

Dots ~N~ Dashes

April 2017
issue

Valencia County
Amateur Radio
Association
P.O. Box 268
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New Mexico
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President's Column for April 2017

Another month here already?
Wow!

March Meeting: Our VP David KF5VTJ rounded up another great program for the March meeting. Mark came down from Albuquerque to make an interesting and live demonstration about EchoLink. Yes, you can contact world wide contacts with your HT; your HT to local repeater with EchoLink to internet to distant repeater with EchoLink to contacted Ham's \ HT. And you can substitute your base station, computer or cellphone for some of the equipment too. I hadn't heard of EchoLink communities before where you can connect in to a bunch of folks discussing almost any Amateur Radio topic your heart desires.

April Meeting: Be sure to come to the meeting and help nominate the 2017-2018 club officers. Remember our club year is July thru June. Want to be an officer,



show up and speak up. Remember no ambush nominations, i.e., folks should not be nominated unless they have agreed to run.

NM QSO Party: See separate report. Thank you to all the operators and coaches who participated. If you made your own QSO Party contacts, please enter your logs and let me know so we can put you on the club member participation list as there is an award for that category too.

HHOTA: HHOTA = Harvey Houses on the Air. On the second Saturday of September, Ham clubs and individual Hams will be operating special event

ALIEN'S FIELD DAY BREAKFAST PUZZLE

Lots of interesting folks drop by VCARA's Field Day including the hungry alien who's spaceship landed Sunday morning at our last Field Day. He had not eaten for days and would only eat desert rocks that were boiled for exactly 15 minutes, no more, no less. He was growing hungry and angry and threatened to vaporize everyone at Field Day if not fed very soon. The only timepieces available were two hourglasses; the larger was known to take 11 minutes for all the sand to descend; the smaller 7 minutes. How was our volunteer cook able to whip up the perfectly cooked breakfast for our unusual visitor?

Answer: Both timers were started at the same time. When the small hourglass emptied, the large hourglass was turned over and the rocks dropped into the boiling water. When the large timer emptied, it was flipped over and when it emptied again, breakfast was ready for the visitor.

stations from many of the 84 Harvey Houses across the west. This is the first year

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for this national annual event which is being sponsored by our club. Club member Andrew NM5AE has taken on the role of overall HHOTA Coordinator and will also be coordinating KC5OUR's operation from the Belen Harvey House (Museum). So, put Saturday, September 9, 2017 on your calendar to either help with our operation or get out to one of the other 13 New Mexico Harvey Houses (some of which are no longer there but are still active able) and run your own special event HHOTA station. Look at www.qsl.net/vcara for more HHOTA, Harvey House and Harvey Girls information. Want a special insight into Harvey Houses and their famous Harvey Girls? Check with our Chris W5CSG and Charlie NM5CL who descendants of Harvey Girls. Do any other club members have Harvey Girls as ancestors?

Field Day: Be sure to put the fourth full weekend in June on your calendar to attend our Field Day which will be in air conditioned comfort at the Bosque Farms Community Center.

No, despite some trouble shooting and change out of some coax, I'm still having trouble getting into our nets from my Albuquerque QTH. However I can now kerchunk the repeater and receive great, so . . . until next time, see you at the meeting, make some of the biweekly Koffee Klatches at Denney's in Los Lunas, check into some of the Wednesday night nets, drop

by the club shack on Saturday mornings for fellowship/get help/provide help, and get radioactive.

*Ralph NM5RC
President*

**VCARA Minutes for
March 28, 2017 Meeting**

Board of Directors Meeting, March 28, 2017: Meeting was called to order at 1812 MST. NM5CL, NM5RC, AE5VR and KF5VTJ were present.

- Treasurer's report: Current balance is \$4225.31.
- NMQSOP: The schedule is filling, we have most operators and several mentors signed up. The club will encourage members to send us their logs (scores) for a combined club entry.
- Harvey Houses On The Air. Potential for second Saturday in September each year special event. Does the club want to sponsor? Web site, coordination, etc? NM5RC has many details on a web site. NM5AE has volunteered to front the effort.
- Repeater report: A crew replaced the antenna at the water tank (two meter) site. Reports are that the operation is much improved. The 70cM machine is down and NM5CL is going to see about repairs.

- Nominations: All BOD members have agreed to serve another term. NM5RC will poll the membership for other potential officers. Meeting adjourned at 1840 MST.

VCARA membership meeting of March 28, 2017:

Meeting was called to order at 1900 MST, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were done, followed by a presentation on Echolink.

New Business:

- Treasurer's report showed balance of \$4225.31.
- **Repeater news:** New antenna on the two meter machine, works well. 70cM machine is down and NM5CL is investigating possible repairs.
- **NMQSOP:** We have had very good results filling the



At March meeting, Earl KB5UEW brought a 20 milli watt radio he made from things he pulled from a box of old parts. The range is just 50 feet which is perfect for listening to old radio programs from his computer. The white foam core board supports the wire antenna.

schedule for the club station for the NMQSOP from the clubhouse, both operators and mentors.

- **Harvey Houses on the air:** There is a movement to have a special event weekend in September each year commemorating the Harvey House chain. We have decided to be the leader in coordinating this event. NM5AE has taken the lead
- Officer nomination open beginning at the April meeting.
- Good Friday VCARA will be helping with the Tome' hill walk. NM5CL has details.
- **Field day 2017:** This year we will be operating from the Bosque Farms Community Center. No Flies! Air Conditioning! Fourth weekend in June. Details to come.

Meeting adjourned at 2010 MST.
Respectfully submitted,

*Ty Till AE5VR
VCARA Secretary*

REPEATER ANTENNA REPLACED

If you have tried our Belen 146.700 repeater since Saturday, March 18, you might have noticed it has a better receiving and outputting, especially noticeable if you are at some distance.

On the 18th nine club members and one volunteer from Socorro gathered at the club for Charlie's (NM5CL) safety briefing and then it was off the water tank where the repeater antenna shares space on a tower on the top of a city water tank.



Events Calendar

Wed, Apr 19, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Apr 20, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Apr 22, 2017, 9am-12
ARES Meeting @ clubhouse
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

Tues, Apr 25, 2017, 7pm
Monthly Mtg @ clubhouse
All members & guests welcome.

Wed, Apr 26, 2017, 2pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Apr 26, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Apr 27, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Apr 29, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ty, AE5VR.

Wed, May 3, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

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The old fiberglass antenna's performance had noticeably deteriorated the last few years so replacement was due.

The replacement was one of the three new aluminum high gain antennas provided through a DHS grant to the Valencia County Emergency Management Office. One of the new antennas here, one for our 70 cm repeater and one for the new Meadow Lake repeater which will be installed in April (or May).

Charlie did a great job of organizing and planning the project so the removal of the old and installation of the new antenna went without a hitch. We were very fortunate to have a couple of young thin experienced climbers (Steve AG5HW and Casey KC5CRD) come equipped with climbing harnesses and belts to do the tower climbing work. Other club members assisting with the work were Charlie NM5CL, Chris W5CSG, Ty AE5VR, Greg KG5OCW, Mark N9YEX, Russ KD5UJR and Ralph NM5RC.

Please give the new antenna a workout with your several rigs and from several locations and your qualitative send/receive observations to Charlie (NM5CL@arrl.net).

www.w5kub.com the Amateur Radio Round Table weekly show.

*Ralph NM5RC
President & Special
Events Coordinator*

**ONLINE HAM
INFORMATION**

Every week there are two video newscasts about ham radio.

www.arnewsline.org presents about a five minute amateur radio headlines.

www.hamnation presents a weekly amateur radio program with stories about what is going on, special reports and a technical subject. Programs run from 20 to 60 minutes. Great fun.

Also check out



Emmaline KF5TBJ at the mic with Andrew NM5AE logging



Charlie NM5CL logs for Steve AG5HW



Michael made several NM QSO Party contacts as Della KE5GCH looks on

**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

Apr 19 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Apr 26 - Russ, KD5UJR
May 03 - George, K6GTC
May 10 - David, KF5VTJ
May 17 - Charlie, NM5CL
May 24 - Ralph, NM5RC
May 31 - Elvira, KD5UJQ

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

**VCARA Club
Contacts**

Officers

President: Ralph Clark, NM5RC,
nm5rc@msn.com

Vice President: David Eubank,
KF5VTJ, deubank810@aol.com

Treasurer: Betty Lyon (Associate
member)

Secretary: Ty Till, AE5VR,
ty.ae5vr@gmail.com

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

Special Events Coordinator:
Ralph Clark, NM5RC

Club email kc5our@arrl.net

Repeater Chairperson:
Charlie Lyon, NM5CL,
nm5cl@att.net

ARES Chairperson: Chris
Gillespie, W5CSG

**Club Station License
Trustee:** Paul Ridley, N5PR

Club Website:
www.qsl.net/kc5our

Webmaster: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net

Newsletter: Emailed about 10
days prior to meetings.

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
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**APRIL BIRTHDAY
WISHES TO:**

**CHRISTINE W5CLG
&
JIM KE5NIC**

