

VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

September 2009 Issue

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

Inside this Issue

- 1** Contesting Article
- 2** License Class Technician
- 2** Events Calendar
- 2** Public Events
- 3** Emergency Management Classes
- 4** VCARA Net Operators
- 4** VCARA Contacts

CONTESTING

Just remember SAFETY FIRST. Do not attempt this in a mobile as a single operator. Always use someone to log for you or do the driving!!!

Have you ever thought about trying to operate in a contest? But thought you didn't have a chance against the BIG GUNS, simply because you don't have a billion watt amp. You don't need to have an amp to have fun in a weekend contest.

Getting in on a contest is a very good way to check out how good your equipment is, and what the propagation is, so that you'll be able to make that exotic DX (foreign) contact. It is also a good way to stay familiar with your equipment. So that if you are called upon to help out in an emergency you won't have to say "wait a minute while I try to find the manual for the radio. I'm not sure how to get this off UHF."

Everyone has worked a couple stations during field day a day when all the big guns are turned off (we hope). We all try to make lots of contacts, but field day isn't the only time of the year when you can get on the air to make lots of contacts, all in one afternoon. Given just about any Saturday when you turn on your HF radio you can find lots of people on the

air calling "CQ contest CQ contest" all you have to do is give your call sign when there is an opening. A typical contest CQ will go something like this "CQ contest this is KD5ABC QRZ." And then you will hear W2ABC in a big pile up. KD5ABC will then acknowledge W2ABC and say you are 59 into Albuquerque. W2ABC will then say thank you for the 59 you are 59 into New York over thank you for the 59 QRZ.

Some of the signals heard can be a bit confusing, when the report will say something like, "you are 59175." What this means is they are 59 and their contact number is 175. Don't worry about trying to win the contest, just have fun.

This author has worked a couple contests while mobile where I only had made 14 contacts. And you never know who you will run into on the air.

During the New Mexico QSO Party contest, I was mobile in Arizona. Towards the end of the contest I heard a CQ contest call on 40 meters and guess who was on the other end? None other than our very own former president (who placed 3rd overall in the contest) Mark W5WMH. So you never know who you'll meet on the air. Maybe you will meet someone who you'll make a long term friendship with.

September 2009 Issue

Good luck on your next contest I look forward to hopefully putting you in my log.

73 Richard KD5NTL

Events Calendar

Fri, Sept 10, 2009
G191 ICS Class, Carlsbad New Mexico
See article.

Tues-Fri, Sept 15-18, 2009
G775 EOC Class, Carlsbad New Mexico See article.

Wed, Sept 16, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

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



Tues, Sept 22, 2009 7pm
VCARA Annual Pot Luck
Fellowship hall in Belen.



Wed, Sept 23, 2009 7:30pm
ARES Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

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

LICENSE CLASS SCHEDULED TO WRAP UP 2009

A Valencia County Technician license class is being planned for December 28-30 (Monday-Wednesday) with license exams scheduled during the last day. While being promoted to scouts and youth, it is expected some adults will take advantage of the class to earn their first Ham ticket.

Enrollment will be limited to about 20 students. The students will be divided into four groups and the groups will rotate through about a dozen mini-classes.

Several new wrinkles will be added to this class to cement the concepts in the students' minds and to help prepare them for their first ventures into Amateur Radio. One example of this approach will be to have a significant on-the-air repeater demonstration in addition to the usual 'this is what you need to know about repeaters to pass the exam' presentation.

Participating Boy Scouts will be able to earn their Radio Merit Badge in conjunction with the class.

If you are know folks who have expressed an interest in getting a Ham license, or of some youth groups who might be interested in taking advantage of this

opportunity, please pass along this preliminary information.

Tentatively, further class information is expected to be released in early October.

Enrollment will be accepted from youth for the first month and then opened to adults. It is expected the class will quickly fill up. If you are interested in teaching or otherwise helping with the class, please let Ralph (NM5RC) (821-7636, nm5rc@msn.com) know.

Let's see, 4 groups X 12 mini-classes = 36 class presentations plus five 'wrinkles' = needing a bunch of folks helping with the effort. 73,

Ralph, NM5RC



ARRL SPONSORED EVENT

October 18, 2009 – **Duke City Marathon.**

Albuquerque area amateurs have supported this event for more that 20 years. We will need a substantial number of volunteers to cover rest stops along the course or to shadow race officials. Further information see www.dukecitymarathon.com.

73, Ed Ricco N5LI

NM Dept of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Events Calendar – continued

Wed, Sept 30, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch

Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

Wed, Sept 30, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz

See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Oct 7, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz

See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Oct 14, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch

Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

Wed, Oct 14, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz

See Net Operator schedule.

Sun, Oct 18, 2009 TBA
Duke City Marathon

See article.

Wed, Oct 21, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz

See Net Operator schedule.

Wed, Oct 28, 2009 2pm
Village Inn, Los Lunas
Coffee Klatch

Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

Wed, Oct 28, 2009 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz

See Net Operator schedule.

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

G 191 Incident Command System/ Emergency Operations Center (ICS/EOC) Interface

offered in Carlsbad, NM on September 10, 2009. For information contact Felecia KE5HTV at 505-476-9633 or Felecia.Schreier@state.nm.us.

G 775 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management and Operations Course

offered in Carlsbad, NM on September 15 - 16, 2009. For information contact Felecia KE5HTV at 505-476-9633 or Felecia.Schreier@state.nm.us

G 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

offered in Aztec, NM on November 16 - 18, 2009. For information: Felecia KE5HTV at 505-476-9633 or Felecia.Schreier@state.nm.us.

G 400 Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff Course offered in Farmington, NM on November 19, 2009. For information contact Felecia KE5HTV at 505-476-9633 or Felecia.Schreier@state.nm.us.

Don't forget your annual dues!



**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

Sept 9 – NM5RC Ralph Clark
Sept 16 – K5EMH Goose G.
Sept 23 – K5WMH Mark H.
Sept 30 – KD5UJR Russ Hunt
Oct 7 – KD5UJQ Elvira Hunt
Oct 14 – N5PR Paul Ridley

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

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

President: Chris Gillespie
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Newsletter: Mailed 10 days
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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.***

