

Dots ~N~ Dashes

March 2019
issue

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

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March Birthday wishes:

CHRIS W5CSG
PAUL N5PR
EMIL KE5GCH
KEVIN K5ZOO
TY K5WY
STEVE AC8PC
EMMALINE KF5TBJ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since this is the only time the club has packed up everything, whatever time it took would be a 'record'. After getting notice on Friday (2/15) that our lease was cancelled and the shack had to be immediately vacated, club members sprang into action. The next day (Saturday) some members met to plan and schedule. Since Monday (2/18) was a holiday, it was decided that would be a good time to start the sorting and packing - it was not expected that and more would be completed in one morning.

Thirteen folks bringing boxes and a 'can do' attitude showed up at 9 AM on Monday. By 11:30 we were essentially done and waiting for Ginger KC5MTI to arrive with the pizza. Everything was carefully sorted, boxed, labeled and staged for being packed into the conex (i.e., large metal seagoing shipping container) which was scheduled to arrive later in the week (and be packed on Saturday, 2/23). The staging was planned so the stuff we would need first (for example, for Field Day) will end up in the front of the conex. While everyone cheerfully chipped in, KB5UEW, NM5CL and NM5AE (Earl, Charlie and Andrew) need to receive special mention as



each took charge of one of the rooms (radio, storage and project) and efficiently directed the efforts. Other club members who participated were Cindi KL7FQR, Ty K5WY, Rob K5PPN, Steve KD5PSF, Steve AC8PC, Ralph NM5RC, Al KI5CUX and Chris W5CSG.

While waiting for pizza, Ty K5WY championed getting up the tower and taking down the roof top antennas while we were there and the weather was OK. Good thing we listened to that counsel, because the antenna dismantling was just completed when high winds arrived and winds continued with snow for the next few days. The antenna work went quick after Steve KD5PSF and Rob K5PPN made a fast trip to Los Lunas to retrieve the big extension ladder required for the effort.

Usually action photos accompany club activity reports. Unfortunately (or fortunately)

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everyone was working feverously and no one took a break to snap a few action shots. So this “Hey, We’ve Got It Done” and a few photos of bare rooms and packed boxes is all we have.

Thanks to everyone who helped. Look further down the newsletter for a report about the packing of the conex and the dismantling of the beam antenna and tower.

*Ralph, NM5RC
VCARA Past President*



SATURDAY AT THE CLUBHOUSE

“Saturday at the Clubhouse” has become a popular event for many club members, and we would like to continue these informal Saturday morning get-togethers, even though we don’t have a permanent meeting place.

So, the question is, where do we meet, and at what time? Our regular 0900 starting time seems to be reasonable, and if we meet at a restaurant or fast food place, participants could go just for coffee or enjoy a breakfast.

As a first time location, Ralph NM5RC proposed the McDonald’s on Main Street in Los Lunas, which seems to be a central location for most members.

Poll questions: (Please reply kc5our@arrl.net) Are you interested in attending? Do you prefer a different establishment?

To kick off our first “Saturday Koffee” we’ll meet at the **Los Lunas McDonald’s 0900-1000 on Saturday, March 02**. Issues for discussion: **March meeting location; permanent home for the club; club activities such as NMQSOP, VE testing, etc.** 73,

*Charlie, NM5CL
VCARA Treasurer*

Events Calendar

**Wed, Mar 20, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Mar 21, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Mar 23, 2019, 9am
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**



**Tues, Mar 26, 2019 7pm
VCARA Monthly Meeting**
Location TBA.

**Wed, Mar 27, 2019, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny’s
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

**Wed, Mar 27, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Mar 28, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Mar 30, 2019, 9am
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**

**Wed, Apr 3, 2019, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

NEW MEXICO 2019 QSO PARTY UPDATE

Since we are currently without a Club Shack, the planned operation of KC5OUR on Saturday, April 13, 2019, for the NM QSO Party has been cancelled. Thank you to those who had already signed up for mic and mentor slots and to those who were planning to sign up at our February meeting.

With our radios in storage, we are not expecting to undertake a club field operation for the Party but if someone wants to plan such an operation of behalf of the club using their own equipment, please let President Earl KB5UEW know and coordinate the use of KC5OUR.

So, how about planning your own NM QSO Party effort from your home station, from a mobile rig or mount a mini-expedition? Remember there is a club participation, so when you submit your entry using your own call sign, be sure to indicate you are a member of the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association (VCARA).

NM QSO Party info can be found at: <http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/> for more info.

*Ralph, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*



members to finish the packing, dismantling, hauling all the stuff down the stairs and packing it into the Conex. Most of that was completed on Saturday.

GATHERING OUR 'STUFF' IS A MANY MEMBER EFFORT

Nearly all the club's 'stuff' was packed and the roof top vertical antenna was taken down on President's Day (Monday, February 18) - see separate article. The Conex (i.e., large metal overseas shipping container) was delivered a few days later so the hard work of loading the Conex and taking down the big antenna and its tower could be undertaken on the weekend of February 23-24. WOW, what a great turnout of

Also starting Saturday and continuing Sunday, the tower mounted tri-band Yagi (i.e., beam) antenna and antenna rotor were taken down, the coaxial and rotor control cables removed, and the tower and its guy wires were dismantled. All of this stuff was also stored in the Conex. Two



CALENDAR – Continued

Thu, Apr 4, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Apr 6, 2019, 9am
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas

Wed, Apr 10, 2019, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Apr 10, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Apr 11, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

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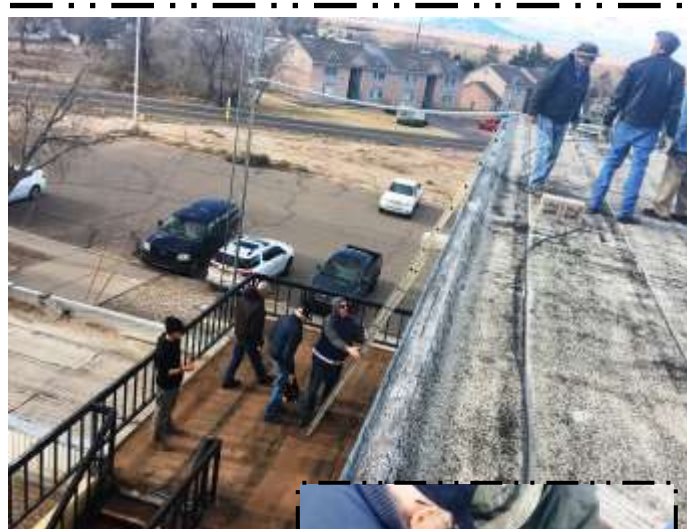
special shout-outs should go to Kevin K5ZOO and Rob K5PPN for climbing the tower, and to the several safety experienced members who helped plan/supervise/direct/enforce strict safety protocols so this work was completed without (most importantly) any injuries and also without any broken stuff.

Not packed into the Conex at this point were the chairs and table needed for our regular February club meeting on Tuesday, February 26. Several members returned to the club on Wednesday morning (February 27) to carry the remaining chairs, table and stuff down and pack it into the Conex.

This was a massive effort and lots of members and friends showed up to make it a success. At the risk of missing someone, the folks who helped with this effort were: Andrew Foster, Ashton W5KAZ, Charlie NM5CL, Chris W5CSG, Chris KG5WVC, Christine

W5CLG, Earl
KB5UEW, Gene
KI5BZI, Gill N2GG,
Greg KG5OCW,
Jens KG5HNR,
John K8JWS,
John KD5MHO,
Kevin K5ZOO, M.
Powell, Mark N9YEX, Ralph NM5RC, Rob K5PPN, Russ KD5UJR, Steve KD5PSF, Steve AC8PC, Ty K5WY, Van KJ7CWD. If anyone helped but did not get on this list, please know your help was appreciated and blame Ralph NM5RC for the omission and try to forgive him for his very limited secretarial skills and his failing memory.

*Ralph, NM5RC
VCARA Past
President*



HELP RECOVER STOLEN PROPERTY

An ICOM uhf repeater and duplexer was stolen from the Village of Corrales this morning (2/20/19). We are working on serial numbers, please ask folks to keep an eye out for these. We suspect the thieves don't have a real idea of what they stole, but we have been known to be wrong.

Michael A. Scales
NM APCO Local Frequency Advisor
Scalesm@apcointl.org

Check our website for New Clubhouse Location Information:
WWW.KC5OUR.COM

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

Mar 20 - Russ, KD5UJR
Mar 27 - Ralph, NM5RC
Mar 27 - Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)
Apr 03 - Charlie, NM5CL
Apr 10 - Greg, KG5OCW
Apr 17 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Apr 24 - John, K8JWS

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.

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