

Dots ~N~ Dashes

July 2018
issue

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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I would like to thank everyone that supported me as president at the election. I feel it an honor to be elected and hope to get many suggestions and support from the club members. I would also like to thank Ralph Clark NM5RC for his support and fine example.

Field day looked to have been a great success. We had 69 participants and even made the front page of the local paper. (See following *Field Day* article for more info.)

I was able to operate with some help for the first time at the **2018 QSO party**. This is the first time I did anything like this and I enjoyed it greatly. Don't be afraid to do something new in amateur radio. You might be surprised at how much fun and learning you can have.

It has been suggested in the June issue, 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. I hope to be involved in these to increase my knowledge and experience. Stay tuned so you can too.

I am looking forward to the Harvey Houses in September for the annual national **Harvey**



Houses on the Air event. Read about this and other events coming up later this year.

*Earl Cox, KB5UEW
VCARA President*

FIELD DAY TIDBITS

Five rigs put on the air! Five? Weren't we giving out an exchange of '2A New Mexico'? And, doesn't the '2A' mean we only had two stations on the air? Yes, '2A' indicates we are a club station with two HF rigs on the air for which used the club's second call sign – K5OUR. But, the rules allow us to have VHF/UHF and GOTA HF stations on the air without counting against our '2'. So, we were able to count the contacts made by the 6-meter station (50 MHz which is considered VHF). Similarly, our 2-meter station (146 MHz = VHF) didn't count against our '2' and had we made any simplex contacts on it they could have been added to our log. Maybe we should try this next year? The 2-meter station was

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used to receive a bunch of NTS (National Traffic System) messages for which we got some bonus points. The contacts from our GOTA (Get on the Air) station for less experienced folks used club call sign KC5OUR could not be added directly to our Field Day log, but were submitted and counted towards our total report to ARRL.

How many contacts did we make? Our main log had 270 contacts of which 180 were from the CW station and 6 from the 6-meter rig. Part of the Field Day exchange is the ARRL Section/Canadian Province of which there were a total of 90. We contacted 76 of these. If you haven't looked at the 'Section' listing, you may wonder where the 90 comes from since there are only 50 states. Well, some of the more populous states have several sections, for example North TX, South TX, East PA, West PA and a bunch in California. Kaden K5KGC who was totally new to CW came by and with a little tutoring from Mary Ann NS7X took over the CW paddles into the early morning hours. Plans are already underway to improve the HF voice rig and antenna for next year so get ready to see those contacts SOAR NEXT YEAR.



Inquiring minds are wondering how many 6-meter contacts were made - **DRUM ROLL PLEASE** - 6. As they say about the 6-meter band, "When it is open it is very - very good, but when it is bad, it is terrible." Our Field Day record for this station (which is usually only sporadically attended) is about 150, but this year the band just did not support the propagation of radio waves.

The GOTA station which did better than it, has for five or six years - 76 contacts and 25 Sections. The better performance was a result of 1) a good 40-meter dipole thanks to Ty K5WY's guidance, and 2) several youth GOTA operators who stepped up to the mic.

Other activities: Some of this year's supplemental activities included lunch, making greeting cards for the troops, fox (hidden transmitter) hunting, scavenger hunt and Morse Code name bracelets. Thanks to John KD5MHO's cooking, the hamburgers and hotdogs were again great. About 15 folks made bracelets. Over 40 original greeting cards were sent on to our troops. And, did you see the great picture of the young fox hunters on the front page of the Valencia County Bulletin?

Bonus points: ARRL awards Field Day participants bonus points for a variety of Field Day (FD) activities. This year we got 1,410 Bonus Points for: 100% emergency power, media publicity, public location, public

information table, NTS message to ARRL SM, copying W1AW FD message, handling formal NTS messages, natural power QSOs, youth participation, GOTA bonus, entry submitted by web, educational activity, social media and safety officer.

Events Calendar

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

Sat, July 14, 2017, 9am-12
VE Testing @ Clubhouse
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.

Wed, July 18, 2017, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

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

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

Sat, July 21, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ty, K5WY.

Tues, July 24, 2017, 7pm
VCARA Mtg @ Clubhouse
Members and guests welcome.

Special THANKS to Charlie NM5CL! There is a substantial amount of behind the scenes work involved in planning, assembling stuff, getting stuff to FD, returning the FD stuff, and preparing our ARRL submittal.

Charlie needs to be acknowledged and thanked for being the moving force behind these efforts for quite a few years. Next year, we will need several volunteers to take some of this work on since it is just becoming too much for a seasoned citizen.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Past-President*

Oh, the antenna is reported to be missing one piece. Suggest folks interested folks spread out and inventory the antenna parts before making a decision about this antenna. MFJ is good about being able to supply parts for their antennas and it's possible the missing part could easily be fabricated from locally available standard metal stock.

Interested in this antenna? Suggest checking it out on the internet then coming by the club some Saturday morning (or contact one of the officers for access) to look at it. The club would like to get this great antenna into some member's hands and will consider great deal offers.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*

Calendar – continued

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

**Thu, July 26, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, July 28, 2017, 9am-12
ARES Mtg @Clubhouse**
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

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

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

**Thu, Aug 2, 2017, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Aug 4, 2017, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public**
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

**GREAT 2 TO 80 METER
VERTICAL ANTENNA
AVAILABLE**

A MFJ-1798 vertical antenna which is good on all bands from 2 to 80 meters has been donated to the club. It is in the original shipping box and has the manual with it. This would be a great antenna for someone who has limited space or does not want to erect towers or who does not a bunch of big well-spaced trees.

As would be expected for an antenna that has such MULTI band capability, the antenna has quite a few parts and requires careful assembly. Tuning of the antenna for the various bands would be facilitated with an antenna analyzer (which the club has and can be borrowed by members).

FIELD DAY RAFFLES

Phase One of the VCARA 146.700 The raffle for the Baofeng UV-5R HT (Blue Tickets) was won by Ashton Zuni, W5KAZ.

The Door Prize (White Tickets) was won by Susan Cox, (Earl Cox KB5UEW's spouse). Choice between a Canned Ham or a Flower

Children VW Bus - she chose the bus to give to a grandchild. 73,

*Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL
VCARA
Treasurer*





FIELD DAY PICTURES





Fox Hunt



CLUB HAS FOX HUNTING EQUIPMENT

After seeing the kids set out to find the Field Day fox (i.e., hidden transmitter), and especially after seeing the nice photo of our new President, Earl KB5UEW, leading a bunch of fox hunters which was on the front page of the Valencia County Bulletin, you probably said to yourself: "I'd like to try that" or "I should do that for my kids/grandkids" or "I should do that for our youth group" etc., etc. Well, do it!

The fox used for FD has been donated to the club along with the tape measure directional antenna with a fancy attenuator. Members can check out this stuff and go find the fox. All you need to bring is your HT (an old single band is great) with any adaptors needed to get from your HT antenna connection to the antenna's BNC connection. Don't know the fine points of fox hunting – the fox has some instructions and hints, a simple web search will turn up lots of info, and if you get Ralph NM5RC started on the subject you soon have to stuff a donut in his mouth so you can escape.

**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

Jul 18 - Charlie, NM5CL
Jul 25 - Greg, KG5OCW
Jul 25 - Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)
Aug 01 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Aug 08 - Russ, KD5UJR
Aug 15 - Ralph, NM5RC
Aug 22 - Charlie, NM5CL

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

**VCARA Club
Contacts**

Officers

President: Earl Cox, KB5UEW
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Vice President: Greg Mershon,
KG5OCW
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Treasurer: Charlie Lyon,
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Secretary: Ty Till, K5WY,
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Past President: Ralph Clark,
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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

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Webmaster: Charlie Lyon,
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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

Happy July Birthdays:

CHARLIE NM5CL
ANDY KF5EMS
ANDREW NM5AE
GEORGE DODSON K5DTG
CLAUDIA GALE
CALLIE CLARK

