

# Dots ~N~ Dashes

May 2020  
issue

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

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## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO:

VAN HARLINE, KV5VWH  
CREIGHTON EDINGTON,  
KF5KWP  
THOMAS SMITH, KF5JKL



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Valencia County Amateur Radio Association have *SOME ALTERNATIVES FOR JUNE 27-28, 2020, FIELD DAY - PER DISCUSSION.*

### Why Consider Alternatives?

- Duration and extent of COVID-19 restrictions is unknown. It may be that:
  - o The number of folks who can meet together may still be restricted.
  - o The Bosque Farms Community Center may still be closed.
  - o Inviting the public to attend may be prohibited or impractical.
  - o Some members may be reluctant to participate due to health concerns and/or age.

1. Forget about Field Day for 2020

2. Operate two separated rigs

- Separate rigs within 1000 ft per FD rules so we would be a 1A entry.

- Maybe from our Shack parking lot and in back lot.
- One K5OUR phone rig - one KC5OUR GOTA rig.
  - o Each rig set-up/taken-down by one person per rig - set-up/take down by different folks.
  - o Simple phone rigs: One with Hamstick and one with dipole or G5RV on short poles.
  - o Paper logging. Logs scanned and emailed to someone to post to computer and prepare FD report.
- Schedule operator shifts so only one person at rig at a time (two if from same home).
  - o Each operator uses hand sanitizer before starting and wipes down touched surfaces with alcohol wipes when they are through.
- Only operate Saturday from Noon to 8 PM.
- 3. Members operate from home (or individual field stations) using their own call signs - compete for VCARA prizes

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- Have handicap system to somewhat 'level the field' for differences between stations and operator experience. Something along the lines of:
  - o Each operator determines their score per FD rules and submits to ARRL.
  - o FD scores and photo of operator at their station submitted to VCARA.
  - o FD scores multiplied by:
    - Power: < 5 watts X by 10, 5-100 watts X by 5, > 100 watts X by 1.
    - Antenna: Hamstick X by 15, dipole or G5RV X by 10, multi-band vertical X by 5, Yagi X by 1.
    - Emergency power: X by 2 for battery, solar or wind power.
    - GOTA qualified operator: X by 2.
- Three prizes - maybe something like McD's gift cards that could be used at our Saturday morning gatherings.

4. Teleconference field day through the internet from members location or Bosque? (From Earl)

Questions:

- When does decision have to be made?

This is a discussion draft. Suggestions, alternatives. etc. are welcome! Feedback would be appreciated. Reply or E-mail me at: kb5uew@yahoo.com.

VCARA President,  
Earl Cox, KB5UEW

—  
**VCARA MEETING  
MINUTES OF  
APRIL 28, 2020**

The General VCARA meeting for April 28<sup>th</sup> commenced at 19:00 local time on VHF repeater (145.430 MHz with Negative 600 KHz and 100 Hz tone). Since this was only the second time ever conducting the meeting over the radio waves, I apologize for anything left out from the normal meeting's minutes. This is still a work in progress.

**OFFICER'S REPORT/  
ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Secretary KG5OCW Greg** - Video has been added to Facebook. Field Day may need to be done remotely. Click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA/>.
2. **Treasurer NM5CL Charlie** Facebook grant and Walmart grant \$15000+ added to treasury.
3. **President KB5UEW Earl**
  - a. No physical meetings
  - b. Nominating Committee Report Nominations are open. Contact Steve for suggestions.
  - c. NM QSO Party Report (request for any input - NM5RC 10 hours operations band was dead, limited contacts.

- NM5CL - PSK31 many contacts. )
- d. Tower Purchase status - any updates.
- e. Amazon Smile announcement: VCARA is now registered with AmazonSmile. Smile.amazon.com is where you need to start in order to have VCARA receive 0.5% of your purchase.
- f. Field day (See Ralph) Pins – NM5CL Charlie is taking orders for Pins

4. **Past President NM5RC Ralph** - Field Day.
  - a. Cancel Field day?
  - b. Limited 2 separated rigs
  - c. Individual operations
5. **Vice Pres. AC8PC Steve** –
  - a. standing by – checking if everyone is staying safe.
  - b. Visited clubhouse and everything is ok.
  - c. ARRL input on Field Day.
6. **ARES Chairperson W5CSG Chris** - Proposal put in for Tower. (there was no opportunity for the 3 to review). Tower purchase on hold until COVID settles down).
7. **Newsletter Editor KD5UJQ Elvira** - KD5UJR Russell signed in for her and standing by. Request for newsletter articles/pictures.

Meeting was adjourned after the discussion of the above items. 12 were on attendance including

officers, and KI5BZI, K7ZM, N9YEX, KF5DTU Fred and W5JBS JIM. Net was turned over to normal traffic.

Respectfully submitted by

*Greg Mershon, KG5OCW  
VCARA Secretary*

**THERE ARE NO  
SUNSPOTS SO THE  
BANDS ARE DEAD  
SO NO USE TURNING  
ON THE RADIO  
RIGHT?**

With our stuff about set up at the Club including the installation of a new hard disk (old one was FULL!) in our main computer, it was time to bring our logs up to date. Last time they were updated was after our 2018 Greetings from Bethlehem special event station. Some of the contacts to be posted to the computer were 50 contacts made by VCARA member Ty K5WY using our secondary call sign K5OUR from March 2019 to March 2020. Ty chases a little DX and when he contacts an interesting station that seems to not be too busy, he throws out K5OUR and gets a contact for the Club too.

Some of the countries logged for K5OUR included: Antarctica, El Salvador, Suba & St. Eustatius, Marouisis Isl, Comoros, Panama, San Andres & Providencia, Norfolk Isl, Japan, Pitcarin Isl, San Maronio, Western Kirbati, Tokelau Isl, Liberia, Tongo, Nauru, Reunion Isl, Sudan, Market Reef, Tuvalu, Aland Isl, Fiji, Eritreal, Wallas & Futuna Isl, Kenya, Ghana, Lesotho and Hungary. Hey, some of those are on the other side of the world!

Yeah, but aren't the bands dead? Well these included contacts on the following bands: 12, 15, 17,

**FCC LICENSES ONLINE**

Since the FCC no longer provides the licensee a copy of his or her current license, we now have to print our own. Here are the instructions to print one or to save for your files:

1. Go to [wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp](http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp)
2. Search for your call sign.
3. Click on your call sign.
4. Click on the ADMIN tab.
5. Click on "Authorization -- Licensee".
6. Your reference copy license will open in a PDF file for printing or saving.

Or, if you wish an almost exact copy of the FCC license that you can print out in color, go to this web page: [www.ae7q.com/misc/Generate.php](http://www.ae7q.com/misc/Generate.php).

*Club Station License Trustee,  
Paul Ridley, N5PR*

**Events Calendar**

**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.



**Tues, May 26, 2020 7-8pm**  
**VCARA Monthly Meeting on-the-air 145.430 mhz**

**Wed, May 27, 2020 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, May 28, 2020, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Wed, June 3, 2020 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, June 4, 2020, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Wed, June 10, 2020 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

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20, 30, 40 and 80 meters. Several stations were logged on several bands. And all of this was from Ty's rather modest station.

**SO, YES THE SUNSPOT CYCLE IS JUST NOW HEADING UP, BUT THE BANDS ARE NOT DEAD. THERE ARE A BUNCH OF INTERESTING FOLKS OUT THERE READY TO TALK TO YOU AND A BUNCH OF DXPEDITIONS YOU CAN**

**WORK. IT JUST TAKES GETTING ON THE AIR.** Ty has always willingly shared his on-the-air experiences and freely given sound counsel to those of us just getting into HF and DXing. Corner him at the our Saturday McD's gathering or at the Club to get some real radio words of wisdom.

*Past President,  
Ralph Clark NM5RC*

a new high capacity hard drive is ready to have any of your K5OUR or KC5OUR home contacts posted to it. Post them some Saturday morning or before our regular club meeting, or email them to NM5RC and he'll post them.

*Special Events Coordinator,  
Ralph Clark NM5RC*

**CALENDAR - CONTINUED**

**Thu, June 11, 2020, 7:30pm  
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Wed, June 17, 2020 8pm  
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, June 18, 2020, 7:30pm  
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Tues, June 23, 2020 7-8pm  
VCARA Monthly Meeting  
on-the-air 145.430 mhz**

**Wed, June 24, 2020 8pm  
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, June 25, 2020, 7:30pm  
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**HEY, DO YOU HAVE SOME KC5OUR OR K5OUR CONTACTS THAT NEED TO BE ADDED TO MAIN COMPUTER LOG?**

Yep, members sometimes do (and are welcome to) use the club call signs from their home stations. As one example, see the comments about Ty, K5WY's, DX adventures in a separate article. And, members living in Valencia County often send out KC5OUR Christmas Greetings from Bethlehem, New Mexico, from their home stations in December. With our move and computer limitations, there may be some contacts during the last 12 months floating around that need to be logged.

Anyway, our main computer is up and running and with





**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 29 - Ralph, NM5RC  
May 06 - Greg, KG5OCW  
May 13 - Al, W5ACW  
May 20 - Gene, KI5BZI  
May 27 - Elvira, KD5UJQ  
Jun 03 - John, K8JWS  
Jun 10 - Earl, KB5UEW

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

## VCARA Club Contacts

### Officers

**President:** Earl Cox, KB5UEW  
[kb5uew@yahoo.com](mailto:kb5uew@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President:** Steve Sanborn,  
AC8PC, [railguy51@hotmail.com](mailto:railguy51@hotmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)  
**Secretary:** Greg Mershon,  
KG5OCW  
[gregmershon2@msn.com](mailto:gregmershon2@msn.com)  
**Past President:** Ralph Clark,  
NM5RC, [nm5rc@msn.com](mailto:nm5rc@msn.com)  
**Special Events Coordinator:**  
Ralph Clark, NM5RC

Club email [kc5our@arrl.net](mailto:kc5our@arrl.net)  
**Repeater Chairperson:**  
currently vacant

**ARES Chairperson:** Chris  
Gillespie, W5CSG  
**Club Station License**  
**Trustee:** Paul Ridley, N5PR

**Website:** [www.kc5our.com](http://www.kc5our.com)  
**Webmaster:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)  
[www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA](http://www.facebook.com/VaCtyARA)

**Newsletter:** Emailed about 10  
days prior to meetings.  
**Editor:** Elvira Hunt, KD5UJQ  
[russnvera@gmail.com](mailto: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  
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US POSTAGE  
Required

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