



Dots ~N~ Dashes

May 2018
issue

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

Inside this Issue

- 1** President's Column
- 1** VCARA Minutes
- 2** Events Calendar
- 2** NM QSO PARTY recap
- 3** LITZ article
- 4** VCARA Net Operators & Contacts

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

NM5RC's COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Field Day – (See separate article in this newsletter) I want to encourage all of you to come, participate and help with our Field Day. In addition to FD being a good time to visit with club members and their families, it is good time for us to develop our on-the-air and technical skills. It takes a lot of folks doing their part to plan, get the stuff to the site, setup, participate, dismantle and return the stuff to make a successful FD. Please don't wait to be asked, go ahead and let one of the officers know you want to help.

GOTA Station - Again this year we will have a Get on the Air station for any Ham who is generally inactive on the HF bands, for all Technicians, and for non-Hams. At Ty's (K5WY) suggestions, this year the GOTA station will have a good 40-meter dipole antenna. This should put it on a relatively non-crowded band and we are expecting a lot of fun contacts for the GOTA operators. Some of the mic time slots are being prescheduled so you can be sure to have a reserved time – email nm5rc@msn.com to reserve your slots.

NM QSO Party - See separate article. Want to thank all those who helped keep KC5OUR on the air for the full 12-hour Party time.

Longest operation, most participants and most QSOs we have ever had. Thank You! 73 until next month,

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA President*

MINUTES OF VCARA APRIL 24, 2018 MEETING

Board of Directors minutes, 24 April 2018: Meeting was called to order at 1815 Local time. K5WY, W5CSG, NM5RC, NM5CL, KG5OCW and KB5UBW were present.

- Finance report: Beginning balance \$5659, ending balance \$5370. Debits: Corporate filing, supplies, utilities, stamps
- Repeater status: VC (Casey Davis) has informed us that the old pump house at the Aragon pump station is scheduled for removal within 10 days. They built a new building near the tank, and we will have to move our repeater to the new building. We will have a work party this weekend to run new coax, etc., to move the repeater.
- Field day: Discussion about GOTA station & SSB main station scheduling. Board votes to spend \$25 to promote FD via FB.



At last NM QSO Party



- NMQSOP: We mad in excess of 400 contacts (more than ever!),

Events Calendar

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

Wed, May 16, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
 See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, May 17, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
 Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Mar 19, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
 Contact is Ty, K5WY.

Tues, Mar 22, 2017, 7pm
VCARA Monthly Meeting
 Members and guests invited.

Wed, May 23, 2017, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, May 23, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
 See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, May 24, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
 Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Mar 26, 2017, 9am-12
ARES Mtg @ Clubhouse
 Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

operated for the full 12 hours, several 'new to HF' operators got a chance to participate, and a good time was had by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 1847 local time.

VCARA membership meeting of 24 April 2018: Meeting was called to order at 1900 local time, followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Introductions were done.

Old business: None

New Business:

- Finance report: Balance \$5370, reports, receipts, etc., on file.
- NMQSOP: 400+ contacts made, several new-to-HF operators got on the air, KC5OUR operated for the full 12 hours.
- Field Day: A few volunteers are still needed to help load out Friday evening. Setup will commence at the BF Community Center at 0800L. VCARA will have an improved GOTA station this year to give some new operators a chance at a hour or so on HF for FD this year.
- We will have a number of other activities for non-hams so invite your friends, spouse, or kids.
- Next meeting, May, will be a discussion of final plans for FD and election of officers for 2018 / 2019.
- HHOTA, Harvey Houses on the Air, 8 September 2018. VCARA will be on the air for eight hours or so.
- Repeater: The pump house at Aragon Station will be demolished next week. We will need to move our repeater this weekend. The county has provided a conduit from the new pump house to the top of the tower for us, and we will need to run new coax, etc., this

weekend. Details to follow from W5CSG.

- DCHF. The Duke City Ham Fest and Rocky Mountain Division Convention will be held on 21-23 September 2018 at the Isleta Casino. VCARA will have a table again this year. Many activities. More information at www.dukecityhamfest.org.

Presentations:

- Quentin, owner of KVNМ, 101.1 MHz FM, briefly talked about his new low power FM station.
- Earl, KB5UEW, showed us his 3-D printed Morse paddle.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:36 local time. Respectfully submitted,
Ty Till K5WY
 VCARA Secretary

NM QSO PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

Nine club members took turns at the mic during the KC5OUR's 2018 NM QSO Party operation. We were on the air for the full 12-hours of the Party and made 448 contacts. Charlie (NM5CL) set the rig on 14.252 MHz on the 20 meter band and keyed up with 'CQ New Mexico QSO Party at 8 AM and the contacts rolled in for the next 11-hours and 45 minutes. Yes the band died at 7:45 PM, just 15 minutes before the Party ended.

Our average rate was almost 40 contacts per hour which is great when you consider

- 1) for several operators was their first time at the mic,

- 2) some operated with a relaxed approach and visited a bit with each contact, and
- 3) the concurrent computer logging took some practice by each operator before it became routine.

The significance of logging 448 contacts during the Party is evident when compared to our 2017 Harvey House operation when we struggled with poor propagation to make about 40 contacts in 8-hours. Also, during our 2017 Field Day operation, although a bunch of folks sat at the GOTA station, less than 20 contacts were logged. This year's NM QSO Party was a lot of fun and the first year we have had the mic active for the full 12-hours.

Hoping you all are getting ready for some mic time during Field Day (June 23-24) and our Harvey House on the Air on September 14. The 2018 NM QSO Party operators were: Charlie NM5CL, John K8JWS, Rob K5PPN, Earl KB5UEW, Steve KD5PSF, Russ KD5UJR, Greg KG5OCW, Ted KC0GUD and Ralph NM5RC. Several other club members and area Hams dropped by to say 'Hi' and lend their moral support.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*

LITZ

What is LiTZ? LiTZ is a simple way to indicate to others on an amateur VHF/UHF FM radio channel that you have an immediate need to communicate with someone, anyone, regarding a priority situation or condition.

LiTZ stands for LONG TONE ZERO. (The "i" is added for ease in pronunciation.) LiTZ is a DTMF (touch tone) based all-call alerting system. The LiTZ signal consists of transmitting a DTMF (touch tone) ZERO (Ø) for at least three seconds. After sending the LiTZ signal the operator announces by voice the kind of assistance needed.

For example:
(5-seconds-DTMF-zero) "This is KA7BCD. I'm on Interstate 5 between mile post 154 and 155. There is a three car accident in the southbound lane. Traffic has been completely blocked. It looks like paramedics will be needed for victims. Please respond if you can contact authorities for help. This is KA7BCD."

If your situation does not involve safety of life or property, try giving a voice call before using LiTZ. Use LiTZ only when your voice calls go unanswered or the people who respond cannot help you.

LiTZ Use Guidelines:
Car breakdown, report drunk driver, safety of life or property, lost or injured in remote area, etc. Do not use LiTZ to call CQ or to try to contact a buddy.
For more information on LiTZ and LiTZ decoders refer to QST (Oct 92, pg 82; Nov 92, pgs 108-110; Dec 95, pgs 25-31)

This article was courtesy of ARRL Repeater Directory.

*Charlie, NM5CL
VCARA Past-President*



Calendar – continued

**Wed, May 30, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, May 31, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Jun 2, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public**
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

**Wed, Jun 6, 2017, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

**Wed, Jun 6, 2017, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**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.

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

May 16 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
May 23 - Russ, KD5UJR
May 30 - Ralph, NM5RC
May 30 - Charlie, NM5CL:
70cm Net

Jun 06 - Charlie, NM5CL
Jun 13 - Greg, KG5OCW
Jun 20 - 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

US POSTAGE
Required

