

Dots-n-Dashes

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M O N T H L Y N E W S L E T T E R O F T H E V C A R A

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NET SCHEDULE:

The Wednesday night VCARA net control operator schedule is now posted on the Club website at www.kc5our.com.

Please refer to the website for the latest control operator schedule changes.

NEWSLETTER LIVE LINKS

You may have noticed you can now click on the blue links to access web and email addresses directly.

VE TEST SCHEDULE AT CLUBHOUSE SATURDAY 9 AM - NOON:

- May 5th
- June 16th
- July 28th
- September 8th
- October 20th
- December 1st
- January 12, 2013
- February 23, 2013

Contact: Chris Gillespie
w5csg@arri.net

Cliff KE0CP, VCARA President
Your Board of Directors is proposing changes to the Club By-laws. These were discussed during the February meeting and are posted on the website for your review. You will be receiving a proxy vote form in your email. Just indicate your vote (for or against) and reply back to me, or attend the April meeting to vote in person. Only those with an active VCARA membership are eligible to vote. We need at least a two-thirds majority to approve the changes.

You are probably aware that over the past few years there has been little activity in our county ARES group. That seems about to change. We could benefit from a viable ARES organization in Valencia County. As Club president I fully

support our involvement with ARES. I am ARES member. However, I am keenly aware of the effect that different leadership structures can have on volunteer organization morale. The VCARA Board members are accountable to you, the VCARA members, through the voting process. You vote us in and you can vote us out. By contrast, the ARES District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) is appointed—not voted into office and cannot be removed by its members. I won't comment further except to say I do not see both styles are compatible within the VCARA organization. That is why I favor a "separate" Valencia County ARES organization to which the Club can lend support, as it deems appropriate. Randy Ridley N5DAY, the appointed temporary DEC,

and I are in the process of hammering out a Memorandum of Understanding between the Club and ARES so we have a framework for cooperation and support between the two entities. It's going well and looks promising. You will be hearing more about this in the future. I just wanted to keep you updated.

Field Day (June 23 & 24) is fast approaching and will be upon us in no time. Ralph NM5RC, is doing a great job getting things organized. I'm sure he would appreciate your help.

EchoLink is operational in the clubhouse on 146.700 repeater. Original problem was Windows update should have been turned off. Go figure..■

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M O N T H - A - T - A - G L A N C E

VCARA Net: Every Wednesday

Coffee Klatch: Wednesday, April 4 & 18

NM QSO Party: Saturday, April 14

World Amateur Radio Day: Wednesday April 18

VCARA Club Meeting: Tuesday, April 24

ARES Net: Wednesday, April 25

NM Kids 2012 Roundup: Saturday, April 28

Please see www.KC5OUR.com for complete schedule and details..■

RECENT EVENTS



ARES UPDATE

"Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again."

(Ed. As you may recall on March 13 the VCARA hosted a meeting called by Mike Scales, NM ARES EC. Randy Ridley N5DAY was appointed as the acting Valencia County DEC for the next 3-months. Here is Randy's update.)

Wow, what an exciting month. ARES is off to a rolling start after our reorganization meeting on March 13. I want to start off with a big thank you to Joyce for the time and effort she has spent over the past few years on ARES.

I have accepted a 90 day temporary appointment from Mike Scales to reorganize and revitalize the Valencia County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Group. I believe with your help we can get this done in less time than that. I have asked Mike to provide some trainers for us on a Saturday in April to help us familiarize ourselves with the ICS forms and messaging formats.

We have at least one exciting activity planned every month through the summer! In the meantime, make sure you send me your current email address so I can get you on the ARES mailing list and get this information out to you. Randy - n5day@arrl.com. ☐

IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

Club Officers:

President: Cliff Pulis KE0CP, president@kc5our.com

Vice President: Charlie Lyon NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net

Treasurer: Chris Gillespie W5CLG, cricket87068@yahoo.com

Secretary: Aaron Ridley W5ADR, aaron@ridley.net

Past President: Chris Gillespie W5CG, w5csg@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor: Cliff Pulis KE0CP, news@kc5our.com

Club Repeaters: 146.700 –600KHz, 100hz Tone and 442.7 +5MHz, 100Hz Tone

Repeater Chairperson: Richard Ybarra AB1Q, rybarra@gmail.com

Club Net: Every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on the 146.700 repeater. All welcome to participate.

“ . . . G L A D W E H A V E A S E C O N D S T O R Y C L U B H O U S E . ”

Paul, N5PR

After the flooding in December of 2011 of vast areas of Thailand, the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand posted some pictures of their club house losses. The building was under water for two weeks (note the waterline on the outside of the building) before any members could get in and assay the damage. They lost all furniture and equipment....a total loss. The estimate was between \$150- \$200,000. Here are a few pictures from that flood. You can view more at <http://www.qsl.net/rast/> . After viewing these pictures, it made me glad that we have a 2nd story club house! ■



B O A R D & G E N E R A L M E E T I N G M I N U T E S M A R C H 2 7 , 2 0 1 2

Officers Meeting (Officers + Newsletter Editor)

Note: We welcome any Club member to quietly observe the meeting except when sensitive issues are being discussed.

We discussed the upcoming vote on By-laws changes. The Board approved emailing a Proxy Vote form to all current VCARA members prior to the April general meeting and approved that if a member does not return the Proxy Vote form and does not vote in person at the general meeting the member's vote will be FOR approval of the changes. Also approved a gratis membership for Glenda Chavez (County Emergency Manager Coordinator) and husband Jessie Orosco. The board tentatively agreed

that the Clubhouse could be used by the VC-ARES organization as a training facility and Emergency Ops Center provided the activities did not conflict with Club events. This will be further refined the forthcoming MOU.

General Meeting

Welcome, Call to order, salute flag. Attendees announce names & call-sign. Welcomed new member Dan Mioduszewski who heard about us through RCA .

Officer's Reports

Cliff, President. Discussed the upcoming Proxy Vote process for amend the By-laws (see Officer's Meeting Notes above).

Charlie, Vice President. The Club is sponsoring a plaque

for the NM QSO Party to be held on April 14. He asked us to use KC5OUR when operating in the NM QSO Party so the Club can get credit.

Cliff, Newsletter Editor [Temporary - I hope], The April newsletter will not be emailed. From now on members need to get it from the website. Goose indicated the newsletter used to be emailed 4 days before the monthly meeting as a reminder. Cliff responded that he is trying to get the newsletter out right after the meeting so members have more timely information about the next month's activities. As we move forward some things need to change and this is needed to cut down on his responsibilities since no one has volunteered to be

the newsletter editor. It has been many months since it may have been emailed out 4-days prior to the meeting.

Randy Ridley N5DAY.

Randy briefly discussed upcoming ARES events. They will use Field Day as part of their training. He will also begin as net control operator on their Wednesday night ARES net.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Presentation

The presentation was by Tim Shy KM4KS, from the National Weather Service in Albuquerque. His excellent presentation covered various aspects of how the weather is predicted and how much he values help from hams during severe weather..■



VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PO Box 268
Peralta, NM 87042

DIRECTIONS TO CLUBHOUSE:

Go East on Reinken Rd/NM 309 in Belen. Reinken Rd will become River Rd after RR Tracks bridge. Cross over Rio Grande river and bear right onto Highway 47 / NM 304. Proceed 0.6 Mile south on Hwy 47. Turn right just past "My Bank". Park behind bank.

Clubhouse is the building just north of "My Bank", upstairs via outside stairway in 302.

www.kc5our.com

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

Valencia County Amateur Radio Association
Attn: Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 268

Peralta, NM 87042

or email us at: news@kc5our.com

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. The associations accepts no liability for opinions, misprints, inaccurate information or editorial misbehavior.

**CLUB MEETINGS: 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT 7:00PM—AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

V C A R A A N D A R E S — A N U P D A T E

Cliff KE0CP, VCARA President

I recently attended some meetings covering topics of vital importance to Valencia County. One was about the changeover County organizations must make to adopt new FCC narrow-band requirements.

The other was about how the Strategic National Stockpile of medical supplies and equipment is to be obtained and delivered to County residents in times of natural or man-made disaster.

The common thread, and my reason for attending, is that they both provide opportunity for secondary communication personnel, read: *ham radio operators who are FE-MA trained*. Potentially, that's our Club members — you and me.

How could we help during the nar-

row-band changeover? By providing emergency communications in the event of a problem rendering the fire, police or other departments from communicating over their normal channels. Remote, but possible.

The distribution of medical supplies during an emergency would involve the Federal Government shipping supplies to distribution points in New Mexico and from there to Points of Distribution (PODS) in our communities.

Ham radio could play a vital part at the PODS in the event of failure of the primary communications capabilities. But we can only help if we're prepared. That's where ARES comes in. But wait, where do ARES members come from?

The majority come from our Club. That's why I was there, to stay updated on how we may help. And I want to tell you a lot of planning is going on, mainly under the direction of Glenda Chavez, the County Emergency Management Coordinator, who is also a Club member. If such emergencies arise I hope we're ready to respond. If ARES suits you then I'm sure Randy can use your help. If you want to get involved in some way other than through ARES please visit www.nmmrcserves.org and sign the lay member volunteer registry.

This was not originally intended to be an "ARES issue" but a lot's been going on. Thanks for your continued support in this important aspect of ham radio.■