



# Dots ~N~ Dashes

December 2018  
issue

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

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12/1/18
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## VCARA ANTENNA PARTY, DEC 01, 2018

The following club members participated in the antenna party on the roof of the clubhouse on Saturday, December 1. The old Gap Titan antenna was removed and was replaced with a 5BTV antenna.



Andrew	NM5AE
Charlie	NM5CL
Chris	W5CSG
Chris	KG5WVC
Dave	WD5LVZ
Earl	KB5UEW
Gene	KI5BZI
Greg	KG5OCW
John	K8JWS
Mark	N9YEX
Ralph	NM5RC
Steve	AC8PC
Steve	KD5PSF
Ted	KCØGUD
Ty	K5WY

The 5BTV went up without incident and VSWR measured 1.6-1 or less on all five bands when checked with an MFJ-269 analyzer.

Thank you to all who came out and helped, and thank you to NM5RC for bringing donuts.

*Charlie, NM5CL  
VCARA Treasurer*

## YOUR VERY OWN PERSONAL REPEATER

Have you glanced at a repeater directory, seen several VHF (2-Meter) repeaters scattered across New Mexico with the call sign NM5EM and wondered what the heck are these? Well, they can usually be used as your very own personal repeaters for you and your close buddies.

A few years back, somebody convinced the New Mexico State Legislature to appropriate a bunch of dollars to fund Amateur Radio VHF Repeaters across the state for use during emergencies.

These, like nearly all repeaters in New Mexico, are 'open' which means they can be used by any Ham. Most of these 18 non-linked, high-elevation repeaters are co-located or have essentially the same coverage as other open

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repeaters, so for the most part they are superfluous and receive little use. But, they can be quite useful to a family or group who want their very own repeater without a bunch of folks monitoring their transmissions.

A couple of examples where you might find these useful are:

- When you are on your big ole ranch, you could use one of these to check-in or coordinate with your family, have the kids let you know the school bus is running late, etc... Hey, you could even use it to exchange sweet nothings with the cutie on the next ranch (so we are politically correct, 'cutie' is used here to refer to either sex). Just remember Amateur Radio's restriction of not conducting commercial business on Amateur frequencies.
- You are with a group hunting New Mexico's high-county elusive elk. All the licensed Hams in the party could communicate and coordinate their activities – "Hey, since you are back at camp, get a



2nd Prize Yaesu HT - John K8JWS

roaring fire going and put the steaks on as we are just about to the Jeep and will be back to camp in 45 minutes," or "Hey, there's a big herd of elk with three massive bulls in the west meadow – I'll wait for you to get here so we can both get one." Yeah sure, 'I'll wait!"

You can find the list of the NM5EM repeaters by going to [www.repeaterbook.com](http://www.repeaterbook.com) and searching for 'NM5EM' repeaters. Four cautions when planning on using these repeaters:

1. Have a backup plan since a few of the 18 repeaters are usually offline - a November 2018 check found four were out of service.
2. When you arrive, have every Ham check every radio to be sure they have the correct frequency, offset and tone, and each of them can actually reach the repeater.
3. These repeaters are lightly used, so if you have an emergency you might not be able to use them to get help.
4. And remember emergencies always have



3rd Prize Baofeng HT - Mark N9YEX

## Events Calendar

**Sat, Dec 15, 2018, 8-10am**  
**WAFFLE Breakfast Kickoff**  
Contact is Ty, K5WY.  
**Builder's Club to follow.**

**Sat, Dec 15, 2018, 8am ---**  
**Mon, Dec 25, 2018, 4:59pm**  
**SPECIAL EVENT STATION**  
**– Christmas in Bethlehem**  
Clubhouse open to public.

**Wed, Dec 19, 2018, 1:30pm**  
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's**  
**Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

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

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

**Sat, Dec 22, 2018, 9am-12**  
**ARES Mtg @ Clubhouse**  
Contact is Charlie, NM5CL.

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

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

**Sat, Dec 29, 2018, 9am-12**  
**Clubhouse open to public**  
Contact is Ralph, NM5RC.

priority when it comes to the use of a repeater.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC  
Special Events Coordinator*

## ANOTHER GREAT CHRISTMAS PARTY

### CALENDAR – continued

**Wed, Jan 2, 2019, 1:30pm**  
*Koffee Klatch at Denny's Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM*

**Wed, Jan 2, 2019 8pm**  
*VCARA Net 146.700 mhz*  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Jan 3, 2019, 7:30pm**  
*Tri-County Net 146.96mhz*  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Jan 5, 2019, 9am-12**  
*Clubhouse open to public*  
Contact is TBA.

**Wed, Jan 9, 2019, 8pm**  
*VCARA Net 146.700 mhz*  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Jan 10, 2019, 7:30pm**  
*Tri-County Net 146.96mhz*  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Jan 12, 2019, 9am-12**  
*VE Testing @ Clubhouse*  
Contact is TBA.

The 50 attendees (members, spouses, family and friends) attending the Club's 2018 Christmas Party on December 8th appeared to have an enjoyable evening of socializing, sharing, winning door and raffle prizes, and eating some good food. Hope the photos accompanying this article reflect the many positive comments made about the event.

The winners of the raffle for the radios were: 3rd Prize Baofeng HT - Mark N9YEX, 2nd Prize Yaesu HT - John K8JWS and 1st Prize Icom ID-880H Mobile - Ty K5WY. Raffle tickets were sold at the club's regular meetings during the year with the proceeds used to purchase the radios. Both the first and second prize rigs have digital capabilities and all three rigs operate on both VHF and UHF bands.

Each of the attendees received a ticket for the door prizes. Again this year there were enough door prizes so each

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person received one and most received a second prize.

By the time you read this, your fresh 2019 calendar will be hanging on the wall. Right now would be a good time to note our 2019 Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 14, 2019. If you have any suggestions for that event or want to volunteer to plan it, find a location for it, etc., please let our President (Earl KB5UEW) know.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC  
Special Events Coordinator*



**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

Dec 19 - Elvira, KD5UJQ  
Dec 26 - Russ, KD5UJR  
Dec 26 - Charlie, NM5CL  
(70 cm Net)  
Jan 02 - Ralph, NM5RC  
Jan 09 - Charlie, NM5CL  
Jan 16 - Greg, KG5OCW  
Jan 23 - Elvira, KD5UJQ

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

**VCARA Club  
Contacts**

*Officers*

**President:** Earl Cox, KB5UEW  
[earl@electronicjunkbox.com](mailto:earl@electronicjunkbox.com)  
**Vice President:** Greg Mershon,  
KG5OCW  
[gregmershon2@msn.com](mailto:gregmershon2@msn.com)

**Treasurer:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)  
**Secretary:** Ty Till, K5WY,  
[ty.ae5vr@gmail.com](mailto:ty.ae5vr@gmail.com)

**Past President:** Ralph Clark,  
NM5RC, [nm5rc@msn.com](mailto:nm5rc@msn.com)  
**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

**Website:** [www.kc5our.com](http://www.kc5our.com)  
**Webmaster:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)  
[www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA](http://www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA)

**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  
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*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*

*Reminder: Waffle breakfast is  
12/15/2018 at 8-10am*

**December  
Birthday:**  
  
GEORGE CUSACK  
K6GTC

