

Dots~N~ Dashes

April 2021 issue

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

Inside this Issue

- 1** ReWork of HF Antenna
- 2** Minutes of Meeting
- 2** Events Calendar
- 3** Grounding & Bonding System
- 4** Free online classes
- 4** For Sale
- 5** VCARA Net Op & Contacts

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

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

PHASE 1 OF THE RE- WORK OF KC5OUR'S VERTICAL HF ANTENNA ACCOMPLISHED IN RECORD TIME ON MARCH 13, 2021

Our vertical HF antenna was temporarily installed on the back porch with a few aerial radial wires. Not an optimum arrangement. About 12 club members gathered at the KC5OUR club 'Shack' on Saturday March 13 to start remedying the situation. After breakfast burritos, orange juice and coffee at 8:30, three crews tackled:

- Clearing the weeds off the site as well as most of the church's back yard.
- Laying out and staking the new antenna location and the thirty 32-ft radial wires.
- Digging a 44-inch deep 'post hole' and concreting in the pipe that will support the antenna.
- Taking down the existing antenna.

All done by 10 AM!

The antenna, radial wires and coaxial cable feedline to the shack will be installed on Saturday morning, March 20.



Two of the antenna support installation crew. And no, they did not scratch their initials or callsigns in the concrete.



The primary weeding crew. Notice how nice and clear the area looks clear back to the far fence.



In addition to filling the dumpster, a large stack of weeds was gathered up. These will have to be 'metered' into the dumpster over the next four weeks.

Unfortunately, we only remembered to snap a few photos after the work was done

April 2021 Issue

rather than getting some action shots.

Meanwhile back in the clubhouse, the VCARA Volunteer Examiners Team gave exams to ten (YES, 10!) folks. This must be a record - Cheers and applause.



EXAMS GIVEN

*Ralph Clark NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*

VCARA MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2021

The General VCARA meeting for March 23rd commenced at 19:00 local time on Zoom. In attendance were officers; Kevin K5ZOO, John KB5ENN, Greg KG5OCW, Charlie NM5CL, Earl KB5UEW, Chris W5CSG, Elvira KD5UJQ and Ralph NM5RC.

Officer's Report:

1. **President K5ZOO Kevin** - Event for the Church, asking for ideas. NM QSO party approaching. Ralph planning an event at the clubhouse. Details forthcoming.
2. **Secretary KG5OCW Greg** - Stay tuned to Facebook for future announce.
3. **Treasurer NM5CL Charlie**
 - a. Treasurers Report \$10 error corrected.

- b. Beginning bank balance \$18,290 (Jan).
- c. \$18,341.52 (Current) balance.

4. **Past President KB5UEW Earl** - Builders club has good participation.
5. **ARES Chairperson W5CSG Chris** -
 - a. Officers meeting needed.
6. **Newsletter Editor KD5UJQ Elvira** - Please send news and articles to include in the next news, and any change in email addresses

Old Business: none.

New Business:

1. Ben passed his General Exam (Yay!).
2. Vertical Antenna is working great in its new location.
3. 2 radios installed and are working well.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:32 local time after the discussion of the above items. 17 were on attendance including officers, and Van K5VWH, Steve AC8PC, Jim W5JBS, Mark N9YEX, John KD5MHO, Russ

Events Calendar

Sat, Apr 24, 2021, 9 - Noon
Breakfast @ clubhouse
BYOB. Masks and social distancing is strictly enforced.

Mon, Apr 26, 2021 7pm
Builder's Club Meeting
Click on the link below:
<http://bit.ly/KC5OUR-BC>.

Tues, Apr 27, 2021 7-8pm
VCARA Monthly Meeting
Contact zoom information:
<https://zoom.us/j/97115355215>
Meeting ID: 971 1535 5215
Passcode: VCARA.

Wed, Apr 28, 2021 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Apr 29, 2021, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, May 1, 2021, 9 - Noon
Breakfast @ clubhouse
BYOB. Masks and social distancing is strictly enforced.

KD5UJR, Thomas Redeye, Ben (Grim547) and Fred KF5DTU. Net was turned over to normal traffic. Respectfully submitted by

*Greg Mershon, KG5OCW
VCARA Secretary*

CALENDAR – CONTINUED

Wed, May 5, 2021 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, May 6, 2021, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, May 8, 2021, 9 - Noon
Breakfast @ clubhouse
BYOB. Masks and social distancing is strictly enforced.
VE Testing by appointment
(Contact Chris @505-450-7447 or email: csgillespie@msn.com)

Mon, May 10, 2021 7pm
Builder's Club Meeting
Click on the link below:
<http://bit.ly/KC5OUR-BC>.

Wed, May 12, 2021 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, May 13, 2021, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, May 15, 2021, 9 - Noon
Breakfast @ clubhouse
BYOB. Masks and social distancing is strictly enforced.

Wed, May 19, 2021 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, May 20, 2021, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz

KC5OUR'S GROUNDING AND BONDING SYSTEM

With the vertical antenna rework done, our Shack improvement focus has turned to the grounding and bonding system (GBS).

On Saturday, April 17, some of those who dropped by the club shack pitched in to complete the grounding system. With all the parts, pieces and tools gathered, the combined efforts of an 'inside crew' and an 'outside crew' efforts was soon celebrating the completion.

Special thanks to those who helped, supervised, designed and planned, and to those who otherwise helped.

Now, let's get KC5OUR on the air. If there is some event, or no reason at all, you can think of to activate the station, let an officer know and let's get it on the air.

A good GBS addresses three inter-related functions: Electrical safety, lightening protection and RF (radio frequency) control. The club has several copies of *ARRL's Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur* books, which members can borrow. If you are setting up a

VCARA Dots~n~Dashes



There will be NO cheating at our exam sessions! Bruce NK5W, John K8JWS, Charlie NM5CL & Chris W5CSG emphasizing the point.



You WILL have your temperature checked!

new station, want to review your station for safety or want to improve its performance, a careful reading of this book is highly recommended.

Here are a couple of tidbits that illustrate the importance of an integrated GBS:

- Ground here is not ground there - if you drive two ground rods say 100-ft apart and measure the potential between them, you will likely find some voltage difference between these two 'grounds'. This tells us that all ground rods and other 'grounds' (pipes, building structure, etc.) must be connected so there is only one path to

April 2021 Issue

ground (i.e., you don't become the electrical path between two grounds').

- Just because your equipment is 'grounded' (for example via three prong electrical plugs) does not mean the equipment is 'RF grounded'. Unless all your equipment is bonded together you may get a 'RF burn' when you touch two pieces of equipment. This bonding is accomplished by connecting the ground lug on each piece of equipment to a bus (copper pipe, grounding strap, etc.), which is in turn connected to the overall station ground. Doing this can also reduce the static and noise on your outgoing and incoming signal.

*Ralph Clark NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*

FREE VIRTUAL COURSES AVAILABLE

[1] AWR 232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities- Virtual Zoom Delivery
May 27 & 28, 2021; 8:30-12:30

Register at the following link
[AWR 232-V Mass Fatalities Planning & Response for Rural Communities – Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium \(ruraltraining.org\)](https://ruraltraining.org)

[2] AWR-324: Biological Incidents Awareness: COVID-19 (4 hours). This course is designed to prepare participants to recognize a potential COVID-19 infection, to know how to protect themselves during response, and to identify outside factors, including information control and public messaging, which will require their attention.
Friday, April 30
9:00AM - 1:00PM CST

Course ID: 28104
Access Code:
NCBRT113
Register at the following link:
[AWR-324: Biological Incidents Awareness: COVID-19](#)

[3] NCBRT will be hosting our first Criminal Intel training (AWR-315) via Zoom the week of March 1-5, 2021 0800-1200 ET each day.
Course will be delivered virtually via Zoom Meeting platform.

Register at
<https://train.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Student/Register?ClassID=27896>
Access Code: RIEMA315
Pre-test should be completed as soon as registration is complete.



The club is assisting the spouse of Silent Key member KG5HNR with the sale of some really nice equipment at very reasonable prices. These are at the club and can be inspected any Saturday morning.



Respectfully,

*Felecia A. Schreier NMCEM
Training Coordinator
NM Dept of Homeland Security
and Emergency Management
Office: (505) 476-9633
Cell: (505) 699-0018
Fax: (505) 476-9650
Felecia.Schreier@State.NM.US
<https://PreparingNewMexico.org>*

**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 21 – Gene, KI5BZI
Apr 28 – Elvira, KD5UJQ
May 05 – John, K8JWS
May 12 – Earl, KB5UEW
May 19 – Russ, KD5UJR
May 26 – Ralph, NM5RC
Jun 02 – Greg, KG5OCW
Jun 09 – Al, W5ACW

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

VCARA Club Contacts

Officers

President: Kevin Weland, K5ZOO, kevinweland@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.*

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

US POSTAGE
Required

**BE SAFE, STAY
HOME & GET
ON THE AIR!**