

Dots ~N~ Dashes

September 2020
issue

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

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**HAPPY SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS TO:**

**JIM FRAZIER KC5EUA
DAVE McALPINE
WD8LVZ**

THE SUNSPOTS ARE COMING! THE SUNSPOTS ARE COMING!

This may be the perfect time to upgrade your license to get HF privileges, tune up your HF rig and get a HF antenna in the air.

Remember, the more sunspots there are, the better the HF propagation is. During the peak of good sunspot cycles (i.e., cycles with lots of sunspots), you can talk around the world on 10 meters with a wet noodle antenna connected to a simple rig and powered by a few flashlight batteries – this restated homely was stolen from N5PR.

New Hope for Cycle 25? The prediction of a NOAA / NASA-led panel of experts is for a relatively weak cycle similar to Cycle 24 now ending with a peak of about 100 sunspots.

HOWEVER, after analyzing 270 years of sunspot numbers, an elite group of independent scientists from a variety of organizations predict **Sunspot Cycle 25 may have a magnitude that rivals the top few since records began.** The group's estimate for Cycle 25 is a maximum of 233 sunspots. Extracted and restated from an item on page 3 of the August



Repairs at the clubhouse!

2020 'CQ Amateur Radio' magazine.

Only time will tell. Since cycles last 11 years and the cycle peaks only last 2-3 years, and since 'good' cycles only come along now and then, it is a good time to prepare so in your 'old age' you can reminisce about the good old days when you had QSOs with hundreds of stations all around the world.

*Ralph Clark NM5RC,
Special Events Coordinator*

VCARA MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2020

The General VCARA meeting for August 25th commenced at 19:00 local time on VHF repeater (145.430 MHz with

August 2020 Issue

Negative 600 KHz and 100 Hz tone). In attendance were the following officers:

- President: K5ZOO Kevin,
- Vice President: KB5ENN John,
- Secretary: KG5OCW Greg,
- Treasurer: NM5CL Charlie,
- Past Pres: KB5UEW Earl.

In addition, 5 Stations checked in: KI5BZI Gene, W5KBS Jim, N9VEX Mark, KF5DTU Fred, and KF5DYA Rick. Resulting in a total of 10 check-ins.

Announcements:

- K5ZOO - no announcements
- KG5OCW - podcast and video - Zoom meeting presentation?
- NM5CL - Amazon Smile \$20.15, sales from club items \$470.00, \$350 IOU. Dues \$485 collected. Send dues to Peralta PO box. PNM volunteer grants 2000 pending.
- Wednesday night net tomorrow at 800 pm; Tri-country Thursday at 7:30pm.
- KB5UEW is working on a new antenna.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Zoom meeting?
- Tower discussions occurring - okay to pour, concrete pads planned to be poured?

Meeting was adjourned at 19:40 local time after the discussion of the above items. Net was turned over to normal traffic. Respectfully submitted by

*Greg Mershon, KG5OCW
VCARA Secretary*

**BYE BYE RFI!
AND LET THERE BE
LIGHT TOO!**

On Saturday, September 12, club members pitched in their expertise, advice and real efforts towards eliminating the serious interference/noise on the HF bands at our KC5OUR shack. As the first step, four new 48-inch LED tubes were laced out on a table and temporarily connected direct to a 120 Volt wall outlet. After recovering from the brilliant light, several highly experienced operators gathered around our Icom 756 Pro to observe the S-meter with various combinations of lights on/off with the following results:

- ✓ All lights off - S7 - radio usable
- ✓ Existing fluorescent lights on - S9++ - radio not usable
- ✓ Just 4 LED tubes on - S7 - radio usable

Next step was to rework two of the ceiling fixtures by removing the four old tubes from each fixture as well as the ballast and then rewiring the fixtures so the new LED tubes would be powered by 120 VAC. Two of the new LEDs were installed (yep, two new for four old) and WOW o WOW - LOTS of light.

Events Calendar



Tues, Sept 22, 2020 7-8pm
VCARA Monthly Meeting on-the-air 145.430 mhz

Wed, Sept 23, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Sept 24, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Wed, Sept 30, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 1, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 8 , 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 15, 2020, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Additional LEDs have been ordered so all the fluorescents in our room and hall can be replaced - hopefully on Saturday, September 19.

Great improvement to the KC5OUR Shack. Come out and see the lighting improvements and start planning on help put KC5OUR on the air during our annual Christmas Greetings from Bethlehem, New Mexico, operation during the full week before Christmas.

*Ralph Clark NM5RC,
Special Events Coordinator*

**COMPREHENSIVE
PREPAREDNESS
GUIDES (CPG)**

The following are downloadable links to information concerning the COVID-19 precautions and preparations. Information to

read while staying home.. [COVID-19 Supplement for Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place](#) provides COVID-19 related questions to key principles and critical considerations from “[Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place.](#)” These questions can assist emergency management planners as they assess the impacts and constraints resulting from COVID-19 and review, revise and implement evacuation or shelter-in-place plans.

[CPG 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans](#)

CPG 101 provides guidance on the fundamentals of planning and development of Emergency Operations Plans.

[CPG 201: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment \(THIRA\) and](#)

[Stakeholder Preparedness Review \(SPR\) Guide](#)

CPG 201 provides guidance for conducting a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR).

[CPG 502: Considerations for Fusion Center and Emergency Operations Center Coordination](#)

CPG 502 outlines the information-sharing roles of fusion centers and emergency operations centers and identifies planning and coordination considerations each entity.

*Elvira Hunt, KD5UJQ
VCARA Newsletter Editor.*



Repairs at the clubhouse!

**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

Sep 23 – John, K8TE
Sep 30 – Earl, KB5UEW
Oct 07 – Russ, KD5UJR
Oct 14 – Ralph, NM5RC
Oct 21 – Greg, KG5OCW
Oct 28 – Al, W5ACW
Nov 04 – Gene, KI5BZI
Nov 11 – Elvira, KD5UJR

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

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

President: Kevin Welander,
K5ZOO, kevinwelander@msn.com
Vice President: John Eldridge,
KB5ENN, jmeldri@q.com
Treasurer: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net
Secretary: Greg Mershon,
KG5OCW
gregmershon2@msn.com

Past President: Earl Cox,
KB5UEW kb5uew@yahoo.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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US POSTAGE
Required

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