

Dots ~N~ Dashes

June 2018
issue

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

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Happy June Birthdays to:

JOHN, KD5MHO
JOHN, K8JWS
GINGER, KC5MTI

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

NM5RC'S SUNSET THOUGHTS

NEW OFFICERS – The club officers elected at our May meeting will take over on July 1st and Earl Cox, KB5UEW, will become VCARA's President. Welcome Earl! In passing the gavel to Earl, I need to pass along sincere thanks to all the club members for their active support and encouragement over the past two years. Please join me in welcoming Earl and lending a helping hand and support to his Presidency.

FIELD DAY - Our 2018 June 23-24 Field Day is discussed elsewhere in the newsletter, so suffice it to say be sure to come out, bring your family and friends and participate in the activities. Again this year, air conditioning and no mosquitoes (although a few folks have asked if it is really Field Day if we don't come home sunburned, dehydrated and bug bit).

CONTEST PARTICIPATION - Over the years it has been suggested the club should participate in one of the many on-the-air-contests so those of us who are not contesters can experience this aspect of Amateur Radio. Not with the objective of turning all of us into diehard contesters, but to be able to experience a bit of the excitement and learn a few of the techniques involved in contesting. We have a great station for doing it



and this would be a good time for more of us to become familiar with the station's capabilities. We are fortunate to have several active contesters in the club who are willing to guide and mentor us as we take a turn at the mic. Look for more information about this in the next few months.

BUSY NEXT FEW MONTHS -

- Field Day in June.
- Operating from the Belen Harvey Houses in September for the annual national Harvey Houses on the Air event.
- Duke City Hamfest at the Isleta casino in September.
- Club's contest operation sometime this Fall.
- Christmas Party in early December.
- Waffle breakfast to kick off ten days of KC5OUR's Bethlehem on the Air operation special event station.
- Regular monthly meetings in July, August, September, October and November (no meeting in June due to Field Day and no meeting in December due to the Christmas Party).

Lots of fun and exciting things planned during the rest of 2018.

I'll be hoping to see you at many of these. 73,

Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA President

MINUTES OF VCARA MAY 22, 2018 MEETING

Board of Directors minutes, 22

May 2018: Meeting was called to order at 1820 Local time. K5WY, W5CSG, NM5RC, KB5UBW and NM5CL were present.

- **Treasurer's report:** Debits total \$486 and credits \$134, with ending balance of \$5086.
 - **Field day mailing:** Will go out to arrive about 10 days prior to Field Day
 - **Field Day:** Will be signing up operators and mentors for all three stations. Will begin setting up at 0800, lunch at 1100, and on the air at 1200
 - **Election:** Will hold election tonight after call for floor nominations.
 - **Repeater update:** Site prep is complete, we can move into the new building next week. W5CSG may have a line on a couple of racks for both repeater sites. W5CSG will contact the city about access to the building.
- Meeting was adjourned at 1849 local time.

VCARA membership meeting of 22 May 2018: Meeting was called to order at 1903 local time, followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Introductions were done.

Old business: None

New Business:

- **Field Day mailing** goes out to all hams in Valencia County, plus the surrounding areas.

They will be sent to arrive about 10 days prior to Field Day.

- **Field Day arrangements** - volunteers, assignments, suggestions.
 - NM5RC is filling a schedule for the SSB and the GOTA stations.
- **Repeater update:** The new building is ready for our 146.700 machine. The coax is run and we will be able to move into the new building in a week or two.
- NM5CL has made up a new, special, **QSO card** for the NMQSOP.
- **Treasurer's report:** Debits \$486, credits \$134, balance \$5086
- **Facebook promotion of Field Day:** The club's Facebook page is active and we will be posting from Field Day!
- Nothing new in **ARES**
- **Upcoming events:**
 - Harvey Houses on the Air 8 September,
 - Duke City Ham Fest: 21 - 23 September,
 - Holiday Party: 8 December,
 - Waffle, or not, breakfast to kick off SE station: 15 December,
 - Bethlehem Special Event station 15 - 24 December
- **Officer nominations:**
 - President: Earl KB5UEW,
 - VP: Greg KG5OCW,
 - Secretary: Ty K5WY,
 - Treasurer: Charlie NM5CL,
 - Past President: Ralph NM5RC.
 - No other nominations forthcoming, the slate from the nominating committee is elected and will take office at noon on Field Day.
- **Open Forum** to discuss club activities:
 - License class: Question about a Tech class for this winter. Generally we hold

Events Calendar

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

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

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

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

Sat, Jun 16, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ty, K5WY.

Sat, Jun 16, dawn-10:30
A New Tailgate in Town @
American Legion Post 49,
11007 Central Ave NE, Alb
See [Http://caravanradio.org/](http://caravanradio.org/).

Wed, Jun 20, 2017, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

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

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

that class every other year, however we could discuss a class this year if there is demand.

- o HHOTA: This year we will try to erect a better antenna,

Calendar – continued

Sat-Sun, Jun 23-24, 2017
8am->noon, FIELD DAY @
Bosque Farms Community Ctr (Lunch at 11:30-1300 Sat)

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

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

Sat, Jun 30, 2017, 9am-12
ARES Mtg @ Clubhouse
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

Wed, July 4, 2017, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

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

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

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

and hope for better band conditions, to make more contacts this year.

- **Field Day:** All is well with field day, no complaints or comments about how to improve our FD event.
- **NMQSOP:** This year went pretty well, more contacts than ever. How to improve?
- We would like to **invite the ARRL NM section manager** to our club meeting once yearly to address the club.
- N5PR comments that he is very happy with the club's **Saturday morning social gathering** and encourages each member to drop by and see what's happening.

Meeting adjourned at 2002 Local time. Respectfully submitted,

Ty Till K5WY
VCARA Secretary

ITEMS OF CONCERN

FIELD DAY PINS: For years Paul, N5PR, has ordered ARRL Field Day pins for those who wanted them which has saved us from individually having to do this and pay separate shipping. Paul has a couple of these left over at ARRL's price of \$6 if you would like one for your collection, your hat or to give to a kid for accompanying you to FD. Either call Paul or email him (505-999-8253, pridley@swcp.com) if you want them one of these collector pins.



VCARA Dots-n-Dashes

FIELD DAY: I'm sure you have the info needed for a reminder about Field Day. Thank you. As part of that item you might note that folks can contact Ralph NM5RC (nm5rc@msn.com or 505-821-7636 to reserve some time at the HF Phone station mic or at the GOTA phone mic.

ARE YOU MISSING THE CLUB MEETING AND ACTIVITY PHONE CALLS? Several days before meeting and club activities Callie Clark has been giving all members a quick call to alert them. Many of those calls are left on answering machines, which is fine. At the May meeting a few folks indicated they were not getting the call/message, probably due to either an incorrect number on the roster of a number which is not connected to an answering machine. If you are not getting these calls (and want to), please send an appropriate phone number to Charlie NM5CL (nm5cl@att.net) so he update the roster.

DUES ARE DUE: VCARA's club year is from July thru June which means the 2018-19 dues are due. If you haven't already paid your dues, please mail them in in the envelope provided with the Field Day flyer or catch Charlie when he has a spare moment at Field Day.

NAME BADGES: Just inside the club's shack is a board (hopefully) holding name badges for each club member. Wearing these at club meetings helps us get to know each other and relate names to faces. **IS YOUR BADGE MISSING or NEEDS UPDATING?** If so, please let Ralph NM5RC know (nm5rc@msn.com or 505-821-7636) so your new badge can be generated. Thank You.

Ralph Clark, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator

expect to acquire soon.

VCARA 146.700 REPEATER UPDATE

*Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL
Repeater Chairman*

Phase One of the VCARA 146.700 repeater move from the old building to the radio room in the new building was completed on Saturday, May 26 by a crew consisting of the following (in alphabetical order): NM5CL, W5CSG, AG5HW, KG5OCW, N5PR, NM5RC, K5WY and N9YEX.

My special thanks to AG5HW for doing the tower work; to N9YEX for providing the body harness for Steve and to Ty for use of his special crimping tools for the coax connectors.

Phase Two, which we plan to complete by June 30, is to convert the transceiver for DC power with two deep cycle batteries in parallel kept charged by a trickle charger.

This will keep the repeater operational through any commercial power outages. Also, the transceiver will be permanently installed in a standard equipment rack which we



**They did not disturb the dove eggs
on the stairs leading
to the top of the tank.**



**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

Jun 06 - Charlie, NM5CL
Jun 13 - Greg, KG5OCW
Jun 20 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Jun 27 - Russ, KD5UJR
Jun 27 - Charlie, NM5CL:
70cm Net
July 4 - Holiday, no net
July 11 - 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

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.*

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Required

Rest in Peace
Joseph Griffenberg
KB5TOF