

Dots~N~ Dashes

September 2022
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
RICO JOHNSTON N5ABQ
DAVE McALPHINE WD8LVZ
RALPH SMITH KB0OYZ

GUEST SPEAKER

The Aug 23rd program was a presentation about young folks building robots for competition. Great presentation by a team coach, Zac Van Note and his son.

Zac is a local coach for a few robotics teams. He has worked with teams in Albuquerque and Socorro for upwards of 25 years. The robotics competitions are organized by age level for youth.

The youngest level is the First Lego League (roughly ages 6-12). The next age level is the First Robotics Club (roughly ages 12-18), and the eldest group is the First Tech Challenge that includes adult mentors. The sophistication and complexity of the robots that each age level builds increases with age. The youngest group use Lego robotic kits with smaller sized robots.

The eldest group will construct fully custom built robots that weigh upwards of 200 pounds and require machined



parts and significant construction. This past year a couple of Zac's teams won several rounds of competitions and traveled to the World event in Houston, TX where both national and international teams competed.

Zac's contact information is: Zac Van Note, 505-831-0897, www.creativefuel.org

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
& John Eldridge, KB5ENN*

VCARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

An impromptu board meeting which was called by President Earl KD5UEW convened at the clubhouse at 0910MDT on Saturday, September 03, 2022.

Attending were:

President Earl KB5UEW, Vice-President John K8JWS, Treasurer Charlie NM5CL, Repeater Chair Chris W5CSG and Acting Secretary Nick KI5MFF.

Agenda:

To discuss, arrive at and vote on a solution for security against loss and/or damage to the two VCARA aluminum tilt-over radio antenna towers, to include all attached wiring, cables, conduit and various antennas. Said towers are currently situated just outside the fenced area on the west side of Building B.

Background:

A neighbor to the west of our building has reported seeing unknown youth in the area who were possibly eying the tower site.

Action Proposed:

Chris reported that he has consulted with a commercial video security specialist and has

received a preliminary estimate for installing a 3 camera security system. Discussion followed.

The following items were brought up and discussed at length:

1. Warning signs to be placed both towers and Building B.
2. Motion sensor lighting on the west side of Building B.
3. Motion sensor lights installed on both towers.

Items 1 – 3 above were voted on and passed. Chris agreed to have Warning signs made and will take care of the security lights for the building. The group voted to put the security camera system on hold for the time being.

With no further business before the board, the meeting closed at 1010MDT. Respectfully submitted,

*Nick Carter KI5MFF
Acting Secretary*

VCARA AUGUST 23, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Officers Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm prior to general club meeting

- Members Attending:
 - Cox, Earl KB5UEW
 - Gillespie, Christopher W5CSG
 - Schaaf, John K8JWS
 - Eldridge, John KB5ENN
 - Charlie Lyon NM5CL

Events Calendar

Wed Sept 21, 2022, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Sept 21, 2022, 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Sept 22, 2022, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Sept 24, 2022, 9- Noon
Breakfast @ clubhouse
Bring your own breakfast.

Tues, Sept 27, 2022, 7pm
VCARA Monthly Meeting
Members NOT comfortable with attending in person may join the meeting on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/97115355215>
Meeting ID: 971 1535 5215
Passcode: VCARA

Wed, Sept 28, 2022, 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Sept 29, 2022, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 1, 2022, 9 - Noon
Builder's Club Meeting & Breakfast @ clubhouse
Bring your own breakfast.

- Discussion items:
 - Discussion of plans for raising the antenna towers for the following Saturday. Charlie proposed that the club buy a new safety harness for tower work. Ty volunteered to make the purchase after officer vote. Expected cost of about \$100.
 - Club insurance was discussed. It was noted that a club inventory is needed to catalog club radios and other equipment. The existing policy doesn't cover the towers and antennas. ARRL offers a policy to cover club equipment.

The current insurance covers liability and is in force until February 2023. This topic will need to be reintroduced at next months meeting.

- \$1013.64 in debits – mostly for tower supplies
- \$281.17 from donations
- Some members still have dues for this year outstanding

New Business:

- Club insurance is being reviewed for lower rates and more complete coverage. The current insurance is in effect until November 2022, not February 2023.
- Discussion on Christmas party
 - Earl contacted Rutillio's for availability and Charlie will verify the party details. Tentative date is 2nd Saturday in December (the 10th). Time at 5pm
 - Earl discussed the builders club with the group. Typically 4-5 people would join by Zoom for the builders club. Currently, the club does not have a way to routinely provide Zoom access for the general meetings and for the builder club, since we don't have Internet access in the club house.

General Meeting was called to order at 7 pm local time. Directly following was the pledge of allegiance. This was followed by general introductions around the room. Officers attending included Earl, John, John, Charlie & Chris.

Officers report:

- Notice of the antenna tower work for the following Saturday was announced to the club and a request for assistance in the work was made.
- Earl inquired about a current problem with the repeater and Chris expanded on the issue and noted that someone is intentionally interfering with the repeaters. That person is trying to stand-up digital communications through the repeater. Chris has had to recycle service on the repeaters a number of times to clear them and to shut off the interference. There was some discussion about changing the repeater PL tones to dissuade the interference. However, it was mentioned that this option could be easily bypassed.
- Charlie provided the treasurers report.
 - \$5630 in the bank account

Meeting ended and Ralph Clark, NM5RC won the raffle and donated the gift back to the club. Presentation was given by Zac Van Note and his son on the First Lego League robotics competitions (see page 1).

Respectfully submitted,

*John Eldridge, KB5ENN
VCARA Secretary*

CALENDAR - CONTINUED

Wed Oct 5, 2022, 1:30pm
Koffee Klatch at Denny's
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 8pm
VCARA Net 145.430 mhz
See Net Operator schedule.

Thu, Oct 6, 2022, 7:30pm
Tri-County Net 146.96mhz
Emergency scheduled net.

Sat, Oct 8, 2022, 9 - Noon
VE Testing @ clubhouse
Contact Chris @505-450-7447

Mon, Oct 10, 2022, 7pm
Builder's Club Meeting
Click on the link below:
<http://bit.ly/KC5OUR-BC>.

BOTH TOWERS ARE UP!

Saturday, August 27, 2022, found a bunch of VCARA members gathered at the KC5OUR Shack to raise two new tilt-up aluminum towers. One a 50 footer and one a 60 footer.

Starting at 8 AM with a quick burrito and orange juice, the well organized effort got underway to move the tower sections out of the building hallway, assemble them, attach the 'stuff' to the 50-ft tower (three microwave units for repeater linking and internet, cables and coaxes, etc.) and then tilt them up. The tilting up was greatly facilitated by John KI5QKV's winch on his pickup's headache bar. It was a great effort and sincere thanks to all those who came out and helped.

Work remaining for the east 50-ft tower includes: Pulling the cables thru the buried conduits to the building entry panel, and precisely aiming the microwave units to our other repeaters and to the Los Lunas School's internet transmitter. To do this aiming, we need a bucket lift or bucket truck with a 50-ft lift - do any of you have an idea of where we might economically get the use of such a unit? We also need to install the anti-climb panels on the tower.

Work remaining for the west 60-ft tower includes: Re-checking and gathering the antennas, rotor and other equipment to be mounted on this tower; lowering the tower so all the 'stuff' (antennas, cables, coax, etc.) can be attached; tilting the tower back up, pulling all the 'wire' through the buried conduits; and installing anti-climb panels.

Again, thanks to all who helped with the tower raising effort.

UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

Club Christmas Party: Saturday, December 10, 2022, 5 to 7 PM.

Waffle Breakfast to kick off our Annual Bethlehem Station Operation - Saturday, December 17, 2022, from 8 to 10+ AM.

KC5OUR's Bethlehem Station will be on the air starting with the waffle breakfast on December 17 and continuing through Christmas Eve on December 24. And this will be with our 'good' HF antennas on our new 60-ft tower! Plan on getting in some fun mic time and visiting with hundreds of Hams who want to talk with you in Bethlehem, New Mexico.



A note to our new members: VCARA was started in Belen and Belen is Spanish for Bethlehem, hence our sending out Christmas greetings from Bethlehem, New Mexico. We have historically tried to make a lot of contacts from our KC5OUR shack with a special effort to accommodate and mentor new Hams, youth and family members. But, members are also allowed to use 'KC5OUR' from their home stations and bring their logs in before the end of the year.

*Ralph Clark, NM5RC
Special Events Coordinator*

**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 21 - Gene, KI5BZI
- Sep 28 - Chris, KF5EMP
- Oct 05 - John, K8JWS
- Oct 12 - Earl, KB5UEW
- Oct 19 - Charlie, NM5CL
- Oct 26 - Nick, KI5MFF

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: John Schaaf,
K8JWS
firewood26789@gmail.com

Treasurer: Charlie Lyon,
NM5CL, nm5cl@att.net

Secretary: John Eldridge,
KB5ENN, jmeldri@q.com

Past President: Kevin Welander,
K5ZOO, kevinwelander@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
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Peralta, New Mexico 87042

US POSTAGE
Required

**BE SAFE
AND GET ON
THE AIR**

