

Dots ~N~ Dashes



December 2017
issue

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

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Happy December Birthdays to:

GEORGE CUSACK

Origin of the 73 and 88 terms used by Hams

In 1859, Western Union standardized on the "92 code", a series of telegraphic abbreviations in which numbers (originally 1 to 92) were assigned meanings. The reason for this adoption was to reduce bandwidth (line time) over the telegraph lines and speed transmissions by utilizing a numerical code system for various frequently used phrases. These were later included as part of the "Philips Code", a series of abbreviations first published in 1879 by Walter Phillips of the Associated Press for use in the telegraphic transmission of press dispatches.

While most of the codes have fallen into disuse, the Form '19' and '31' train orders remained in railroad use long beyond the end of landline telegraphy, and the use of '30' at the end of a news wire story was continued through the teletypewriter era.

The '73' (Best Regards) and '88' (Love and kisses) greetings remain in use in amateur radio CW and voice communications and often at the end of written messages, such as email and radiograms between hams.

Note: Making any of these numbers plural (73s, 88s) is incorrect since they are already plural.

73s would mean "Best Regardses" and 88s would mean "Love and kisseses." These make no sense.

Western Union 92 Codes:

- 1 Wait a minute.
- 2 Very Important.
- 3 What time is it?
- 4 Where shall I go ahead?
- 5 Have you business for me?
- 6 I am ready.
- 7 Are you ready?
- 8 Close your key, stop breaking.
- 9 Priority business. Wire Chief's call.
- 10 Keep this circuit closed.
- 12 Do you understand?
- 13 I understand.
- 14 What is the weather?
- 15 For you and others to copy.
- 17 Lightning here.
- 18 What's the trouble?
- 19 Form 19 (absolute) train order.
- 21 Stop for meal.
- 22 Wire test.
- 23 All stations copy.
- 24 Repeat this back.
- 25 Busy on another wire.
- 26 Put on ground wire.
- 27 Priority, very important.
- 28 Do you get my writing?.
- 29 Private, deliver in sealed envelope.
- 30 No more - the end.
- 31 Form 31 (permissive) train order.
- 32 I understand that I am to
- 33 Answer is paid.
- 34 Message for all officers.
- 35 You may use my signal to answer this.
- 37 Inform all interested.

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- 39 Important, with priority on through wire.
- 44 Answer promptly by wire.
- 55 Important.
- 73 Best Regards.
- 77 I have a message for you.
- 88 Love and kisses.
- 91 Superintendent's signal.
- 92 Deliver Promptly.
- 134 Who is

*Charlie Lyon, NM5CL
Past President*

**MINUTES OF VCARA
NOVEMBER 28, 2017
MEETING**

Board of Directors minutes, November 28, 2017: Meeting was called to order at 1814 local time. Attendance: NM5RC, NM5CL, K5WY, KG5OCW and W5CSG were present.

Old Business -

- **Finance:** beginning balance of \$6502.41, with \$1350.86 debits and \$559 income. Current balance is \$5710.55.
- **License class:** A couple openings still; student packets went out today. NM5CL sent announcement to Socorro club and NK5W for dissemination. NM5RC had packets for instructors.
- **Christmas party:** Still set up for Henrietta's on 9th of December. Post card reminders will go out to all members tomorrow.
- **Waffle breakfast kickoff** for SE station 16 December 0800 - 1000.
- **Restroom repair:** Estimate for urinal repair at \$200 per from

Heights P&H in Los Lunas.
Vote to get one repaired carries.

New Business -

- KG5OCW suggests a Facebook presence for VCARA, and volunteers to handle that. Board agrees to proceed.
 - W5CSG has receipts for the club for supplies paid for by the exam fees.
 - NM5CL will pursue members whose dues have lapsed.
- Meeting adjourned 1845 Local time.

VCARA membership meeting of November 28, 2017: Meeting was called to order at 1902 Local time.

- NM5RC reminds us about the **Christmas party** on 9th of December at 1700 Local time at Henrietta's, also the **waffle breakfast** to kick off the special event station operation.
- **Toys for tot's:** VCARA is collecting toys for the TFT program through the Valencia County Sheriff's Office. Please bring a toy if you are able to the Christmas party.
- **Finance:** Beginning balance of \$6502.41, with \$1350.86 debits and \$559.00 income, resulting in current balance \$5710.55.
- NM5RC discusses restroom repairs required.
- **Tech license class** upcoming. 27-29 December. Class is focused on youth, particularly Scouts, but all are welcome. See NM5RC for details.
- KG5OCW briefly discussed a **Facebook presence** for VCARA.

Meeting was adjourned at 1920 Local time, followed by the presentation. Respectfully submitted,

*Ty Till, K5WY
VCARA Secretary*

Events Calendar

**Wed, Dec 13, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Dec 14, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.



**Sat, Dec 16, 2017, 8am-10
Waffle Breakfast Kickoff @
Clubhouse**
Contact is Ty, K5WY.

**Sat - Sat, Dec 16 - 23, 2017
"Christmas in Bethlehem"
Special Event Station**
Club will be making contacts for the whole week. Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

**Wed, Dec 20, 2017, 2pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

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

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

**Sat, Dec 23, 2017, 9am-12
ARES Mtg @ Clubhouse**
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

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

THE ACCIDENT

I am an amateur radio operator and

Calendar – continued

Thu, Dec 28, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Dec 30, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

Wed, Jan 3, 2017, 2pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

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

Thur, Jan 4, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Jan 6, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ty, K5WY.

Wed, Jan 10, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thur, Jan 11, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Jan 13, 2017, 9am-12
VE Testing @ Clubhouse
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.

on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope

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in-spite-of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me ... I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope.

I respectfully request a day's sick leave.

*Submitted by MaryAnn NS7X
(Original author unknown)*

VCARA wishing you "Merry Christmas & Happy New Year"



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

Dec 13 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Dec 20 - Russ, KD5UJR
Dec 29 - Emil, K5GCH
Jan 03 - George, K6GTC
Jan 10 - Greg, KG5OCW
Jan 17 - Charlie, NM5CL
Jan 24 - Ralph, NM5RC
Jan 31 - Elvira, KD5UJQ

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: Greg Mershon,
KG5OCW
gregmershon2@msn.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

Merry Christmas



US POSTAGE
Required