mhz
Monthly RACES/ARES net.

Wed, Nov 25, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Dec 2, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Dec 5, 2009 6pm
First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall, Belen, NM
VCARA Christmas Dinner
Tickets purchased in advance.
See attachment for details.

Wed, Dec 9, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

G 318 Mitigation Planning Workshop {Local Governments Training) offered in Albuquerque, NM on December 1-2, 2009.

Threat Assessment and Safer School Climate Training offered in Santa Fe, NM on Dec 10, 2009.

For registration information on any of these courses, contact Felecia KE5HTV at 505-476-9633 or Felecia.Schreier@state.nm.us.

The small group/mini-class format, planned demonstrations and concurrent merit badge activities, a bunch of instructors and demonstrators are needed. If you might be interested in assisting with this effort, please contact Ralph NM5RC, at 821-7636 or nm5rc@msn.com. Knowing this is a bit early for some of us to make firm commitments, just knowing who might be interested in helping will greatly ease the planning and instructor recruitment efforts. Firm commitments will be solicited in mid November.

Events – continued

Wed, Dec 9, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Dec 16, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Sat, Dec 19, 2009 7am-2pm
Belen Courthouse, NM
Special Event Station
Open house starts the annual radio event.

Dec 19-24, 2009 Homebase
Special Event Station 146.7
Annual radio event.

Wed, Dec 23, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

Wed, Dec 23, 2009 7:30pm
ARES Net 146.700 mhz
Monthly RACES/ARES net.

Wed, Dec 23, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Instructors & Demonstrators Needed for Youth License Class

VCARA's Technician license class for everyone, but youth are especially invited, will be held on December 28-30, 2009 (Mon-Wed) in Bosque Farms. Exams will be given just after lunch on Wednesday.

The class will be in Bosque Farms and an enrollment of 20-30 is expected. The students will be divided into four or five small groups, which will then rotate through 12 mini-classes. In response to suggestions received at a club meeting, several real-life demonstrations will be presented so the students get to see what Ham Radio is rather than just getting book learning to pass the test. Some of the demos being considered are use of repeaters, autopatch phone calls, IRLP or EchoLink, and CW.

Boy Scouts attending the class will also be able to earn their radio merit badge by demonstrating what they learn in class and a few separate classes and activities. One badge requirement is for the scout to make and log a radio contact.

Ham License Class Enrollments

VCARA's Technician license class will be held on December 28-30, 2009 (Mon-Wed) in Bosque Farms. The scout and youth focused class is co-sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 253, but adults are also welcome to enroll. Only 24 students are being accepted on a first come basis. Adults not accompanied by a kid will be registered after November 15th. Boy Scouts can also earn their radio merit badge during the event. The registration fee is \$20 (\$25 for adults) and includes the study book and class materials. The \$14 FCC exam fee will need to be paid before the Wednesday afternoon exam. Additional information can be obtained from Ralph (NM5RC), 821-7636, nm5rc@msn.com, or from Bill (KC5FKN), 869-1336, troop253gsw@gmail.com.

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

Nov 18 - K5WMH Mark H.
Nov 25 - KD5UJR Russell H.
Dec 2 - NM5RC Ralph Clark
Dec 9 - K5EMH Goose G.
Dec 16 - N5PR Paul Ridley
Dec 23 - KD5IAI Joyce R.
Dec 30 - KE5OQE Janelle L.

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

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

President: Chris Gillespie
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Webmaster: Chris Gillespie
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Newsletter: Mailed 10 days
before meetings.

Editor: Elvira Hunt
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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.*



Get your own club
T-shirt. Contact Pat
KA5PAT at 866-6170.
Prices are
T-shirts @ \$18 each and
pols @ \$20 each.

VCARA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DATE: DECEMBER 05, 2009

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
115 South 4th St.
Belen, NM

PRICE: \$12.50 including tax & gratuity per person
\$6.25 for children 8 years old or younger

MENU

Beef Brisket (w/gravy or BBQ sauce)

Broiled Chicken

Mashed Potatoes

Corn

Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas

Beans

Red Chile

Rolls and Tortillas

Iced Tea, Coffee and Water

The recommended cutoff date for reservations (including payment) is November 24th 2009. This cutoff date was set in order to get a firm count for Rutilio's and to help the Club Treasurer. **Pay the treasurer, Chris (W5CLG) in person at the club meeting, or mail payment to Chris at the club mailing address.**

VCARA, P.O. Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042

We ask that those attending bring an unwrapped Christmas gift for a child 12 years old or younger. We will be passing these gifts along to the Valencia County Toys for Tots for distribution.

For more information contact:

Charlotte KD5OHZ ----- Ph. 864-2291 -- Email -- kd5ohz@wildblue.net