President’s Column for November 2014

SK announcement: VCARA has lost another long time member. Bill Deneen, KB9PU1 departed life on Oct 6, 2014. Bill gave the club his support every field day for many years, he will be missed.

W5YI VE team tested one candidate in October, congratulations to Harry Boyce who upgraded to Amateur Extra.

October has come and gone, the Spooks and Goblins came out for their treats (or tricks) and we now enter the winter holiday season. Major upcoming events include: VCARA 20th Birthday SES on the air, scheduled for Nov 01 for 12 hours continuous operation on HF. The November club meeting on 11/25, just two days before Thanksgiving, will be the last formal meeting of the year and the last chance to buy raffle tickets for the Christmas drawing. The annual raffle drawing includes two radios – a KG-UV8D Dual-band HT and a KG-UV920P Dual-band Mobile transceiver.

Past-President Cliff, KEØCP is scheduled to give an extremely interesting presentation at the November meeting, don’t miss it. Details will be published on the club website.

Margette, KF5MIQ has graciously volunteered to collect and deliver the Toys For Tots this year. She has informed me that we need to have our donations to her before Dec 6.

Toys For Tots donations will be accepted at the clubhouse between 0900-1200 each Saturday, and at the monthly club meeting on Tuesday, November November 25. 73,

Charlie, NM5CL
President, VCARA

Minutes of October 2014 Meeting

Officers Meeting
Charlie:
- Put up the Gap Antenna – there is a problem – Ray is handling.
- Special Event on Saturday, Nov 1st – VCARA 20th Anniversary. (now past)
- November meeting is last chance to purchase raffle tickets for the Christmas Party Radio drawing. 1 HT and 1 Mobile will be presented.
- Christmas Party is Saturday, 13th December at 6:30 – location is Tio Filos.
- Charlie will ask for donations for the Christmas Party gifts – Small items and items to be auctioned off.
- Ask if anyone is not getting the VCARA Newsletter to
November 2014 Issue
make sure Elvira has their correct email address.
• Unpaid dues – check roster – email or call.
• Voted to stop asking/taking donations for the utility bill of $100 per month.

Cliff:
• Will do a presentation at the November meeting on Arduino Computers.

Ralph:
• About $5900 in Bank.
• Insurance will be about $600 or $700 for year.
• Expected to end year (Oct 2015) at $4900

Officers meeting adjourned.

October Meeting
14 present and 14 signed in
• Opened with Pledge of Allegiance.
• Reminded of voting on Nov 4th or early voting. (now past)

Charlie – President:
• Ray – Gap antenna Guru will be performing troubleshooting on the antenna on Saturday Nov 1st. (now past)
• Christmas Party (Dinner).
  o 13th December at Tio Filos at 630pm.
  o Bring Toys-For-Tots gifts.
  o Margette volunteered to handle getting the toys to the right place after the party.
• Two radios to be given away – 1st prize; Dual-Band Mobile and 2nd prize; an HT.

Randy – Secretary:
• Reminded that there are still some who owe dues for the year.

Ralph – Treasurer:
• About $5900 in Bank.
  o $500 grant from PNM.
  o Nest big expense will be Insurance $600 to $700.
• VACARA 20th Anniversary Special Event Station to be used on November 1st.

Russ – Vice President:
• Presented the preamble for the 20th Anniversary Special Event Station to be used on November 1st.

Events Calendar

Thur, Nov 20, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96 mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Nov 22, 2014, 9am-12
ARES Mtg @ Clubhouse
Contact is Randy, KE5SAW.

Tues, Nov 25, 2014, 7pm
VCARA’s Monthly Meeting
All are welcome

Wed, Nov 26, 2014, 2pm
Koffee Klatch, Village Inn in Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Nov 26, 2014, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Nov 27, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96 mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Nov 29, 2014, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

Wed, Dec 3, 2014, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Dec 4, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96 mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Dec 6, 2014, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

Wed, Dec 10, 2014, 2pm
Koffee Klatch, Village Inn in Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Dec 10, 2014, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Dec 11, 2014 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96 mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Dec 13, 2014, 9am-12
VE Testing @ Clubhouse
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.
In case you are wondering which modes were used, here is the info:

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<th>DXCC Award</th>
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<th>Credits by QSL Cards</th>
<th>Total (All)</th>
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<td>16</td>
<td>102</td>
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</table>

LOTAs searches logs submitted from Ham station around the world for matching contacts which can then be used for awards.

This was a real team effort. The first step started in 2013 was spearheaded by Paul N5PR and Ralph NM5RC consisted of entering our old paper logs into our computer logging program and then sending them to our LOTA record. While we have accumulated quite a stack of QSL cards from DX entities, we have LOTA credit for most of them for these or other contacts. Sixteen cards for which we did not have LOTA confirmations were approved by ARRL card checkers at the 2014 Duke City Hamfest and were then added to our LOTA record.

A half dozen members poured to the effort the last six months to snag contacts with the remaining DX’s needed. With sincere apologies to any who are missed here, those that do come to mind for these efforts are Ty AEV5R, Charlie NM5CL, Richard KD5NTL, Cliff KE0CP and Paul N5PR.

The CW + Phone + Digital is more than our 102 total because there are some DX entities duplicates. Looking at this table, there are some additional challenges the club could consider – DXCC for phone (26 more needed), DXCC for CW 48 more needed) and DXCC for digital (89 more needed).

Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Treasurer & Special Events Coordinator

SAGA OF THE LAST COUNTIES

Most of you know that I am a county hunter. As I sit at my desk, reading the newspaper, magazine or fiddling with something else, I usually have the radio tuned to the county hunter’s net on 14.336 MHz or 14.056.5 MHz just to have something on in the background. Usually there are several mobiles throughout the day, traveling from county to county. It might be people on vacation, truck driving hams or just county hunters putting out their county and surrounding counties. Having already worked different hams in all 3074 counties in the mixed modes, I decided it would be good practice for me to try and do it strictly on CW. This started several years ago and lately I’ve narrowed it down to the last four counties that I need. I decided to finish this project and move on to the next one. How hard could this be? Just look on QRZ.com, search for all the hams in needed counties, send a few e-mails and ask for a sked on CW. I’m sure if someone asked me, I would be glad to set up a sked for my county. Turns out it is not that simple. For instance, Marion County in Kentucky list 23 hams.
On looking further, 13 are Technician Class, most likely not on CW. Another ham’s license was expired. Six of the hams did not list their e-mail addresses. Of the three remaining hams, one said he did not do CW and the other two didn’t reply to my e-mails. Scored zero for that county. Fortunately for me, during all the time I was doing this, I worked a mobile on the net passing through this very county.

Now, down to three counties. Next on the list was Harlan Kentucky. (Why is Kentucky so hard to work? Two of the last four were in Kentucky.) In the last part of each July, the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) sponsors a CW contest to see who can work the most counties. There is a mobile category, so lots of activity on the bands. I watched the spotting network at http://ch.w6rk.com and picked up a mobile in Harlan, KY.

Now, down to two: Unicoi Tennessee and Lincoln, West Virginia. The QRZ.com site list 102 hams in Unicoi and 47 hams in Lincoln. This should be a piece of cake. Start sending the e-mails.

Want to read how this turns out? Tune in next month to read the progress of this unfinished project.

Paul, N5PR
VCARA Trustee

The operator schedule will be available at our November meeting and at our Christmas dinner so folks can sign up for a reserved time for either voice or CW on the Icom-756 radio and its amplifier and beam antenna. The Icom-7000 voice station or the Icom-706 digital station will be available for use on a drop in basis. The operator schedule will be posted on the club’s web site a few days after the November meeting and will be periodically updated. If you can’t sign up in person just check the schedule on the web for openings and email NM5RC at arrl.net (or call him at 821-7636) to get added to the schedule.

To be sure there is someone to open the club doors when you want to operate, and if you need a control operator or mentor, please arrange for these yourselves. The club officers and past president have keys. If you want to operate and have trouble with arranging for doors, control operator or mentoring, contact Charlie (NM5CL) or Ralph (NM5RC) and they will try to assist with those arrangements.

Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Treasurer & Special Events Coordinator

Dec 18-Dec 24, 1500Z-2300Z, KC5OUR, Peralta, NM

Your Special Event announcement has been received and has been posted to the ARRL Special Event Web site at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations. Please check the listing.

Your event will also appear in the December 2014 issue of QST.

Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, Special Events
ARRL: the national association for Amateur Radio™
VCARA Club
Contacts

Officers

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.

Toys for Tots must be at clubhouse by Saturday noon, on December 6
Thanks for your donation
Questions, call Margette at 505-859-2822

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

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