

New Year
Transition

Dots ~N~ Dashes

January 2020
issue

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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings to everyone! It is a new year and I want to get started with the builder's group. I had a little hiccup that was labeled a heart attack but at the time I was already at the hospital so there was no damage.

I plan on meeting right after the monthly meeting on Jan 28th to see what interests everyone has. We will also set up the weekly/ bi-weekly meeting. This will probably be on Saturday.

I would also like to acknowledge our volunteers who on Saturday morning, December 14th, jumped in to assemble the pre cut boards. The photo shows the bare unit before the sorting and re binning of the food related stuff. 73 and thanks to all who helped,

*Earl Cox, KB5UEW
VCARA President*

LEVELING OF NEW STORAGE CONTAINER AT CLUBHOUSE



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, February 8, 2020
starting time 0900

WHAT

- Through the efforts of W5CSG and W5CLG, an 8' X 14' heavy-duty 2000 +/- pound aluminum container with a high security door was donated to the club. It is now sitting just north our KC5OUR Shack. The container has two skid-beams running the 14' length.
- The container needs to be leveled before we can use it effectively.

WORK TO BE DONE

1. Dig out some sand from along the high-side skid so one end of the container can be slid about 10" to its desired position. Move the container with a couple of long crow bars.
- o The loose sand in the area will be easy to dig, but will require kneeling down to work the shovel under the skid which is about 18" back

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

RALPH CLARK, NM5RC
TRUDY CUSACK
PHIL SHAW, KE5LZX
MARIA PINZONE
TYLER DAVIS, W5GNV

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, KB9NBS
JOHN ELDRIDGE, KB5ENN
STEVEN FOSTER, KF5ZTZ
MARY ANN CORNETT, NS7X
JIM GALE, KB5NAT

DELLA CRAWFORD, KE5GCG

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- from the outside wall of the container.
- Jack up and block up the container so it is level. Having the container level will allow us to measure between the bottom of the skids to the top of the composite planks on which the skids will rest so we are sure the 'base' is level.
 - Remove sand as necessary to place five evenly spaced 4"x8"x16" concrete blocks a constant distance below each skid. Place a 2"x6"x12' composite board on the concrete blocks under each skid and verify it is level for the entire length. Similarly place a concrete block topped with a 16" piece of composite plank under the end of each of the container's four fork lift lifting channels.
 - Lower the container onto 'base' and confirm the container is level front-to-rear and side-to side. If not level, jack up the low corner(s) and insert composite shims between a few of the concrete blocks and the plank and set the container back on the base.
 - Dig a 15" deep X about 20' long trench between the container and our club house building. This trench will be used for 1) a power line to the container and 2) a ground line from the building's power panel to the Shack's antenna entrance panel.

HELP NEEDED

- 16 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!

- o 16 will get the job done in one day while allowing task distribution & rest periods.
- o All levels of abilities needed (i.e., everyone does not need to be able to do 'knee work').

BRING YOUR TOOLS

- o Gloves
- o Jacks: High lift jacks (like you see on the back of Jeeps), floor jacks
- o Crow Bars: 6'+ heavy duty crow bars
- o Carpenter levels: 24" or longer
- o Shovels: Short handled, square, army trenching tool, trenching, etc.
- o Hoes & Rakes: 3 prong rakes, hoes, potting size spade, 3 or 4 tine potting size tiller, etc.
- o Whatever else you think might be useful

SPECIAL NEED - Lots of pieces of 1X's, 2X4s, 2X6s, 4X4s, etc. for the blocking. Please gather up all you can and bring them with you. Also, some pieces of plywood (or?) to can put under jacks.

COFFEE, DONUTS, BURRITOS AND ORANGE JUICE? YES! Eats & coffee ready at 0840.

If you have suggestions that would make this easier, please call or email Chris W5CSG.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Special Events
Coordinator*

Events Calendar

Wed, Jan 15, 2020, 1:30pm
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

Wed, Jan 15, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.


Thu, Jan 16, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Jan 18, 2020, 9am-10
**Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**

Wed, Jan 22, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Jan 23, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Jan 25, 2020, 9am-10
**Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**



Tues, Jan 28, 2020, 7pm
Monthly Mtg @ Clubhouse
Members and guests welcomed.

Wed, Jan 29, 2020, 1:30pm
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM**

THE NEW CLUB AUTO TUNER TURNED INTO A STORAGE SHED

This is a picture of the new storage facility in place next to the new club house provided to the club by PG Enterprises in Alb. The owner is Payam Ghoreishi, he generously donated this shelter to us for our use as a storage shed, repeater shack, etc. the possibilities are endless. The

size of this container is 7 1/2 feet wide, 8 feet tall, and 14 feet long (internal measurements.) This was a containment system for a low frequency high power auto tuner for the military in a past life. This container is a replacement for the 20 foot Conex container we used during the clubs move from the Rio Communities location to the current location in Los Lunas, and is much more fitting for a radio club. We need to get some of us together and level this container and plan out a way to secure it in place, something like drive anchors and cable or concrete piers with bolts and clips to the container to keep it from being tipped over by high winds. There is a good tie down point in 8 locations on the lower part of the box where the grounding straps were connected to the internal ground grid.

We also owe Mr. Ghoreishi a heartfelt thanks for the use of the 20 foot Conex during our time of need. Payam provided that Conex on short notice, and at no cost to the club at all. We used it for over 6 months for free and then when he needed it returned he found and provided this gem to us. We should come up with a good way to thank Payam for his help and generosity, Ideas are welcome.

*Chris Gillespie, W5CSG
VCARA ARES Committee
Chair, W5YI Contact
VE for Valencia
County and the
surrounding area.*



WAFFLE BREAKFAST

The club's annual waffle breakfast was held on Saturday, December 28th, rather than earlier in the month to kick off the Bethlehem operation. This later schedule was due to the peculiarities of the 2019 calendar. Over 20 folks showed for waffles, sausages, orange juice and coffee.

Following the eating a bunch of members gathered around the HF radio to check out its performance using the recently installed vertical antenna.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Special Events
Coordinator*



CALENDAR - CONTINUED

Wed, Jan 29, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Jan 30, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Feb 1, 2020, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas

Wed, Feb 5, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Feb 6, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Feb 8, 2020, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas
VE Testing at clubhouse 10am
For info email kc5our@arrl.net.



**VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR HOBBY**
PO Box 268, Peralta, New Mexico 87042

Contact: Ginger Eldridge, KC5MTI apoemge@a.com (505) 225-3145

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Valencia County Amateur Radio Club Receives Walmart Grant

Los Lunas, NM, December 18, 2019 - The Los Lunas Walmart Super Center sponsored Valencia County Amateur Radio Association's successful application for a \$1,900 Walmart Community Grant. Every year Walmart awards thousands of grants for community service projects to non-profit organizations. Applications must be supported by local Walmart facilities to assure the fair distribution of grants across the nation and that local needs are met.

The Club will use the money to link its three open-to-all repeaters. Repeaters are similar to cell phone towers except they use radio waves rather than wires and repeaters continue to operate when electrical and/or phone service is disrupted. Using the linked repeater system, Hams (i.e., Amateur Radio operators) located anywhere in the County will be able to talk with each other. Club members using these repeaters are a key supplemental communications resource for Valencia County's first responders during large emergencies and for events such as the Good Friday Tome Hill walk.

The repeaters are also used for Ham-to-Ham visits and communication between family members. Using the repeaters' internet connection, local operators using a simple handheld radios are having a lot of fun to visit with other Hams around the world.



Caren Nicholson, Los Lunas Walmart Super Center Manager, presents grant check to Valencia County Amateur Radio Association members Earl Cox KB5UEW, Charlie Lyon NM5CL and Mark Johnson N9YEX.

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KC5OUR Repeater & Net Operators

Every Wednesday at 8pm

VHF repeater - 145.430 MHz

Negative 600 KHz, 100 Hz tone

UHF repeater – 442.700 MHz

Positive 5 MHz & 100 Hz tone

Jan 22 – Al, W5ACW

Jan 29 – Gene, KI5BZI

Jan 29 – Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)

Feb 05 – Elvira, KD5UJQ

Feb 12 – John, K9JWS

Feb 19 – Earl, KB5UEW

Feb 26 – Chris, KG5WVC

Feb 26 – Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)

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

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

President: Earl Cox, KB5UEW
kb5uew@yahoo.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:
currently vacant

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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