

Dots ~N~ Dashes

April 2020
issue

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

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Our goal — with the help of your club’s membership — is to maximize the number of hams operating in the event from all of New

Mexico’s 33 counties.

MESSAGE TO THE VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION.

The 2020 New Mexico QSO Party (NMQP) takes place in a couple weeks, on Saturday, April 11 from 8:00am-8:00pm Mountain time. There are a number of options to participate safely and comfortably while the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and we hope NMQP serves as a positive outlet of relief and enjoyment during these challenging times.

I invite and encourage each of your club members to participate in this fun event on HF, 6 meters, and 2 meters. Hams across the Land of Enchantment, the nation, and world will be searching for as many New Mexican hams as possible to contact during the QSO Party! There are also a couple neat awards up for grabs devoted specifically to clubs whose members participate.

Would you please help us encourage your members to participate? We are asking anyone interested in participating — even if their plans are tentative at this point — to let us know what county/counties they anticipate participating from using the “Contact Us” link on the NMQP website. This information stokes participation and helps the event’s mobile ops — in the event the Governor’s stay-at-home order is not extended — determine what routes to take in order to activate our less popular counties.

Hams who contact us with their plans will be listed on the Google Maps based activation map found on the New Mexico QSO Party website (<http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/>).

Thank you and 73,

Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

CHRISTINE GILLESPIE, W5CLG
JIM DUFFY, KE5NIC
TY TILL, K5WY
PATRICK MOORE, KI5WO
GABRIEL OROZCO, KE5RYP

VCARA MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2020

The General VCARA meeting for March 24th commenced at 19:00 local time on VHF repeater (145.430 MHz with Negative 600 KHz and 100 Hz tone). Since this was the first time ever conducting the meeting over the radio waves, I apologize for anything left out from the normal meeting's minutes.

OFFICER'S REPORT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Secretary KG5OCW Greg** - Call out to anyone listening to follow up on Ham Radio licensing on our website.
2. **Treasurer NM5RC Charlie**
 - a. on finances facebook grant received \$9800
 - b. Tome procession is probably cancelled. No additional operators needed.
 - c. New Mexico QSO party April 11
3. **President KB5UEW Earl**

- a. meetings and gatherings are being suspended
- b. builders club suspended
- c. Monthly meetings will be conducted on the air
- d. KC5OUR Wednesday net will continue as usual
- e. Tri-County Ares Net is still running on Thursday evenings
- f. new antenna tower planning by K5WY and W5CSG
- g. club elections officers change over in June

4. **Past President NM5RC Ralph** - New Radio format resulted in a well organized meeting.
5. **Vice President AC8PC Steve** - Proposal to postpone elections due to virus?
6. **ARES Chairperson W5CSG Chris** - 70 foot universal freestanding tower (possible) for the club radio. Ham Radio equipment for Firestations quoted (Fire stations we asking our club for information)

Meeting was adjourned after the discussion of the above items. Net was turned over to normal traffic.

Respectfully submitted by

*Greg Mershon,
KG5OCW
VCARA Secretary*



Events Calendar

Sat, Apr 11, 2020, 8am-8pm
NM QSO Party – club/home
Contact: Ralph, NM5RC

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

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

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

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



Tues, Apr 28, 2020 8pm
VCARA Monthly Meeting on-the-air 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

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

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

Wed, May 6, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

IT'S TIME TO STEP FORWARD AS AN ARES OPERATOR

Our Amateur Radio Emergency Services group needs additional operators. Valencia County ARES is an integral part of the County's Emergency Management Plan and as are the other New Mexico ARES groups, is an important resource for the State's Emergency Management Office. Our State appointed ARES District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) is Chris Gillespie, W5CSG. Unfortunately, we only have a third of the operators needed and several of the current operators are older than old dirt which may limit their roles during emergencies.

You may be thinking: "Hey, I'm always available to help during an emergency. All you have to do is give me a call. Why do I need to bother being an 'official' ARES operator." Well, do you have a Valencia County ID badge? If not, the Emergency Manager and all the County's

first responder agencies are not allowed to use you despite how willing you may be, how good an operator you are, or what neat radios you have. Why? First a whole bunch of legal/regulatory issues going all the way to Washington DC., and second, liability and insurance issues.

So what does it take to be a VC-ARES operator? Although there are several steps, it's really quite simple and can happen in a couple of weeks:

1. Let Chris W5CSG (csgillespie@msn.com) know you want to help and he will send you an application form, or go to: <http://kc5our.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/AresMembershipForm-fsd98.pdf> and download it from there.
2. Complete and return the application form.
3. Take three short FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) on-line

- classes – see Training.FEMA.gov/emi :
- ❖ ICS 100 - Introduction to the Incident Command System
 - ❖ ICS 200 - Basic Incident Command System
 - ❖ ICS 700 - An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

4. Email a copy of your FEMA training record to Chris.
5. Chris will get you on the VC-ARES operator list and the VC Emergency Manager will run a quick background check (required for access to County and State Emergency Operations Centers).
6. Drop by the County Fire Department to get your ID badge.
7. Start participating in the VC-ARES service activities and our once per year training class.
8. You will probably find it helpful/interesting to sit in a



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few of the emergency communications sessions at the Duke City and Socorro Hamfests.

Now is a perfect time to become a VC-ARES operator and take the FEMA courses! Many of us are home during the virus situation, or if you are ‘essential’ and still working your other activities are quite limited. So, it should be no big deal to sit at the computer for the few hours required to complete the FEMA classes.

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

Listen to the new episode of ARRL Audio News on your iOS or Android podcast app, or online at <http://www.blubrry.com/arrlaudionews> /. Audio News is also retransmitted on a number of FM repeaters. Bernallio W5CSY Saturday 9pm 143.330 mhz

CALENDAR - CONTINUED

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

**Wed, May 13, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, May 14, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Wed, May 20, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, May 21, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.



**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

Apr 15 - Earl, KB5UEW
Apr 22 - Russ, KD5UJR
Apr 22 - Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)
Apr 29 - Ralph, NM5RC
May 06 - Greg, KG5OCW
May 13 - Al, W5ACW
May 20 - Gene, KI5BZI
May 27 - Elvira, KD5UJQ

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.*



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

US POSTAGE
Required

**BE SAFE -
STAY HOME
AND GET ON
THE AIR**

