

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

W E D N E S D A Y N I G H T N E T S C H E D U L E :

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.

QST BACK ISSUES

Ken Watkins WA5DEJ has 20-years of QST back issues he wants to get rid of. Call 505 358-6516 if interested.

V E T E S T S C H E D U L E A T C L U B H O U S E S A T U R D A Y 9 A M - N O O N :

- June 16th
- July 28th
- September 8th
- October 20th
- December 1st
- January 12, 2013
- February 23, 2013
- April 6, 2013

Contact: Chris Gillespie
w5csg@arrl.net

Cliff KE0CP, VCARA President

Once again we're on the eve of the annual club meeting held every May to elect new officers or reaffirm the incumbents.

This means a year has passed since you elected me as your president. Naturally it is a time to reflect where we have been and where we would like to go in the year ahead.

Here is a partial list of things we have done during the past year. We lost several members who moved away from Valencia Co. and gained some new members. We also welcomed new hams from among our membership and saw some upgrade their licenses. We saw new members join our Board of Directors and gained a new Repeater chairperson. We held an enjoyable field day. We lost

our old clubhouse and obtained a new one—an expanded version with lots more room and opportunity for increased activity. We got an EchoLink digital station up and running. We began scheduled W5YI-VE Testing Sessions held every 6 weeks and saw one person become a ham. We updated and increased the relevancy and information content of the kc5our website. We saw our paid membership increase by over 30%. We approved changes to our By-laws to reflect the inevitable evolution of how the Club functions. We witnessed a bit of a shake-up in the ARES organization with a temporary leader at the reins. We made minor changes to the Wednesday Night Net protocol to enable participants to more quickly get on and off if they don't want to partici-

pate in discussions.

As you see there have been lots of changes, some major, like the new clubhouse and some minor. But there have been changes and there always will be. That's the nature of our time. But it's still the VCARA moving steadily into the future.

I don't know if I will be asked to serve a second term "But if elected..." I would like to see us get the clubhouse outfitted as a station complete with Yagi and all. I'd propose we begin a series "project" Saturdays, each culminating in a cookout for anyone who would like to join in. And I'd like to see more effort on the things you think would be fun. Suggestions? Until then, thanks for your support this past year.■

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

VCARA Net: Every Wednesday

Coffee Klatch: Wednesday, **May 16 & 30**

VCARA Club Annual Meeting & Elections:
Tuesday, **May 22**

ARES Net: Wednesday, **May 23**

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

*YOU COULD HAVE POSTED AN ARTICLE
HERE...*

*“Houston, this
is the last
Newsletter
unless we get
some help up
here.”*

“Houston, we have a problem.”

As ground control ops manager that’s not a declaration you’d like to hear. A situation out of the ordinary has occurred and something has to be done - pronto.

“VCARA Club Members, we have a problem.”

Since December 2011 we have been living on borrowed time. The time it takes to compile and generate the Dots-n-Dashes newsletter has been bor-

rowed from the President’s job and time is running out. When James KC7YWB our former newsletter editor moved to Arizona I decided to step in and temporarily assume the newsletter editorship until a volunteer replacement could be found. But 6 months is stretching my concept of temporary. The same thing happened with the kc5our web master job; we’re still looking for a volunteer. So I think it is only fair to give warning

before I terminate my temporary stewardship of the Newsletter. I will continue to be webmaster for a while but even that will eventually have to stop. ***This is your club and as your president I am appealing to you to help me find a newsletter editor. Perhaps you would volunteer. Your Club needs you.***

“Houston, this is the last Newsletter unless we get some help up here.” ■

LAST NEWSLETTER?

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](mailto: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.

FIELD DAY JUNE 23-24, 2012

Ralph, NM5RC

The VCARA 2012 Field Day will again be at the Daniel Fernandez Park. We will actually go on the air at noon on Saturday and turn off the rigs at noon on Sunday. In addition to the usual HF phone and CW rigs, there will also be a 6-meter station and a GOTA HF phone station. The Get On The Air station will have a mentor to help those who are not active on HF, not licensed for HF, or have yet to get an Amateur Radio license get on the air. Be sure to invite your family and friends to take a turn at the GOTA microphone.

Find the Fox

New this year will be a fox hiding somewhere on the park. Grab your HT and find the fox. A couple of directional antennas will be available to help you narrow your search. Each kid that finds the fox will receive a prize!

Lunch and Other Eats

Lunch will be served Saturday from 12:30 to 1:30 PM with the club

providing hamburgers and hotdogs. Pot luck contributions to the lunch are needed!

Make your own cold cut sandwich makings will be available for those there in the evening and overnight. Breakfast burritos will be provided for those who have stayed the night and those arriving at the park by 7:30 on Sunday morning.

Set Up and Tear Down

Set up will start at the park at 8 AM Saturday. Tear down will start about 10 AM on Sunday with the stations and antennas coming down at noon. Help is needed for these activities.

Volunteers Are Needed for . . .

GETTING STUFF FROM CLUB STATION AND RETURNING IT: Charlie NM5CL still needs four more folks to help with this effort. Please volunteer with him by phone, email or at the May meeting.

INFORMATION TABLE: Someone is needed to bring a table (card table size would do), set it up and take it

down. If requested, Ralph NM5RC can provide some Amateur Radio brochures and magazines for the table. The visitor sign in sheet and clipboard will be brought by Paul N5PR. Be nice if there were a sign requesting everyone to sign in.

GETTING AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TO VISIT: If you have any pull with an elected official, please invite/ encourage/twist their arm/etc. to get them to stop by for a few minutes. We always invite several elected officials, but this has been a hard box for us to get checked off on our report to ARRL.

FIELD DAY REPORT: ARRL requests all Field Day station report on their Field Day operations. Paul N5PR has done this for many years and it is now time for someone else to take a turn. Paul has indicated he is willing to assist someone do this. You can contact him to discuss the what is involved. Please contact Ralph NM5RC via phone (821-7636) or email (nm5rc@arrl.net) to volunteer.

BOARD & GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 24, 2012

Officers Meeting (Officers + Newsletter Editor)

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

No meeting was held.

General Meeting

The meeting opened up at 7:30 and started with the pledge.

VP: Charlie explained why Cliff isn't here. Cliff is in CO with his son who had a motorcycle wreck.

Sec: Nothing new

Treasurer: the club has spent approximately \$570 on radios for the Christmas party.

New Business: Proposed bylaw changes were discussed.

A vote for new by-laws changes was held: The vote was unanimous in favor of the changes.

New guest: Sandra (a friend of Lesli)

Field Day: Ralph NM5RC talked about Field Day: He is looking for volunteers and help with recruiting. He asked that anyone could

contact him if they can help in any way.

We need a volunteer for tuning the antenna for Field Day. Scheduled for May 26th.

NM Kids Roundup: This Saturday is the NM kids Round Up. There will be three stations. There will be a fox hunt and lunch. They will also have QSO cards.

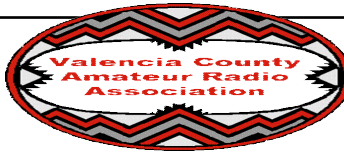
ARES training is on May 5th at 11am after the VE session which starts at 9.

The nomination committee reported that they are still

looking but that they will have a full ballot.

The VCARES will be activated on Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01.PM. ■



**V A L E N C I A C O U N T Y
A M A T E U R R A D I O
A S S O C I A T I O N**

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

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