



General Contact:

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

Upcoming Events:

- VCARA X-Mas Banquet
December 17th, 2011
6:30PM Local Time
Canyon Smoke Shop,
925 S. Main St. in Belen

All parties are welcome
to Attend. You must
RSVP by December
10th.
- 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, December 14th
Wed, December 28th
Wed, January 11th
- Wednesday Night Net
Every Wednesday at
8:00PM on the Club

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Annual Christmas Banquet

Laurie, KE5QFG, VCARA Member
Margette, KF5MIQ, VCARA Member

The annual VCARA Christmas Banquet will be held at the Canyon Smoke Shop on December 17th, at 6:30PM.

You must RSVP to Laurie or Margette by December 10th. The price is \$10.00 for each person.

Toys for Tots are also due by December 13th. Please check out the article on page 2.

Canyon Smoke shop is located at 925 S. Main St. in Belen. An announcement and link to a map can be found on the club website at <http://www.kc5our.com/wordpress/?p=241>.

Menu Selections Include:

Tossed Salad
Choice of Pulled Pork or Smoked Turkey
Choice of Two Sides (Mashed Potatoes, Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Green Beans)
Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade

Please contact Margette at 859-2822 or Laurie at 480-2131 by Saturday, December 10th to RSVP.

Please join the VCARA Officers and Members at Canyon Smoke House on December 17th for an evening of fellowship and good food.

Presidents Corner

Cliff, KE0CP, VCARA President

OK, now it's official. We finally have a new club house. On November 15, Charlie, our vice president, and I signed a 3-month, renewable lease for four rooms, three offices and a large meeting area, at the west end of 302 West Rio Communities Blvd just off Highway 47 in Belen. Since then several members including Aaron Ridley, Dave McAlpine, Charlie Lyon, Paul Ridley, Margette Pulis and James McNutt have spent a lot of hours and effort cleaning and preparing the rooms for so we can hold this month's meeting at our new location. When you arrive for Tuesday night's meeting the area will be in good order and nicely ar-

Bethlehem Special Event

Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member

VCARA Special Event, celebrating Christmas from Bethlehem, NM will be held the week before Christmas. If you plan to use the club call from your home station, please let our club trustee, Paul N5PR, know the dates and times you are on the air and keep a log page of your contacts. Also, make sure you let everyone know to send an SASE with their QSL if they want a Special Event card from this station. A pre-written script is also available for anyone needing a little help on what to say during the qso exchange.

Open House, at our new clubhouse, will be on Saturday December 17th from 8:00 am until the last ham leaves. We will be operating the club station KC5OUR for the Special Event. We now have plenty of room for visiting with each other without disturbing the station operator. Everyone plan on dropping by for a few hours or a few minutes to join in the fun and fellowship of Christmas from Bethlehem, NM. If you would like, bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share with other club members during this fun time!

We will be monitoring the club repeater on 146.700 and will give directions, if you have trouble finding the clubhouse.

ranged. But there's still more to do and we could use your help.

Our next project is to get the station going so we can operate the Christmas special event from the club house. We have



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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: Randy Ridley N5DAY
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 Clubhouse is located at 386 Rio Communities Blvd, Suite 302, Belen, NM. Suite 302 is upstairs on the north side of the building.

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



Toys for Tots

Laurie, KE5QFG, VCARA Member
Margette, KF5MIQ, VCARA Member

Those who would like to contribute to the Valencia County Sheriff's Department, "Toys for Tots" toy collection may drop toys off to Laurie at the First Baptist Church of Belen office located at 115 4th Street in Belen or to Margette at her home in Rio Communities.

Please call Laurie (480-2131) or Margette (859-2822) to schedule your drop off time.

The deadline to drop off toys is December 13th, 2011.■

ARRL Field Day 2011 Results

Paul, N5PR, VCARA Member

ARRL has released the database for rankings of club stations for Field Day 2011. You can find the database at: http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=27537

It's always fun to look at the statistics and compare VCARA scores with other stations, both comparable and non-comparable. The database can be tweaked for various readings. These are some of the scores from that list.

- There were 2632 stations reporting and VCARA was listed as 814th, as to high score.
- In the 2A category, out of 381 stations nationwide, VCARA was 176th in score.
- New Mexico reported 27 stations in Field Day, of which VCARA was 7th.
- In the NM 2A category, there were 4 stations reporting, of which VCARA was listed as 3rd.
- In the Rocky Mountain Division (NM, CO, UT, WY), VCARA ranked 34th out of 124 stations
- In the Rocky Mountain Division of 2A, VCARA was 8th out of 17 stations.

In the Participants column, VCARA was 24th nationwide, with 91 participants, getting beat out by 20 stations who had 100 or more participants. Top of that list was the North Fulton Amateur Radio League of Fulton, GA who had a whopping 269 people turn out for their FD! Would be interesting to know how many hamburgers they served. There were 5 clubs who had over 200 people. Will be hard for us to claw our way to the top of that list!

By the above stats, you can see that VCARA is always above the median...and this was a "down" year, with lots of hours where the radios were not being used. If there would have been a category of how much fun the clubs had, I'm sure that VCARA would be listed near, or at the top of that list! Mark your calendars for the last full week-end of June, and join us for Field Day 2012.■

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.■

From Page 1... Presidents Corner

three offices available. One is the shack, one is the equipment storage area and the other can be used for whatever we wish. All equipment has been inventoried and relocated to the storage area. So, all that's left is to get some antennas up. We have access to the roof and have the option of moving the tower located behind My Bank. If you would like to help please call KC5OUR on the 146.700 repeater and if anyone is at the club house they will answer. Except for the latter part of Thanksgiving week someone will be there most every day getting things sorted out and ready for operation.

I'd like to take a minute to publicly mention and thank the Valley Improvement Association for their generosity in leasing the building to us. For an extremely minimal monthly cost we not only have access to the four rooms mentioned, including restrooms, but they are covering all utility costs as well. Teresa Scott, the VIA Executive Vice President, and been wonderful to work with. If you are near the building during the week from Monday through Thursday (8:00 – 5:00), stop by and tell Teresa how much you appreciate her help.

I would also like to thank Tony Metoyer and the folks at the Calvary Chapel in Belen for their generosity in letting us use their building these past few months for our meetings. And I appreciate your patience while we have been looking for a more permanent location for our club meetings.

And finally, I'm excited that we can finally begin doing some of the things we've been talking about. I'm going to arrange for someone with a key to be available at the club house on selected Saturdays so you can come down and ragchew with other members, operate the club station or work on projects such as kit building and such. Now that we have a place to ourselves, let's have some fun.■



Coffee Klatch:

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

- Wednesday, December 14th
- Wednesday, December 28th
- Wednesday, January 11th
- Wednesday, January 25th
- Wednesday, February 8th
- Wednesday, February 22nd
- Wednesday, March 7th
- Wednesday, March 21st
- Wednesday, April 4th

Wednesday Night Net Schedule:

- Dec. 7 - Paul N5PR
- Dec. 14 - Charlie NM5CL
- Dec. 21 - James KC7YWB
- Dec. 28 - Joyce KD5IAI
- Jan. 4 - Ralph NM5RC
- Jan. 11 - Goose K5EMH
- Jan. 18 - Elvira KD5UJQ
- Jan. 25 - Joyce KD5IAI
- Feb. 1 - Paul N5PR
- Feb. 8 - Russ KD5UJR

Christmas Radio Raffle

James, KC7YWB, VCARA Newsletter Editor

All year VCARA has been selling tickets at the regular club meetings. These tickets are used for small door prizes at the meetings, however, they are also the only way to win one of four radios at the Christmas Banquet.

Now you must be present to win, and the last chance to buy tickets was at the November meeting. So keep your fingers crossed and you could win one of the following radios:

- Yaesu FT-270R: 5W 2 Meter HT
- ICom IC-V80: 5.5W 2 Meter HT
- ICom IC-T70A: 5W 2M/70cm Dual Band HT
- ICom IC-208H: 50W 2M/70cm Dual Band Mobile

Be sure to thank Cliff, KE0CP and Chris, W5CSG for getting some great radios at a great price for our raffle.

It only takes one to win and if your are in the drawing, you better be at Canyon Smoke House on December 17th for the drawing.☐



ARES Corner — National EAS Test

Joyce, KD5IAI, Valencia County ARES Director

On November 8, 2011 at noon the National Emergency Alert System was tested. The plan was that every TV and Radio station would have message broadcast by FEMA. As most of you know, the plan fell a little short of expectations. ABC news reported it that evening as a "blunder" as Lady Gaga music was planned in the background instead of the President of the United States. The following mornings Albuquerque Journal article "National Alert System A Bust of 1st Try" pretty much summed up the exercise. However, as we all know from our drills, exercises are meant to find the weaknesses in the system. While it was disturbing to find out that one Denver station lost audio for 2 hrs as a result of the test, one paragraph in the report brought a smile to my face. I quote "On the upside, the State Department of Homeland Security successful-

ly completed a drill in which ham radio operators throughout the state helped disseminate an emergency alert" Good work guys! I would like to thank James McNutt KC7YWB (Valencia County EC) for lighting up the phone tree, taking the net, doing the roll call and making the contact to the State EOC. We had 12 operators check into the net. Many thanks to those stations. That would have been a sufficient amount of operators in the first phase had this been an actual emergency. I would also like to think Goose K5EMH for doing backup. As a final note, if you are an ARES member and have had any phone numbers changed, please contact Ralph NM5RC so we can update out phone tree.

Many thanks to all who have committed to helping the community by being an ARES member.☐



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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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Peralta, NM 87042
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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, December 14th 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



VCARA
Christmas
Banquet

VCARA Annual Christmas Banquet

Saturday, December 17th

6:30 p.m.

Canyon Smokehouse

925 S. Main ST in Belen

Cost per person: \$10.00

Menu Selections include:

Tossed Salad

Your choice of Pulled Pork *or* Smoked Turkey

Your choice of two of the following items:

Mashed Potatoes, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, or Green Beans

Coffee, Iced Tea, or Lemonade

RSVP to Margette at 859-2822 or Laurie at 480-2131 by

Saturday, December 10th.

Those who would like to contribute to the Valencia Co. Sheriff's Dept., "Toys for Tots" toy collection may drop toys off to Laurie at the FBC Belen church office located at 115 4th ST. in Belen or to Margette at 805 Lee Trevino in Belen.

Please call before delivery.

Please bring New, Unwrapped Toys that do not require batteries.

Deadline 12/13/2011