

# Dots ~N~ Dashes

November 2012 Issue

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

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**Toys for tots  
donations at  
Nov meeting!**

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## VCARA Monthly Meeting

### Notes for October 23, 2012

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Time: Officers 6:15 -6:45 PM

General 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Location: Clubhouse, Belen

#### Officers Meeting (Officers + Newsletter Editor)

- 1) Approve last officer meeting minutes
- 2) Elvira has accepted being the newsletter editor. She will probably start in November.
- 4) Christmas Party committee progress – Meats, 15 tables & 60 chairs needed – accounted for all but 7 tables, charge \$5.00 each to cover costs of building.

#### General Meeting

1. Welcome, Call to order, salute flag by Charlie NM5CL, Vice President
2. Attendees announce names & call-sign
3. Margette welcomed new & renewing members: Daniel Trujillo, Arthur Prouse, Hubert Patterson, Dan Smith, David Kirk, Steve Remenar, Randy Burson

#### Officer's Business

1. President Cliff was ill and not in attendance Charlie, Vice President took his place and talked about the following:

- i. We have a new Newsletter Editor: Elvira Hunt, KD5UJQ
  - ii. Progress on the tower / antenna project- tower is up, received donations to get crane to help put antenna up.
  - iii. We hope to go live with the new antenna by the week of November 5th. If you want to use the Club station at times other than Saturday from 9 AM to Noon please contact a club officer and one of us will make arrangements to meet you here. We encourage you to use it. That's what it is for.
  - iv. Socorro Hamfest on Saturday, 10/27/2012 from 8 AM to 2 PM. The shack will not be open this Saturday
2. Vice President (Charlie -NM5CL) Announce this evening's presentation Presentation – Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT and Ed James, KA8JMW on "A Field Day Logging Program" and "LoTW"
3. Secretary (Margette -KF5MIQ) Information on Christmas Party: December 15, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Meats will be provided – Turkey, Ham, Beef, attendees will bring a dish. Next meeting will have sheet to sign up for specific menu. Cost will be \$5.00 each to cover cost of building for next year. An email will go out by the end of the week to confirm all aspects of the meeting. Toys for Tots will also be collected at November meeting.
4. Treasurer (Chris - W5CLG)



## November 2012 Issue

Call to purchase tickets for tonight's drawing and toward the Christmas Party drawing for radios  
5. Past President (Chris -W5CSG)

### Events Calendar

**Wed, Nov 21, 2012 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Tues, Nov 27, 2012**  
**Clubhouse, Belen NM**  
**VCARA Meeting**  
Regular monthly meeting.

**Wed, Nov 28, 2012 2pm**  
**Village Inn, Los Lunas**  
**Coffee Klatch**  
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

**Wed, Nov 28, 2012 7:30pm**  
**ARES Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Wed, Nov 28, 2012 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Dec 1, 2012 9am-12**  
**VE Testing at Clubhouse**  
Contact is W5YL.

**Wed, Dec 5, 2012 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Dec 8, 2012 9am-12**  
**Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is Paul N5PR.

Update on ARES.  
Chris is the new Valencia County District Emergency Coordinator.  
Charlie, NM5CL is ARES Net Control Operator a committee will be established in the club for Ares. Chris will begin to solicit members for the committee.

6. Newsletter Editor  
Elvira KD5UJQ was introduced to membership. Send articles to her for newsletter to begin in November  
7. Webmaster Cliff – KE0CP was not in attendance  
8. Ralph Clark talked about the Christmas from Belen that will be at the club. He encouraged people to sign up in November to operate radios in the clubhouse for event that will be held from Tuesday, December 18 to Monday December 24.  
There was a Motion to Adjourn and a second. There was a drawing.  
Presentation – Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT and Ed James, KA8JMW on “A Field Day Logging Program” and “LoTW”

*Margette Pulis, KF5MIQ*  
*Secretary VCARA.*



It's been a long project. We started on July 20, 2012 with the removal of the tower behind MyBank. The antenna was installed last Thursday, November 8, a bit shy of 4 months. We got it done just in time too. The day after we put the antenna up it rained just enough to wet everything down. We could not have safely climbed the tower or the ladder to the roof. I don't quite know how to express my thanks to all who helped. There was a lot of time and money donated and I thank you all for your generosity. I think our feelings may be typified by a comment Paul made to me, “Can't we just have some social activity now?” I agree. No more projects—at least for a couple of weeks.

Ok, now the antenna is up what do we do with it? Use it, of course—but when? We're open most Saturdays from 9:00 till Noon and it seems like those who do attend want to sit around, tell stories and drink coffee—and that's good. It's the social time Paul was referring to. DX is usually pretty good then so that's a great time to come by and use the rig. I've also been thinking about opening the clubhouse an evening or two each month for anyone to come over and use the equipment. I realize the DX propagation is not excellent in the evening this time of year but we could at least learn how to use the

### President's Column for November 2012

Wow! We got 'er done. We now have 52 feet of tower with a refurbished and retuned triband Yagi on top. Our first DX contact was with Ireland coming in about 5 dB over S9 and we got a 5/9 report from his end. Not too shaggy.

radios and perhaps make some contacts on 20 meters—and have some more coffee. What we really need is some feedback on when you would like to get on the air so we can arrange to make the clubhouse available. Send an email to [president@kc5our.com](mailto:president@kc5our.com) or call me at 505 859-3516 and let me know what you think.

So what did the entire project cost? The bottom line is that it cost the Club \$343.90 from general funds. The rest came from donations totaling \$756.37. One thing not shown below is the cost of the dual guy wire anchor assembly mounted on the roof. Thank you, Ty Till for the excellent design and your generous donation. Here's a summary chart of income and expenses. (See chart at right)

Again, thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this a success.

Keep your calendar open for the evening of December 15, our annual Club Christmas Party and drawing for the 2 radios. Remember, you must be a paid-up member and present to win one of the radios. Come and celebrate the holiday season with us. Contact Margette at 505 859-3516 to arrange your pot luck contribution. See our website [www.kc5our.com](http://www.kc5our.com) for details. Until then...

*Cliff KE0XII*  
VCARA President

**CONTEST**

Does it seem like every time you want to get on HF there is some contest blasting full bore? Maybe this is the reason: From the ARRL Contest Journal we

VCARA Tower / Antenna Project for					
Date	Item	Source	Amount	Balance	
5/22-11/12 2012	<b>Income</b>	Donations	\$765.37	\$765.37	
7/20/2012	Remove Tower	Daylight Elect	-\$150.00	\$615.37	
9/28/2012	Pour Concrete	Hard Rock Conc.	-\$145.54	\$469.83	
10/13/2012	Rent Auger	Home Depot	-\$53.18	\$416.65	
11/8/2012	Mount Antenna	Daylight Elect	-\$300.00	\$116.65	
	Guy Wires & Hdw	Internet	-\$152.25	-\$35.60	
	Rotator Shelf	3Star Inc	-\$72.83	-\$108.43	
	Antenna Rebuild	Hy-Gain	-\$34.38	-\$142.81	
	Ground Rod, etc	Home Depot	-\$14.36	-\$157.17	
	Anti-climb shields	Perfection SM	-\$70.08	-\$227.25	
	Guy Anchors	Home Depot	-\$32.25	-\$259.50	
	Mics hardware		-\$84.40	-\$343.90	
5/22-11/12 2012	<b>Income</b>	VCARA Funds	\$343.90	\$0.00	

get the following news: How many contests are there throughout the year? Well, there are rather a lot! In 2012, the Contest Corral database tracks 440 different contests. The online WA7BNM and SM3CER contest calendars have even more, especially sprint and regional contests in Europe. Of the 440 tracked in Contest Corral, 326 (74%) are HF-only and 35 (8%) only use the VHF+ bands. 73% feature CW - the most popular contest mode by nearly 2-to-1 over Phone (46%) and Digital (37%). Even though there are 22 more contests this year, the proportion of CW:Phone:Digital remains almost exactly the same.

During "our" domestic CW Sweepstakes, you may have heard other stations around the world engaging in their own events, such as the Worked All Germany and the Ukrainian DX Contest. There are two new contests sponsored by the Amateur Radio Society of India that you should also know about: the Himalayan Contest which took place over the Sweepstakes weekend and the

**Calendar**  
– continued

**Wed, Dec 12, 2012 2pm**  
**Village Inn, Los Lunas**  
**Coffee Klatch**  
Bi-weekly unofficial meet.

**Wed, Dec 12, 2012 7:30pm**  
**ARES Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Wed, Dec 12, 2012 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Dec 15, 2012 9am-12**  
**Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is Cliff KE0CP.

VU International DX Contest coming up on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

While communications between North America and India is over a long polar path, even modest stations can bag a VU QSO by watching for gray line (see "Working the Gray Line" by NA5N) and long-path propagation.

*Paul Ridley*  
Club Station Trustee

**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 21 - Cliff, KE0CP  
Nov 28 - Margette, KF5MIQ  
Dec 5 - Charlie, NM5CL  
Dec 12 - Ralph, NM5RC  
Dec 19 - Elvira, KF5UJQ  
Dec 26 - Russ, KD5UJR

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

## VCARA Club Contacts

### Officers

**President:** Cliff Pulis, KE0CP,  
[president@kc5our.com](mailto:president@kc5our.com)

**Vice President:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL

**Treasurer:** Chris Gillespie,  
W5CLG

**Secretary:** Margette Pulis,  
KF5MIQ

**Past President:** Chris Gillespie,  
W5CSG

### Repeater Chairperson:

Richard Ybarra, AB1Q,  
[rybarra@gmail.com](mailto:rybarra@gmail.com)

**ARES Chairperson:** Chris  
Gillespie, W5CSG

**Club Station License**

**Trustee:** Paul Ridley, N5PR

### Club Website:

[www.qsl.net/kc5our](http://www.qsl.net/kc5our)

**Webmaster:** Cliff Pulis,  
KE0CP,

[president@kc5our.com](mailto:president@kc5our.com)

**Newsletter:** Mailed 10 days  
before meetings.

**Newsletter Editor:** Elvira  
Hunt, KD5UJQ

[russnvera@gmail.com](mailto:russnvera@gmail.com)

*It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds,  
but the class of the Amateur that holds the license.*



**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 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 suite 302.

