

Dots ~N~ Dashes

September 2018
issue

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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

My column will be short this time as my wife had operations on both of her knees. I hope to have a presentation on "Go Boxes" this coming meeting. If you have one please bring it to share with all of us.

Due to my limited time, I have not been able to contact all of the people interested in building things. I will keep you posted by E-Mail or other means.

Just a reminder of the events VCARA are supporting:

- ✓ *Harvey Houses on the Air (HHOTA)* was held on September 8th. Thanks to all who volunteered.
- ✓ *37th Annual ARRL & TAPR Digital Communications Conference*, hosted by Rocky Mountain Ham Radio on September 14-16 at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport.
- ✓ *Duke City Hamfest (DCHF)* on September 21-23 at the Isleta Resort and Casino.
- ✓ *2018 ARRL New Mexico State Convention & Socorro Hamfest* on October 20th.



KOFFEE KLATCHES ARE FUN

Every other Wednesday at Denny's in Los Lunas at 1:30 PM there is a Koffee Klatch. In addition to good conversation those attending are sometimes treated to interesting sights such as seen by the eight folks at the September 12th gathering

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. 73s,

*Earl Cox, KB5UEW
VCARA President*

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JULY 24, 2018

VCARA Board of Director's meeting of 28th August 2018:

Meeting was called to order at 1815 Local time. Officers: K5WY, NM5CL, W5CSG, KB5UEW, KG5OCW and NM5RC were present

- **Treasurer's report:** Debits total \$585 and income \$323, resulting with a balance of \$5173,
- **Radio discussions:** We have several HF and V/UHF radios for sale. Once sold, we will



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purchase a new and better HF transceiver for the club.

- **HHOTA:** September 8th. Still a few slots to fill, need mentors too.
- **DCHF:** Need to fill six (of the eight) slots at the club table.
- **Kit builder's:** Earl will poll the membership tonight about interest in kit building.
- Idea for next presentation: Gokits.
- W5CSG reports ARRL is revamping their **ARES** requirements.

Meeting was adjourned at 1846 Local time.

VCARA Membership meeting of 28th August 2018:

Meeting was called to order at 1904 Local time. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and introductions took place.

- The club has a few radios for sale. Once sold we will purchase a new HF rig for the club.
- NM5AE discussed Harvey Houses on the Air. Andrew would like a few more volunteers to man the mic and to coach new operators for

this special event on 8 September.

- **Treasurer's report:** Debits total \$585, income \$323, resulting in a balance of \$5173,
- **NMQSOP:** VCARA placed fourth in the club category in the 2018 NMQSOP, just behind Mesilla Valley.
- **Kit Building:** Earl, KB5UEW, would like to know if anyone in the cub would like to start a kit building group. For more info contact Earl.
- **DCHF:** NM5RC is requesting members to sit at the club table at the DCHF for one hour each.
- John Eldridge mentioned the upcoming meeting of the **Tucson Amateur Radio Packet Association** meeting the week before the DCHF.
- **Tour of the Rio Grande Valley bike race:** NM5CL thinks we have the slots covered, but more participants are welcome.

Meeting was adjourns at 1922 Local time. Respectfully submitted,

*Ty Till, K5WY
VCARA Secretary*

HHOTA REPORT

On Saturday, September 8, our club joined several other Amateur Radio stations



HARVEY HOUSE ON THE AIR – SPECIAL EVENT

Events Calendar

Sat, Sept 15, 2018, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ty, K5WY.

Wed, Sept 19, 2018, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Sept 20, 2018, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Fri-Sun, Sept 21-23, 2018
DUKE CITY HAMFEST
Isleta Resort and Casino. See <https://www.dukecityhamfest.org/schedule>.

Tues, Sept 25, 2018, 7pm
VCARA Mtg @ Clubhouse
Members and guests welcome.

Wed, Sep 26, 2018, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Sept 26, 2018, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Sept 27, 2018, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

across the West for the annual Harvey Houses on the Air.

The Belen Harvey House Museum graciously hosted KC5OUR's special event station to celebrate the role Fred

Harvey's hotels and restaurants, and their beautiful cultured Harvey Girls, had on the civilization of the West.

Those that participated and dropped by had a good time and most took advantage of the opportunity to explore the Museum. If you haven't yet toured this wonderful Museum, it should definitely be on your "I'm Really Going to Do this List".

The question, 'How many HHOTA contacts did we make this year?' is undoubtedly racing through the minds of our die hard operators. Well, not many. In fact, very few. Propagation was terrible and the bands were very noisy. The usual throughout the day was to tune clear across the voice portion of the 20M and only hear two or three stations and they were so far down in the noise that they could not be understood.

BUT, JUST WAIT UNTIL HHOTA 2019! Perhaps it is fitting we were located next to the Belen Police Department prisoner bench with its rings to which handcuffs could be attached - the contacts were so few and far between it almost became necessary to chain operators down to keep them at the microphone.

Special kudos to (in alphabetical order) K8JWS, KB9NBS, KC5MTI, KF5TBJ, KG5GOL, KG5WVC, NM5AE, NM5CL, NM5RC, N5PR, W8JME, N9YEX, W5CGS, and W8JME for helping with the effort.

Special shout out should go to Andrew, NM5AE, who is the National HHOTA Coordinator and coordinates our HHOTA station. Remember, the propagation of radio waves is going to be at least quite adequate for HHOTA on September 14, 2019, so put it on your calendar and plan on being part of the fun.

Harvey Houses Trivia Questions:

Can you name to two club members who are direct decedents of Harvey Girls?

How many Harvey Houses were there in New Mexico and where were they? Hint, there were more than a dozen.

Ralph Clark, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator

Calendar – continued

Sat, Sept 29, 2018, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

Wed, Oct 3, 2018, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 4, 2018, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 6, 2018, 9am-12
Clubhouse open to public
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

Wed, Oct 10, 2018, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Oct 10, 2018, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 11, 2018, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 13, 2018, 9am-12
VE Testing @ Clubhouse
Contact is Chris, W5CSG.



**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

Sep 19 – Ralph, NM5RC
Sep 26 – Charlie, NM5CL
Sep 26 – Charlie, NM5CL
(70 cm Net)
Oct 03 – Greg, KG5OCW
Oct 10 – Elvira, KD5UJQ
Oct 17, Russ, KD5UJR
Oct 24, Ralph, NM5RC
Oct 31, Charlie, NM5CL

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

**VCARA Club
Contacts**

Officers

President: Earl Cox, KB5UEW
earl@electronicjunkbox.com
Vice President: Greg Mershon,
KG5OCW
gregmershon2@msn.com

Treasurer: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net
Secretary: Ty Till, K5WY,
ty.ae5vr@gmail.com

Past President: Ralph Clark,
NM5RC, nm5rc@msn.com
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

Website: www.kc5our.com
Webmaster: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net
www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA

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
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US POSTAGE
Required

**September
Birthday wishes:**

Dave McALPHINE
WD8LVZ