



# Dots ~N~ Dashes

March 2018  
issue

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

## Inside this Issue

- 1** President's Column
- 2** VCARA Minutes
- 2** "Good on QRZ" article
- 3** Events Calendar
- 3** "St. Max" article
- 3** "VCARA on Facebook" art.
- 5** VCARA Net Operators & Contacts

## Happy March Birthdays to:

CHRIS W5CSG  
PAUL N5PR  
EMIL KE5GCH  
TY AE5VR  
EMMALINE KF5TBJ

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**February Meeting** - Charlie's (NM5CL) live demonstration of Sedona the web based all radio frequencies receiver was fun and led me to thinking about lots of ways using this could be both fun and useful. And, not just for Amateur Radio. Hey, wouldn't this be a nice hands on interactive demonstration for Field Day! If you were not able to catch this, plan to be at our March meeting for another neat presentation.

**NM QSO Party** - The 2018 NM QSO Party will be on Saturday, April 14. KC5OUR will be on the air for the full 12 hours and folks are needed to to take hour (+) shifts at the mic and several more mentors/coaches/control operators are needed for two hour shifts too. This is a fun relaxed operating event when folks are looking for us. Sign up for your slot at the March meeting or drop an email to me.

**It's Time for New Officers** - Our July-June club year starts in a few months, which means it is time to get a slate of new officers lined up. Yep, nominations at the April meeting, elections at the May meeting, and installation of officers at Field Day in June. Please let one of the current officers know you are willing to serve.

**Field Day, June 23 & 24** - Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June. Make sure your calendar is marked for Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24 and plan on both attending and lending a hand. I have it on good authority the band conditions will be much better than last year so we can plan on a lot of on-the-air activity as well as the many other fun Field Day activities. Again we will be at the Bosque Farms Community Center - WHOOPEE, air conditioning and no bugs and special activities for everyone even if not a Ham.

**NETS** - Remember to check-in to our Wednesday night (8 PM) nets.

**VCARA is on Facebook** - Have you looked at our Facebook page? Our vice President, Greg (KG5OCW), has done a great job on this. Check it out and participate. Now I say this like I know what I'm talking about, but being an old fuddy duddy (or is it fuddie duddie). I'm just now getting off my soft chair and starting with Facebook. I'm sure our younger members are raising their eyebrows at this and saying 'some of these old folks need to get with the times'. Anyway, thanks to Greg and check it out.

**March Meeting** - Looking forward to seeing you at the March 27 meeting at 7 PM.

**March 2018 Issue**

Come a bit early to socialize and eat a cookie.

Until next month,

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC  
VCARA President*

---

**MINUTES OF VCARA  
FEBRUARY 27, 2018  
MEETING**

**Board of Directors minutes,  
February 27, 2018:**

Meeting was called to order at 1815 local time. NM5RC, NM5CL, K5WY, W5CSG, KG5OCW and Betty Lyon were present.

- Finance report: Expenses \$119.67, Income \$173.43, Balance \$5666.38, nothing outstanding
- Membership report: 74 members paid, 6 unpaid since last year
- Field day mailing? Consensus is that a number of members are reminded that dues are due, so the cost is probably break even.
- NM QSO Party, 14<sup>th</sup> of April. We will operate / enter from the club station. Need operators and mentors to sign up.
- Field day: Bosque Farms community center is already reserved for the weekend. Saturday mornings would be a good time to check out equipment.
- Tome Hill Good Friday walk support. Talk with NM5CL about coordination. Need three more volunteers.
- Repeaters: Existing repeaters are working well, would like to replace 440 antenna, perhaps in April or May when the weather is nicer. We are running a separate net on the 440 machine

on the last Wednesday of each month. Discussion about installation of Meadow Lake repeater. Board votes to allow up to \$300 for fuel and support for a bucket truck.

- Elections of officers for 2019 discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 1840 local time.

**VCARA membership meeting of February 27, 2018:** Meeting was called to order at 1900 local time, followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Introductions were done and guests were recognized.

**Old business:** None

**New Business:**

- Finance report: Balance \$5666.38
- Tome Hill Good Friday walk, this year on 30 March. VCARA has supported the local public safety agencies in the past. We still need a few volunteers for this event. See Charlie Lyon for information.
- NMQSOP 14 April 0800 to 2000. VCARA will be on the air. Need operators and mentors for members new to HF radio. See Ralph Clark for details or to schedule.
- Elections of officers for next year, beginning in June. Need a slate of officers for the upcoming elections.
- Repeater: On the last Wednesday of each month we will be holding a second net on 440 following the regular 2M net. The club would like to install a better antenna on the 440 machine, probably in April or May.

With no further business at hand, motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1918 local time.

Presentation was by Charlie NM5CL, who gave a live demonstration using the Sedona (AZ) Web based Software Defined Receiver. Members and guests gathered for refreshments and fellowship upon the completion of demonstration. Respectfully submitted,

*Ty Till K5WY  
VCARA Secretary*

---

**“GOOD ON QRZ”  
STICKERS**

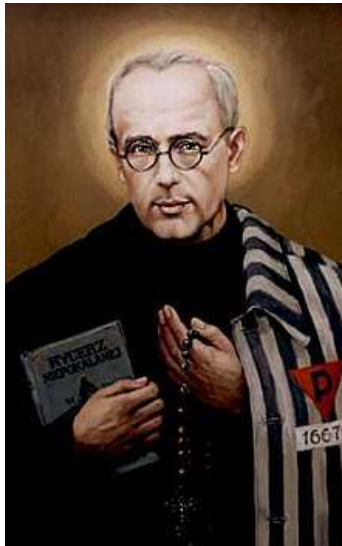
QRZ is now producing “Good On QRZ” stickers. These stickers are available to anyone who sends a #10 business sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the QRZ address below. Your first sticker is free and if you would like additional stickers, please send \$1.00 for each additional sticker. The stickers are 3.5” x 4” in size. #10 Business envelopes with self-sealing flaps are preferred.

QRZ Stickers  
24 W. Camelback #A488  
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Once you have received your sticker, QRZ would love to see the creative places you use it. They have opened a brand new forum called “QRZ Stickers Around The World” where you can post pictures of your “Good On QRZ” sticker in interesting and exciting locations, such as places you travel or even the inside of your shack. The forum is located at the URL below.  
<http://forums.qrz.com/forumdisplay.php?100-QRZ-Stickers-Around-the-World>

*Charlie NM5CL  
VCARA Past President*

**SAINT  
MAXIMILIAN  
KOLBE,  
PATRON SAINT  
OF HAM RADIO  
OPERATORS**



volunteered to die in his stead lived a long, full life. In fact, the fellow lived long enough to witness Kolbe's canonization in 1982 by Pope John Paul.

They say there's a patron saint for just about anything. Not being Catholic, I wouldn't know. But I am now inclined to believe it.

Let me introduce you to St. Maximilian Kolbe. A Polish friar, he got caught up in the horrors of World War II. When the Nazi's invaded Poland in 1936, he sent all his fellow friars at his monastery out of Poland in hopes they would survive the occupation. He stayed behind, and risking everything, sheltered about 4,500 Poles and Jews from the Nazi's.

Eventually, in 1941, the two-way radio he used as an integral part of his secret enterprise was discovered. Kolbe was arrested as a spy, and found himself in Auschwitz Concentration Camp. In August of that year, he volunteered to stand in the place of a father who had many children and who the German guards had marked for execution by starvation. He was 47 when he died. The man who lived because Kolbe

Every bit a hero, Kolbe was a brave soul who put it all on the line in spite of the consequences, and, in doing so, saved thousands of lives.

By the way, he was a ham radio operator. His call was SP3RN. It was because of his interest in ham radio, and his ability to operate a radio station, that he was arrested, and subsequently executed. Today, he is the patron saint of ham radio operators.

He once observed, "The most deadly poison of our times is indifference." Roger that, St. Max.

*MaryAnn NS7X  
VCARA Member*

**VCARA IS NOW ON  
FACEBOOK**

VCARA now has a Facebook page to complement our website at <http://www.kc5our.com>. To get there, you can type <https://www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA/>. There are other ways to get there as well. Go to Google and type 'Valencia County Amateur Radio' and it will appear in the results along with our main website.



**Events Calendar**

**Wed, Mar 21, 2017, 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Mar 22, 2017, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Mar 24, 2017, 9am-12**  
**ARES Meeting @Clubhouse**  
Contact is Ty, K5WY.



**Tues, Mar 27, 2017, 7pm**  
**VCARA Monthly Meeting**  
Members and Guests welcome.

**Wed, Mar 28, 2017, 2pm**  
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's**  
**Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

**Wed, Mar 28, 2017, 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Mar 29, 2017, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Mar 31, 2017, 9am-12**  
**Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

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



**March 2018 Issue**

Why Facebook? Facebook allows us to grow our online presence and raise awareness by allowing members and nonmembers to interact with content and find out more about our organization. For example, you can browse for upcoming events and by clicking "interested" you can let organizers know if you plan to attend. Also, by clicking "like" on VCARA

content, you get notifications on future updates, and advertise our site to any Facebook friends that you have.

Give it a try, and if you don't have a Facebook page, we invite you to sign up and create one (www.facebook.com), it's a great way to stay in touch with Friends and family even if they are all

around the country or the world.

*Greg Mershon, KG5OCW  
VCARA Vice-President*



**Calendar – continued**

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

**Sat, Apr 7, 2017, 9am-12**  
**Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is TBA.

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

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

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

**Sat, Apr 14,2017, 8am-8pm**  
**NMQSO Party@Clubhouse**  
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

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



## 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

Mar 21 - Ralph, NM5RC  
Mar 28 - Charlie, NM5CL  
Mar 28 - 70 cm net, NCS  
Charlie, NM5CL  
Apr 4 - TBA (kc5our.com)  
Apr 11 - TBA (kc5our.com)  
Apr 18 - TBA (kc5our.com)  
Apr 25 - TBA (kc5our.com)

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:** Greg Mershon,  
KG5OCW  
[gregmershon2@msn.com](mailto:gregmershon2@msn.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.*

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

US POSTAGE  
Required

