

# Dots ~N~ Dashes

September 2017  
issue

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

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## President's Column for September 2017

### Some Random Comments from NM5RC

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY THANKS:** It takes a lot of folks and a lot of efforts to keep the club going. Much of this effort is behind the scenes so we don't notice it or think about it, but without these efforts our club would falter and we would be wondering what happened. While some of these efforts may seem of little consequence, in aggregate these make a significant contribution to making our club a success. Please take a moment to think about the folks who help the club in many different roles and pass along a thank you to several of them.

On a personal note, I really appreciate the help and support that so cheerfully flows to support the club and its activities. As just one example, 15 folks stepped forward to assist with our September 9th Special

Event Station at the Belen Harvey House Museum. Yes, 15! By the way, while all the reports are not in, nearly ten other Harvey Houses were activated this first year as a result of the national HHOTA Coordinator's (club member Andrew, NM5AE) efforts.

**UPCOMING:** David, KF5VTJ, will be showing what the world of Ham Radio is coming to at our September 26th meeting when he discusses his new software defined radio. Other dates to get on your calendar are: Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th; Waffle Breakfast to kick off our Christmas Greetings from Bethlehem, New Mexico, special event station; and the Technician License Class December 27-30.

**LICENSE EXAMS:** License exams are given monthly at the KC5OUR shack every second Saturday morning. Chris W5CSG has headed this effort for several years and the word is out around the state this is the place to come to take your Ham

### Formed from Ham Exams...

Topic Safety: From the options below, select the proper match.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Primary function of an external earth connection or ground rod        | a. hazardous voltages cannot appear on the chassis            |
| 2. Why metal enclosure of every item of station equipment be grounded    | b. Lightning protection                                       |
| 3. Hazard might exist in a power supply when turned off and disconnected | c. electric shock from the charged stored in large capacitors |

Answers: 1b-Extra E0A01, 2a-General G0B06, 3c-Tech T0A11



Harvey House On the Air special event.

**September 2017 Issue**

exam. Charlie NM5CL and Pat KA5PAT are there for nearly every session and several other VE's help when needed. The September 9 session coincided with the Harvey House operation and Charlie was not available due to recent eye surgery so Goose K5EMH responded so the required three VE panel could give exams to five folks, several of which traveled over 100 miles one-way for their exams. We, and indeed all the Hams (and Ham wannabes) in New Mexico, are very fortunate to have Chris and his dedicated VE team giving these exams.

Until next month, 73,

*Ralph NM5RC  
President*

**MINUTES OF VCARA  
August 22, 2017  
MEETING**

**Board of Directors minutes, August 22, 2017:** The meeting was called to order at 1812 local time. NM5RC, K5WY, NM5CL, KF5VTJ and W5CSG were present.

- **Treasurer's report:** Current balance \$6198.25.
- DCHF. Some traffic at our table, hard to gauge but we did have some interest in the HHOTA event.
- Harvey Houses on the Air, 9<sup>th</sup> of September. 0900 to 1700 local time. NM5RC is scheduling operators.
- Will display quilt from Field Day until the holiday party, then it will be put up for sale, auction, or raffle.

- NM5RC is scheduling instructors for the Boys Scout Radio Merit Badge class this December.

There was a discussion about the logistics of the tower installation at the Meadow Lakes FD (MLFD) building. Meeting adjourned at 1847 local time.

**VCARA membership meeting of August 22, 2017:** Meeting was called to order at 1906 MST, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

- **Finance report:** account balance is \$6198.25.
- **MLFD repeater progress:** W5CSG will be scheduling a work party to place the tower this fall.
- **Duke City HamFest club table:** Several people requested information about the Harvey Houses On The Air (HHOTA).
- **Bethlehem special event:** Kick off with Waffle breakfast 16<sup>th</sup> of December.
- **HHOTA:** 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 0900 to 1700 local time.
- Boy Scout radio merit badge class will be 27-29<sup>th</sup> of December. Give one hour, sign up now to instruct a class!
- **Socorro ham fest in October:** NM5RC and NM5CL will have a table with the excess club items for sale. Members can also place items on the table. Meeting adjourned at 1923 MST, followed by presentation. Respectfully submitted,

*Ty Till K5WY  
VCARA Secretary*

**Events Calendar**

**Wed, Sept 20, 2017, 8pm  
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thur, Sept 21, 2017, 7:30pm  
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Sept 23, 2017, 9am-12  
ARES Meeting @Clubhouse**  
Contact is Ty, K5WY.

**Sat, Sept 24, 2017, 7am-3pm  
Tor of the Rio Grande Valley**  
<http://newmexicosportsonline.com/Cycling/TOUR-OF-THE-RIO-GRANDE-VALLEY-2017/55196>.



**Tues, Sept 26, 2017, 7pm  
Monthly mtg @ clubhouse**  
All members & guests welcome.

**Wed, Sept 27, 2017, 2pm  
Koffee Klatch at Denny's  
Restaurant, Los Lunas,NM**

**Wed, Sept 27, 2017, 8pm  
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thur, Sept 28, 2017, 7:30pm  
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Sept 30, 2017, 9am-12  
Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

## Harvey Houses on the Air

Last weekend the VCARA held a special event station called Harvey Houses on the Air. A Harvey Houses is a Rail road house where

### Calendar – continued

**Wed, Oct 4, 2017, 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thur, Oct 5, 2017, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Oct 7, 2017, 9am-12**  
**Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

**Sat – Sun, Oct 7 – 15, 2017**  
**Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta**  
Volunteers for this special events check article for contact info.

**Wed, Oct 11, 2017, 2pm**  
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

**Wed, Oct 11, 2017, 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thur, Oct 12, 2017, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Oct 14, 2017, 9am-12**  
**VE Testing @ Clubhouse**  
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.

the works and the travelers could stay. Fred Harvey was the one who created the Harvey Houses that's why they named it Harvey Houses. Fred Harvey brought great food and women to help run them which help civilize the west.

Back to the special event station; we held the event at the Belen Harvey House, which was one of the first one. We had 15 club members and one non-club member turn out for seven and half hours of operating time. And in that time, we able to make 39 contacts, including 2 international DX contacts (one from Panama and one from Canada). We were hoping to get more than we did, but due to the circumstances we weren't able to.

The reason we couldn't get more contacts was because there were g3 to g4 Solar storms which wiped out 20 meters, which was the band we used all day. As for are antenna we had a 20-meter wire dipole on the roof. And I'm not sure of what radio we were using. With our set, up we mostly talked to the mid- east. We had about seven stations in the mid-west



### VCARA Dots~n~Dashes

participated in Harvey Houses on the Air.

A special thanks to the Belen Harvey Houses for their hospitality and the director Frances Zeller. They let us set up in a back room and let us put ten-foot-high pole on the roof and run 15 feet of coax down and through a window.

After that they donated a probable television set and an all-band receiver.

A special thanks to NM5RC, who planned it all and recruited a Coordinator. And he got the okay so we could operate at the Belen Harvey house. Thanks to those who helped us take down at the end.

One more thanks to all who came out and operated. That is what helped this event be successful. We are planning to undertake this event next year and are hoping all of you will want to come out again.

*Andrew Eldridge, NM5AE*



**Harvey House**  
**on the air**

**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 20 - Emil, K5GCH  
Sep 27 - George, K6GTC  
Sep 13 - Russ, KD5UJR  
Sep 20 - Emil, K5GCH (Sub:  
NM5CL)  
Sep 27 - George, K6GTC  
Oct 04 - David, KF5VTJ  
Oct 11 - Charlie, NM5CL  
Oct 18 - Ralph, NM5RC

If you can't run the NET when  
scheduled, please find a sub.

**VCARA Club  
Contacts**

*Officers*

**President:** Ralph Clark, NM5RC,  
[nm5rc@msn.com](mailto:nm5rc@msn.com)

**Vice President:** David Eubank,  
KF5VTJ, [deubank810@aol.com](mailto:deubank810@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Betty Lyon (Associate  
member)

**Secretary:** Ty Till, K5WY,  
[ty.ae5vr@gmail.com](mailto:ty.ae5vr@gmail.com)

**Past President:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)

**Special Events Coordinator:**  
Ralph Clark, NM5RC

Club email [kc5our@arrl.net](mailto:kc5our@arrl.net)

**Repeater Chairperson:**  
Charlie Lyon, NM5CL,  
[nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)

**ARES Chairperson:** Chris  
Gillespie, W5CSG

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

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

**Webmaster:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)

**Newsletter:** Emailed about 10  
days prior to meetings.

**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.*



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Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 268  
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US POSTAGE  
Required

**September  
Birthday  
Greetings to:**  
  
DAVE McALPHINE,  
WD8LVZ

