



Dots ~N~ Dashes

July 2019
issue

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

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Happy July Birthdays to:

**CHARLIE, NM5CL
ANDY, KF5EMS
ANDREW, NM5AE
GENE FISH, KI5BZI
GEORGE DODSON, K5DTG
CLAUDIA GALE
CALLIE CLARK**

RADIO CLUB COUNTY WIDE FLASHING PARTY - HELP NEEDED

On one of the next few Saturdays the Club members will be flashing across the County. And NO, this does not mean will be wearing nothing but raincoats and standing on street corners to give those who pass by a view of something they really do not want to see.

For several years the plan for our repeaters is to link them together so when you talk on one you would talk on all. The linking will also facilitate the remote control of the repeaters. The linking has been on hold until our 145.430 MHz Meadow Link repeater is brought on line. Now that repeater is fast approaching, we need to get the final linking planning under way. The linking will be by microwaves between the three repeaters and KC5OUR's new Shack in Los Lunas.

Since microwaves are a line-of-sight frequency, we need to know which repeaters can 'see' which repeaters and which repeaters can 'see' the Shack. While it would be nice if all four sites could each 'see' the other three sites, it is probable that some sites may have to be relayed thru other sites. Thus, we are going to have a Flashing Party.



The preliminary Flashing Party plan is to have at least three club members at each of the four sites. At each site the members would have a mirror, binoculars (spotting scope would be nice), compass and HTs. A ladder may be needed at some sites. The mirrors would be used reflect the sun between sites, i.e., 'flash' between sites to verify clear lines-of-sight.

Yes, some careful pre-Party planning is needed to: 1) What is the compass (magnetic and true) heading between sites so we know where to point the mirror's flash and in which direction to be looking for the flash, and 2) How do you point the mirrors (check out <https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iba-1&h simp=yhs-1&hspart=iba&p=how +to+use+signaling+mirror#id=2 &vid=53381136df98e286a435c7 7ae1b56029&action=click>), although considering the distance we will be signaling we may want to use larger mirrors).

Scheduling info to follow -
PLAN ON JOINING THE PARTY!

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*



- New Mexico club affiliations reported in logs: 14
- New Mexico counties activated: 30 of 33 (not activated: Catron, Colfax, Hidalgo)
- US states logged: 49 of 50
- Canadian provinces logged: 7 of 13
- Countries/DXCC entities logged: 11

NM QSO PARTY 2019

Greetings --

The 2019 New Mexico QSO Party, which took place last April, was another great success. Hams from all over New Mexico, the United States, and the world took to HF and 6 meters for a day of fun and enjoyment. A huge thank you goes to the members and leadership of the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association who sponsored this year's event, as well as to the individuals and clubs who sponsored this year's plaque awards. And, of course, to every person and ham club who participated in the QSO Party.

Complete results, broken down by operating category as well as special awards can be found under the "Results" link at www.newmexicoqsoparty.org Pictures contributed by those who participated this year will be added to the album found by clicking on the "Photos" link.

Congratulations to all! Plaques and participant certificates will be produced and delivered in the coming weeks.

The New Mexico QSO Party returns on the second Saturday of April 2020 -- we hope you and your club will join the fun. 73,

Brian Mileschosky, N5ZGT

Here are some statistics from this year's event:

- Logs submitted: 129
- Total NMQP QSOs logged: 4,392
- Unique New Mexico stations logged: 89
- New Mexico logs submitted: 48



Events Calendar

Wed, July 17, 2019, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, July 17, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, July 18, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, July 20, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at McDonalds, Los Lunas

Tues, July 23, 2019, 7pm
VCARA Mtg @ clubhouse
700 Camelot Blvd SW, LL
Members & guests welcome

Wed, July 24, 2019, 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, July 25, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, July 27, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at McDonalds, Los Lunas

Wed, July 31, 2019, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

GOTA FIELD DAY OPERATORS SHOW EVERYONE HOW IT'S DONE

Background - ARRL's Field Day (FD) Rules generally classify stations by the number of radios they have running at the same time. Thus, when K5OUR (we use our second club call sign as our main FD call sign) responds to other Field Day stations with



'2 Alpha New Mexico' we are telling them we have two HF (High Frequency) stations on the air, operating on emergency power (that's what the A or Alpha Indicates) and are in New Mexico. Wait a minute – didn't we have four radios up and operating? Yep. The Rules say radios operating on Very High Frequencies (VHF) or higher frequencies are not counted. So, we also had a 6-Meter (50 MHz which is in the VHF range) rig up and running while our Class remained 2A rather than 3A. We could have had a 2-Meter (146HZ) and/or a 70-centimeter (444 MHz) radios on simplex (repeaters not allowed) on the air using K5OUR had we wanted to and still we would have been 2A.

OK, but what about the fourth radio? Well . . .

Get On The Air (GOTA) Station - To encourage Field

Day stations to get young, inexperienced and non-licensed folks on the air, a GOTA radio is also allowed without changing the entry class. The GOTA radio has to use a different call sign – our GOTA station used KC5OUR, the club's primary call. The general limitations on GOTA operators are: Must not have an Amateur Radio license, or hold only a Technician license, or must generally be inexperienced on the HF bands, or have upgraded from Technician within the past 12 months. If the person at the mic is unlicensed or their license does not have HF privileges on the



CALENDAR – Continued

Wed, July 31, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
 See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Aug 1, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
 Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Aug 3, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at McDonalds, Los Lunas

Wed, Aug 7, 2019 8pm
VCARA Net 146.700 mhz
 See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Aug 8, 2019, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
 Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Aug 10, 2019, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at McDonalds, Los Lunas
 VE Testing at clubhouse 10am
 For info email kc5our@arrl.net.

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frequency being used, an appropriately licensed control operator must also be at the radio. This year the GOTA mic drew from all of these groups and with several great mentors/coaches/control operators, had a record year. GOTA's Record Breaking 2019 Performance - 176 GOTA contacts! WOW, in previous years our GOTA station has typically made 25 to 50 contacts. The 176 GOTA KC5OUR contacts is even more remarkable when the club's primary FD radios only managed to make 169 K5OUR contacts (42 CW, 110 HF phone and 17 6-M phone).

Be sure to congratulate each of the GOTA operators you see and to thank each of the GOTA coaches/mentors/control operators.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Past President*

Field Day volunteers at work!



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 17 – Charlie, NM5CL

Jul 24 – Greg, KG5OCW

Jul 31 – Elvira, KD5UJQ

Jul 31 – Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)

Aug 07 – John, K8JWS

Aug 14 – Earl, KB5UEW

Aug 21 – Chris, KG5WVC

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: Steve Sanborn,

AC8PC, railguy51@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Charlie Lyon,

NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net

Secretary: Greg Mershon,

KG5OCW

gregmershon2@msn.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
P.O. Box 268
Peralta, New Mexico 87042

US POSTAGE
Required

CONGRATULATIONS

Betty Lyon, N5BEL
passed her General Class
license exam
July 13, 2019