

Dots ~N~ Dashes

October 2017
issue

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

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Happy October Birthdays to:

DAN, KA7PUN
MARK, N9YEX
DICK, NO5T
PAT LIBERTELL, KA5PAT
RANDY, KE5SAW
RUSS, KD5UJR

President's Column for October 2017

NM5RC's Comments

It was a Great September meeting with an outstanding turnout. Thank you to everyone who came out and participated. It seems there is a point where the number of members attending our meetings has a critical mass effect on the quality, productiveness and social interaction of our meetings. The September meeting certainly reached that point. Let's strive to achieve that for all of our meetings.

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

- Christmas Party: Saturday, December 9.
- Waffle breakfast to kick off our Greeting from Bethlehem Special Event Station operation: Saturday, December 16.
- Bethlehem Station: December 16-24.
- Technician license class: See next paragraph.

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS:

As we do every few years, the club will be presenting a Tech License Class between Christmas and New Year - Wed Dec 27, Thu Dec 28 and Fri Dec 29, with exams on Sat morning Dec 30. Planning on concurrent mini-classes to small groups, so a lot of instructors are going to be needed. While open to everyone, the class is being talked up to Boy Scouts since they will be able to earn their Radio Merit Badge at the same time. Please talk the class up to anyone you know who would like to get their Ham

license and to any scouts & leaders you know.

One final request - a merit badge requirement is to explore radio related careers which we do by having a panel discussion with folks who have (or had) a radio or TV related employment. If that is you, please let NM5RC know of your willingness to sit on this panel. If you need a copy of the class flyer, drop me a note (nm5rc@msn.com).

Until next month,

*Ralph NM5RC
VCARA President*

MINUTES OF VCARA September 26, 2017 MEETING

Board of Directors minutes, September 26, 2017: Ralph, NM5RC called the board/officer meeting to order at 6:15pm.

- Charlie, NM5CL gave the Finance Report stating that there was \$160 of expenses, \$301.20 of Income, leaving a balance of \$6,499.45
- The Board decided to procure 4 ARRL Grounding and Bonding Handbooks for use by the club members. This is in the interest of promoting safe operation of



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- club members' stations.
- Ralph, NM5RC reported on the Harvey Houses on the Air special event station, held at the Belen, NM Harvey House. The effort was a success, even though band conditions were challenging. The operators made a total of 39 contacts. 15 people attended, including 2 operators from Albuquerque.
 - Ralph also provided reminders about upcoming club events:
 - Christmas Party, Saturday December 9
 - Waffle Breakfast, Saturday December 16
 - Bethlehem Station operations will run from Sat December 16th to Saturday December 24th
 - Club Technician Licensing Classes will take place Wednesday December 27, Thursday December 28, and Friday December 29, with the exam to be administered Saturday December 30th
 - Chris, W5CSG, discussed a potential strategy to get the repeater operating at Meadow Lake by putting up a temporary antenna on the side of the building. This can possibly be done and will involve far less coordination than putting up the permanent antenna tower. The Meadow Lake repeater will operate on 145.43 Mhz
- Finally, the board discussed the Tour of the Rio Grande Valley SAG.

VCARA membership meeting of September 26, 2017: Ralph, President, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 pm



Ralph discussed some vintage tube-type television and broadcast radio receivers he brought in that had been donated. This was shown in contrast to the software defined receiver that was operating prior to the meeting presentation.

Chris, K5CSG, reported on VE license testing that had taken place. Two new operators received their technician licenses, and two operators upgraded to Extra Class. Goose, K5EMH, was recognized for assisting with the testing.

Betty provided the finance report.

Ralph recognized Andrew NM5AE, for his efforts at coordinating the Harvey Houses on the Air special event station on September 9th, and provided a summary of HHOTA operations.

Charlie, NM5CL, discussed the club support of the Tour of the Rio Grande Valley SAG event that took place on September 24th. Charlie reminded club members about the weekly Wednesday night 8pm net on 146.7 Mhz and the Thursday night ARES Tri-County Net that takes place at 7:30 pm. The Capilla repeater is still out of service, but members can check in on 70cm at 442.6 Mhz. Charlie also reported on attendance at the prior week's Wednesday afternoon coffee klatch.

Events Calendar

Wed, Oct 18, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Oct 19, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 21, 2017, 8am-2pm
Socorro Hamfest
See socorroara.org/hamfest.html.



Tues, Oct 24, 2017, 9am-12
VCARA monthly Meeting
Members & guests are welcome.

Wed, Oct 25, 2017, 2pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Oct 25, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Oct 26, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 29, 2017, 9am-12
ARES Testing @ Clubhouse
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.

Wed, Nov 1, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Ralph reminded club members about the upcoming Christmas holiday events and the Technician Licensing Course, all taking place in December.

For the club program, David, KF5VTJ, provided an overview of a software defined receiver (SDR). The particular unit was an SDRPlay receiver that connects to a PC via a USB cable. There are different versions of the receiver ranging in price from about \$100 to \$200. KF5VTJ demonstrated reception of broadcast FM signals, a 40M QSO, as well as WWV at 5Mhz, along with certain features of the SDRUno software's user interface. This

receiver was reviewed favorably in the most recent QST magazine (October 2017). Further information about the SDRPlay receiver can be found at www.sdrplay.com

Club members were advised that VCARA was procuring copies of the ARRL's new book "Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur" and that club members could coordinate with NM5CL if they wanted to obtain a copy along with the order Charlie was putting together.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8pm. Respectfully submitted,

*David Eubank, KF5VTJ
VCARA Vice President*

Calendar – continued

Thur, Nov 2, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Nov 4, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
All are welcome.

Wed, Nov 8, 2017, 2pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

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

Thur, Nov 9, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Nov 11, 2017, 9am-12
VE Testing @ Clubhouse
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.

SOCORRO HAMFEST INVITATION (from September email)

KC5OUR,

The Socorro and Tech Amateur Radio Association's Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2017 in Socorro, NM. The banquet, to be held On Friday, October 20, features Paul Harden NA5N noted local historian and QRP aficionado will speak about the "Trinity Test – the day the sun rose twice."

We encourage you and your associates to attend. Up-to-date information is available online at <http://www.socorroara.org/hamfest.html>. You may download the event flyer from <http://www.socorroara.org/temp/Hamfest/flyer.pdf>. See you next month.

*Dave Johnson, KB5YIW
Socorro, NM*

VCARA Library

VCARA currently has four copies of the ARRL manual, "Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur" in our library. These books are available to be checked out by club members for reading at home. Contact a club officer if you would like to sign out one of these very comprehensive manuals.

In addition, there are some online websites which have some very interesting articles on lightning protection. Here are the links, courtesy of Socorro ARA:
<http://www.bwcelectronics.com/articles/WP30A190.pdf>
<http://www.arrl.org/lightning-protection>
<http://harriscountyares.org/training/WEA/WEA-101.pdf>

*Charlie, NM5CL
Past President VCARA*

RCA VICTOR STRATO-WORLD RADIO MODEL 7-BX-10

In the mid 1950's the dream of every kid with even a passing exposure to radio was to get their grubby hands on the famous Zenith Trans-Oceanic Radio. With world-wide reception, a multitude of short-wave bands (whatever short wave and bands were) capabilities, being able to operate on any AC/DC voltage or batteries, a world map, and a fold up case, what more could anyone want?

When the rumor swept through our small town that the Western Auto Store had a Trans-Oceanic on display, I was quick to put my feet

in motion for the one mile hike to Main Street to view this marvel. And a view is all I that was allowed and that from a distance that assured no little grubby hands touched this marvel. When the price that was only whispered to the very few who had the big money required for such a luxury eventually leaked out, I knew



ever getting close to a Trans-Oceanic was beyond my wildest dreams. As a point of reference to our economic status, at that time it was not unusual for me to spend several days scouring the roadsides for soda bottles to trade in for a few cents to raise the money to buy a kit so I could again patch the patches on my bicycle tire tubes.

Finally Got to Touch One!
I attended 8th grade in 1957 in Tokyo while my mother sister and I lived on the meager salary of a local teacher. At church we had limited contact with US embassy big shot who had a kid my age. In the one time I visited their home, I found they had a Zenith Trans-Oceanic which I was allowed to touch – just the case - no knob twittling. OH WHAT A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!

So, what has that got to do with the RCA Strato-World Radio? Well, 1) the RCA Strato-World was a very worthy clone of the Zenith Trans-World and 2) the club has just been given an RCA Strato-World Model 7-BX-10 Radio.

For being over 60 years old it is in good condition and is complete with antennas and an original owner's

manual with complete schematics and parts list. Plugged it in and turned it on (I've been told that was a real no-no thing to do). Anyway, nice static from the speaker(s?) and no smoke.

We need to find a loving home for this great antique radio. If that's you, see one of the club officers. Or, if you know someone who wants to restore or otherwise treat this radio with the respect it deserves,

please let them know it is available for adoption. It would be unfortunate if this super radio were to go to a tailgate sale rather than the loving home it deserves.

PILOT MODEL TV-37 PORTABLE TELEVISION

Were you one of the privileged few (or your mother or your granddad) to have one of these in 1948? Now is your opportunity to relive those glory days since one of these special units has been donated to the club and needs to find its way to a loving home.

Philip I. Nelson at <https://antiqueradio.org/PilotTV-37.htm> has an extensive write-up about his restoration of a TV-37. He starts his article with the following information:

The Pilot TV-37 "Candid" is an unusual vintage television. With a tiny 3-inch picture tube, it is barely watchable by modern standards, but the TV-37's compact size and

unusual design make it a favorite of collectors.

Pilot introduced the TV-37 in 1948, at the then-amazingly low price of \$99. Most 1940s TVs sold for hundreds of dollars, the cost of a decent automobile. Pilot made this set for only a few years, but sold a lot of them during that time. Many TV-37s still survive.

Pilot marketed this set especially to college students, and it would have been a lucky student who got such a gift. The owner's daughter recalled neighbors crowding into their living room in 1948 for a look at this marvelous new invention.

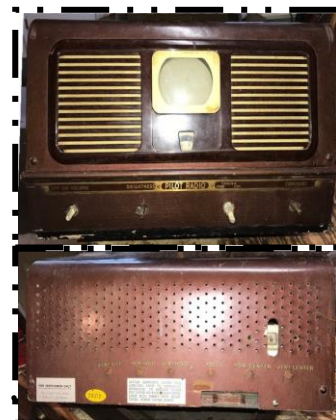
- Yes, it comes complete with its original carrying case.
- No knobs, but original style replacement knobs are available.
- All the picture adjustments you would expect are located on the back.

One of the questions that probably popped into your mind as you drooled over these photos was, 'What about an antenna?' Yep, the antenna is clipped into the carrying case which is not visible in the above photos unless you have x-ray vision.

Do you have a place in your collection for this fine piece of history? Or, if you are into restoration this would be a great project. See one of the club Officers if you are interested in this Pilot TV-37 before it goes to the Socorro Hamfest. If you know anyone who

might be interested in adopting this early TV, please alert them to the availability of this unit.

*Ralph NM5RC
VCARA President*



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

Oct 18 - Ralph, NM5RC
 Oct 25 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
 Nov 01 - Russ, KD5UJR
 Nov 08 - Emil K5GCH
 (Sub: NM5CL)
 Nov 15 - George, K6GTC
 Nov 22 - David, KF5VTJ
 Nov 29 - Charlie, NM5CL

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

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, K5WY, 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
 P.O. Box 268
 Peralta, New Mexico 87042

US POSTAGE
 Required

KC5OUR Harvey Houses On The Air
Special Event Station - Belen, NM

KC5OUR, POB 268
 Peralta, NM 87042

Join HHOTA every year on the second Saturday of September. Either activate a Harvey House or contact the HHOTA sess. See www.qsl.net/vcara

Confirming QSO with	Date (Z)	UTC	Band	Mode	Power	Our Report
	9 Sep 2017		20M	SSB	100	

