



Dots ~N~ Dashes

March 2020
issue

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



SATURDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

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HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO:

CHRIS GILLESPIE, W5CSG
PAUL RIDLEY, N5PR
EMIL CRAWFORD, KE5GCH
KEVIN WELANDER, K5ZOO
STEVE SANBORN, AC8PC
EMMALINE ELDRIDGE, KF5TBJ

UPCOMING VCARA EVENTS

1. March Meeting

Presentation: Everything You Need to Know to Select the **'BEST'** Battery for Your Portable Operation or for Emergency Power for Your Home Station.

Yep, the presentation will provide the info you need to select the **'BEST'** battery! And, the answer may surprise you. It is expected with our member's diverse experiences, expertise and opinions, there will be some spirited discussion as to what is **'BEST'**. The presentation will be supplemented with take home handouts.

2. Your Help is needed with the April 10th Good Friday Tome Hill Pilgrimage:

On Good Friday about 8,000 folks head out to climb Tome Hill. The County closes some roads

and mobilizes their own as well as the County's cities' and State Police fire, emergency medical law enforcement agencies in a massive coordinated effort to keep everyone safe and to respond to any emergencies. ***Our own Amateur Radio Emergency Services operators are an integral part of the County's Emergency Management Office's Tome Hill specific incident management plan with our assignment being to provide supplemental communications.***

3. More Operators needed:

Your help is needed to assist with this effort. All you need is a ***HT or mobile rig, a pad, a pencil*** and a willingness to help. For the most part we just setup next to one of the multiple emergency responder mobilization centers, introduce ourselves to the first responders, attend their safety/coordination

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briefing and get signed in, do routine check-ins on our own net and standby in case supplemental communications are needed. A few times we have had to step-up when the responders at one of the sites could not reach the County's communications system and several times we have been called on to help troubleshoot several emergency mobile operations centers' radios. Serving is fun and a good experience in preparing for emergency situations and service.

Nervous about being a 'first timer?' It's really quite simple, but you can be partnered with someone who has done it before. Can't serve the full eight hours (6am - 2pm)? You can be scheduled for a four hour shift.

SIGN UP WITH CHARLIE LYON NM5CL. Catch him at the March meeting, call him (505-450-8536) or email him (NM5CL@ATT.NET).

- 4. **New Mexico QSO Party:** 8 AM to 8 PM on Saturday, April 11. With the RFI conquered, should we put KC5OUR on the air for the 2020 NM QSO Party? This is expected to be discussed at the March meeting. This is a fun event for operators of all levels of experience, skill and licenses. Be prepared to share your thoughts and desires at the meeting. *If you will not be able to be at the meeting, share your*

thoughts by email or phone with President Earl KB5UEW. This can be a fun single or team mobile or expedition event too – Google it.

- 5. **ARRL Rookie Roundup Contest:** 11 AM – 5 PM, on Saturday, April 18. How about the club mounting a Rookie Roundup Contest effort? *The Rookie Roundup is:* To encourage newly-licensed operators (Rookies) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (Non-Rookies) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person. Sounds like a lot of fun while giving some of our 'rookies' a chance to experience the thrill of a contest and for some of our more experienced folks to lend a mentoring hand. This will be discussed at the March meeting. Suggest checking out the ARRL Rookie Roundup rules so you can.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Past President*

**VCARA MEETING
MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Events Calendar

**Wed, Mar 18, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Mar 19, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Mar 21, 2020, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas**

**Tues, Mar 24, 2020, 7pm
Monthly Mtg @ Clubhouse**
Members and guests welcomed.

**Wed, Mar 25, 2020, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas,NM**

**Wed, Mar 25, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**
See Net Operator schedule.

The General VCARA meeting for February 25th was called to order at 19:00 local time. Officers Earl, Charlie, Ralph, Chris, Greg, Ty and Steve were in attendance. The meeting commenced with first the Pledge of Allegiance and followed by introductions.

OFFICER'S REPORT:

Treasurer

- Financial Info was not available.

President

- Storage shelves are finished move items in stages
- Repeater

CLUB'S RFI BUSTERS TEAM SCORES MAJOR VICTORY

February's extra day this year coming on Saturday allowed the VCARA RFI Busters Team the perfect opportunity to assemble and gather their specialized calibrated equipment to chase the RFI. You will recall since we got into our new KC5OUR Shack, built the operating stations, got our first HF antenna in the air and set up our major HF rig, we have had a doozy of a RFI (radio frequency interference) problem. Under Ty K5WY's leadership, Ted KC0GUD, Mark N9YEX, Steve AC8PC, Chris W5CSG, Joe, Ralph NM5RC, Earl KB5UEW, Gene KI5BZI, and Jim KI5GNT (hope everyone got on the list) set out to run it down.

The Icom 756's S meter initially had a noise level of S10 on most bands when the rig was on commercial power. Remembering a typical signal report we give when we contact another station is 5-9 indicating their signal strength is S9, you can see all but the strongest signals would be covered up by the noise. This was why we didn't try to send Christmas Greetings from Bethlehem during the ten days before Christmas. Next step was to power the rig with a battery. Still S10, so the Team's first thought of a noise coming in on the power line was ruled out.

A little RFI sniffing resulted in a 'Hey, let's turn off those ceiling

- Builders club - 2 lights, 3 soldering irons - Build a capacitor checker?
- Current pastor only wants us

to upkeep current building. Pay utilities? Up to church at this time.

- Add bonding and grounding to club bench station.
- Still RFI at clubhouse - some caused by lights.
- Field Day. We are on the calendar for the Bosque Farms community center. Last weekend of June.
- April QSO Party April 14 - try to get RFI problem solved before then.
- Chris to follow up on Amazon smile setup for our bank account.

Vice President

- Tech Fest is Saturday

Past President -

- Still waiting on Facebook grant for possible Tower at the club house (info in the last part of March).
- License exams on March 14

Repeater Chairman

- Linking status. Get access to the tower first.
- New hard drive on the shack computer.

Meeting had 17 in attendance.. \$23 worth of raffle tickets was sold. There was further discussion on upcoming events. Meeting was adjourned and followed by a presentation given by Steve on conductors.

Respectfully submitted by

*Greg Mershon, KG5OCW
VCARA Secretary*

CALENDAR - CONTINUED

Thu, Mar 26, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Mar 28, 2020, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas
VE Testing at clubhouse 10am

Wed, Apr 1, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Apr 2, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Apr 4, 2020, 9am-10
Breakfast Club Meets at
McDonalds, Los Lunas

Wed, Apr 8, 2020, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

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

Thu, Apr 9, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Fri, Apr 10, 2020, 5:30-3pm
Tome Hill Good Friday
Procession (Pilgrimage)
Contact: Charlie, NM5CL

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

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fluorescent lights and see what happens' comment. Wow, S4! Not ideal nor the S1 some of our rural Valencia County club members have, but maybe it's what can be expected in town. So we'll just turn off the lights and GET ON THE AIR. OK Ham World and members, get ready for KC5OUR being on the air for April's NM QSO

Party and Rookie Roundup.

Expect some discussions about what, if anything, to do about the lights and/or chasing another S unit or two of RFI noise.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
VCARA Past President*

AMAZONSMILE

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

VCARA is registered as **Valencia County Amateur Radio Assoc. Inc.**

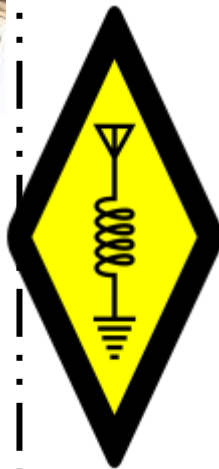
Yes, I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support Valencia County Amateur Radio Association Inc. (<https://smile.amazon.com>)

Exception to the above: When customers click on the VCARA unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they are taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Valencia County Amateur Radio Association Inc.

VCARA unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-1632395>

Please contact NM5CL if you have any questions on using this fund raising method.

*Charlie NM5CL
Treasurer, VCARA*



STORAGE BUILDING SHELVES - It was about a year ago when we had to leave our Rio Communities Shack. It has taken a lot of calendar time and effort by members to get our stuff into storage, finding a new Shack, moving our stuff, making radio operating positions, getting an antenna up, getting our main HF rig running, getting a storage building, leveling the building, etc. While there is still a few significant things to do (erect a tower (hopefully we will receive a grant for a new tower on March 31) and get the our other rigs set up), a nice step towards a 'completed Shack' and 'having a place for everything and everything in its place' was taken on February 22 when 48 linear feet of 2 feet wide shelves (with 16 linear feet of 2 feet high space under the shelves) were installed in the storage building. The photo shows Van W5VWH, Jim KI5GNT and Andrew NM5AE celebrating in front of the completed shelves.

**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

Mar 18 - Al, W5ACW
Mar 25 - Gene, KI5BZI
Mar 25 - Charlie, NM5CL
(70cm Net)
Apr 01 - Elvira, KD5UJQ
Apr 08 - John, K8JWS
Apr 15 - Earl, KB5UEW
Apr 22 - Chris, KG5WVC
Apr 22 - 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, raiguy51@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
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