

Dots ~N~ Dashes

September 2014
issue

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

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Birthday Wishes to:

**DAVE McALPINE
WD8LVZ**

President's Column for September 2014

August was a busy month. The Duke City ham fest was an enjoyable event which many VCARA members attended, and a number of lectures were available, the most interesting of which was one given by Bob Heil and his very animated talk of the history of his microphone innovations.

A temporary vertical antenna was erected on the roof of the clubhouse and tested. This gives us operating capability for two HF stations or one HF/one Digital. Use of a donated Titan Gap antenna is in the planning stage and we hope to have it up and in service sometime in September.

We are actively recruiting and training new ARES members. Charlie gave a class on message handling procedures and forms to be used. More training classes are scheduled at the club, and there are also outside opportunities available for our ARES members and trainees. Charlie and George attended a four-hour POD (Point Of Distribution) Training Session with Valencia County OEM. A future training event called "The Great NM Shakeout" is coming up in October – details to be announced.

We are getting very close to achieving our DXCC award goal. Come around the club on Saturdays or on meeting night, get on the air and help us get the entities we need for this award.

*Charlie, NM5CL
President, VCARA*

VCARA Minutes for August 2014 Meeting

Date: 08/26/2014
Location: Clubhouse

Officer's meeting, 26 August
Meeting started at 18:30 MST and consisted of:

Charlie NM5CL, President
Russ KD5UJR, Vice-Pres.
Randy KE5SAW, Secretary
Ralph NM5RC, Treasurer

President

- Fiscal year for accounting
- United Way for VCARA
- Club email is kc5our@arrl.net which forward to Charlie
- Potluck to be held down stairs on the 23 Sep at 1800 – Officers voted yes to downstairs.
- Russ will try to update members roster on web page
- Ray will order parts, ~\$20, for Titan Gap Antenna
- Signup for Rio Communities Parade and TORGV Bike race

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- Radios for raffle give away at Christmas party, HT and Mobile – use money from monthly raffle

Treasurer

- >\$5000 in bank
- Expected expenditures \$1000 for the year

General Meeting, 26 August

Opening: Meeting called to order at 19:00 MST by President. There was a salute to the flag.

Introductions: 14 members and 1 guest were present.

Old Business

President - Charlie

- VCARA now eligible for United Way Campaign.
- Club has Tax Free status now so donations are tax deductible.
- Two new vertical antennas were erected Sat 16 Aug.
- Ray to order parts for Titan Gap antenna - ~\$20.

Vice-President - Russ

- Ask if any members or people they know would be interested in giving a presentation at a future meeting.
- Charlie expanded on the types of subjects
- Send in articles for the newsletter.

Secretary - Randy

- Nothing to report

Treasurer & Special Events Coordinator - Ralph

- ~\$5000 in bank and expected expenses for year are to be ~\$1000.
- Potluck, 23 Sep, Tuesday at 1800 Downstairs – John to cook – signup for side dishes passed around.
- Tour of the Rio Grande Valley Bike Race, 14 Sep – description – signup sheet passed around.
- Rio Communities Parade, 20 Sep, Saturday, 1300-1400 or 1500 – description – signup sheet passed around.
- MS 150 Bike Ride – description – information on volunteering.
- DXCC – have 91 of 100 contacts so far – 10 or 12 QSO Cards have come in.
- VCARA 20th Anniversary Special Event Station – Nov 1st, Saturday, starting at 0600 – Signup sheet for operators passed around.
- Bethlehem Special Event Station 18-24 Dec, Thursday-Wednesday – signup sheet for operators passed around – John will do QSO Cards – OK to operate from home using KC5OUR as long as legible logs are kept and turned in.
- Charlie added that Club Tshirts are available for purchase.

New Business

- Dan – VIA sign has wiring problem, is it possible for club to help fix?
- Richard KD5NTL donated a SWR meter and Yeasu Rotator controller to the club

Events Calendar

Wed, Sept 17, 2014, 2pm
Koffee Klatch, Village Inn in Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Sept 17, 2014, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Sept 18, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Sept 20, 2014, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Randy, KE5SAW.



Tues, Sept 23, 2014, 6pm
Pot Luck @ Clubhouse
All welcomed

Wed, Sept 24, 2014, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Sept 25, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Sept 27, 2014, 9am-12
ARES Mtg @ Clubhouse
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL

Wed, Oct 1, 2014, 2pm
Koffee Klatch, Village Inn in Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Oct 1, 2014, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Oct 2, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 4, 2014, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

Motion to adjourn: Made and seconded, meeting officially closed at 19:35 MDT. Raffle drawing was held. Presentation after the meeting was a video on the loop antenna by Charlie NM5CL.

Respectfully submitted,

*Randy Burson
VCARA Secretary*

**CLUB TO CELEBRATE
OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH NOVEMBER 1ST
SPECIAL EVENT STATION**

To celebrate VCARA's 20th birthday, KC5OUR will be on the air as a special event station on Saturday, November 1st from 6 AM to 6 PM. All members and friends are encouraged to take a turn at the mic or the CW key and share this accomplishment with Hams around the world. This a great opportunity to get on the air in a non-pressure operation. Stations will be looking for us rather than you hoping to find someone to visit with. Control operators will be available for those not yet having

HF privileges. Mentors will be available for those who are just venturing into HF and/or unfamiliar with the club's radios,

New Antenna Means Two Rigs Will Be On the Air. A new (to us) roof top vertical antenna was installed in August to replace the old non-functioning vertical. This means we will be able to have two radios simultaneously on the air throughout the day. This should give everyone an opportunity at the mic on Nov 1st. The two rig capability will also be put to good use during our 7-day Greetings from Bethlehem operation in December.

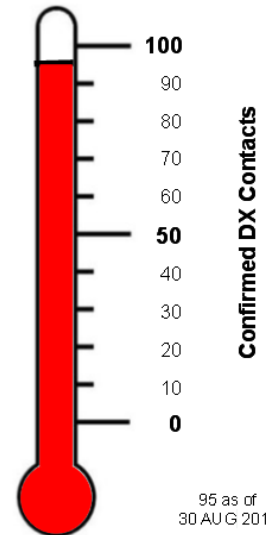
New On-Line Scheduling System Makes It Easy to Reserve Your Time on the Operator Schedule. There is a link to the November 1st operator schedule on our KC5OUR web site. You can reserve your time by dropping an email to Ralph NM5RC who will then get your reservation on the schedule and the revised schedule to Charlie NM5CL to get it updated on the web site. (Some of our computer gurus are probably laughing at this convoluted process, but Ralph and Charlie are barely computer

literate.) If you need a control operator and/or coach, please indicate that on your email too. Reservations will also be taken at the club meetings. If you want to bring a youth group and put them on the air, you can reserve both rigs (if concurrent space is available). Put November 1st on your calendar and reserve your space early as we expect the schedule will fill up.

Need More Information? Email Charlie NM5CL at nm5cl@att.net

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Treasurer & Special
Events Coordinator*

VCARA's DXCC PROGRESS



SEPTEMBER POT LUCK - NO STAIRS TO CLIMB!

Our September pot luck will be held on Tuesday, September 23rd at 6PM at the club shack. BUT, the activities will be on the first floor porch area so there will **BE NO STAIRS TO CLIMB**. The club will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs; special thanks to John, KD5MHO, for again volunteering to bring a grill and do the cooking. Richard, KD5NTL has returned to our midst after four years of chef training and has volunteered to bring a roasted Boston Butt; if you know what that is you will definitely be looking forward to it; if you do not know what a Boston Butt is, you will definitely want to be there to share in this delight. Pot luck contributions are welcome, but not required. Bring the whole family.

**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

Sep 17 - David, KF5VTJ
Sep 24 - Della, KE5GCG
Oct 01 - David, KF5VTJ
Oct 08 - Charlie, NM5CL
Oct 15 - Ralph, NM5RC
Oct 22 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Oct 29 - Russ, KD5UJR

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

**VCARA Club
Contacts**

Officer

President: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net
Vice President: Russell Hunt,
KD5UJR, newruss@juno.com
Treasurer: Ralph Clark,
NM5RC, nm5rc@msn.com
Secretary: Randy Burson,
KE5SAW, rb46114@gmail.com
Past President: Cliff Pulis,
KE0CP, ke0cp@frii.com

VCARA Address, kc5our@arrl.net

Repeater Chairperson:
Richard Ybarra, AB1Q,
rybarra@gmail.com
ARES Chairperson: Chris
Gillespie, W5CSG
Club Station License
Trustee: Paul Ridley, N5PR

Club Website:
www.qsl.net/kc5our
Webmaster: not assigned

Newsletter: Emailed about
10 days prior to meetings.
Newsletter Editor: Elvira
Hunt, KD5UJQ
russnvera@gmail.com

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

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

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