



# Dots~N~ Dashes

October 2022  
issue

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

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## ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK DINNER

VCARA members, Greetings!

It is time to restart a long standing practice that COVID-19 and club house moves have hindered over the last few years - the club's annual fall potluck. Please join together in October at the club house, located at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 700 Camelot Blvd SW, Los Lunas.

The potluck will be in lieu of the October monthly meeting and is scheduled for **October 25th, 2022 at 6:00 pm**. Doors will be open at 5pm.

Bring your family, bring a friend, and bring a food dish to share. Some ideas for dishes includes entries, breads, vegetables, desserts, drinks. Be creative. Come out and spend some social time with your fellow club members. 73,

*John Eldridge, KB5ENN  
VCARA Secretary*

## VCARA SEPT 27, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

The September 27<sup>th</sup> Officers Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm prior to general club meeting. Officers Attending: John Schaaf K8JWS, Charlie Lyon NM5CL, Earl Cox KB5UEW and John Eldridge KB5ENN.

Discussion items:

- **Insurance** –
  - No new developments on replacing the existing policy.
  - ARRL offers a liability policy that the club is investigating. Cost is \$1.40 per \$100 of coverage.
  - John S. will explore options.
  - The current insurance policy is \$800 per year. The cost may cause the need for an increase dues and an increase in expenses.
- **Antennas** --
  - The two towers are erected.
  - The microwave antennas are installed but still need alignment.
  - The UHF/VHF antenna are installed on the towers.

## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

RANDY BURSON KE5SAW, TED CHRISTMAN KC0GUD,  
EARL COX KB5UEW, DAN DAVID KA7PUN,  
JOSEPH DOYLE NO5T, DIANA EICHERT KI5PGJ,  
RUSS HUNT KD5UJR, MARK JOHNSON N9YEX,  
MARIANN JOHNSTON NF5JNP,  
PAT LIBERTELL KA5PAT, GREG MERSHON KG5OCW,  
JAY MILLER W5WHN, KATHY SMITH KB0SJZ,  
PHYLLIS YBARRA KB5SXJ, MARY YOST N7WUJ

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- HF antenna is not yet installed and another work session is required to place them. This will require the club to lay over the taller tower once more.
- **Site security –**
  - No new reports of malicious activity around the club house or the tower installations.
  - Warning plaques to deter vandalism are being produced. These will state that the tower proximity is a danger area.
  - Outside security lights have been installed.
- **School/Facebook Grants-**
  - Ralph, NM5RC, is developing a new grant proposal for Facebook funding of two school radio stations to be located at a Los Lunas middle school and a high school. Total cost of the grant proposal is expected to be approximately \$19,000.
  - Site surveys at the school are still needed.
  - Each of the selected schools is committed to

support the stations with teachers and in kind equipment donations to include books and cabinets.

- **Christmas party –**
  - Christmas activities are in the planning stages.
  - This includes a waffle breakfast to open the annual ‘Bethlehem’ radio event starting on December 17th-20th. Completion of the HF beam installation is needed before this event.
  - The Christmas party is December 10th at Rutillio’s in Los Lunas.
- **Safety equipment –**
  - Ty Till is tasked to purchase a safety harness for the club in support of tower work.
  - The expected cost of the harness is \$125 and the officers voted on approving the purchase.

Officers meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

The September 27<sup>th</sup> VCARA General Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm local time.

Meeting roster sign up sheet shows 19 members attending. Meeting opens with pledge of allegiance and followed by introductions.

**Officers’ Report:**  
**Treasury report**  
(spanning August



# Events Calendar

**Wed Oct 19, 2022, 1:30pm**  
**Koffee Klatch at Denny’s**  
Restaurant, Los Lunas, NM

**Wed, Oct 19, 2022, 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Oct 20, 2022, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Oct 22, 2022, 9- Noon**  
**Breakfast @ clubhouse**  
Bring your own breakfast.



**Tues, Oct 25, 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, Oct 26, 2022, 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Oct 27, 2022, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Oct 29, 2022, 9 - Noon**  
**Breakfast @ clubhouse**  
Bring your own breakfast.

activity through the 31st)–

- \$1404.33 debits
- \$424.15 credits
- \$133.17 in outstanding checks
- \$6064.28 is the book balance on July 31st

**CALENDAR - CONTINUED**

**Wed Nov 2, 2022, 1:30pm**  
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's**  
Restaurant, Los Lunas,NM

**Wed, Nov 2, 2022 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Nov 3, 2022, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

**Sat, Nov 5, 2022, 9 - Noon**  
**Builder's Club Meeting & Breakfast @ clubhouse**  
Bring your own breakfast.

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

**Wed Nov 9, 2022, 1:30pm**  
**Koffee Klatch at Denny's**  
Restaurant, Los Lunas,NM

**Wed, Nov 9, 2022 8pm**  
**VCARA Net 145.430 mhz**  
See Net Operator schedule.

**Thu, Nov 10, 2022, 7:30pm**  
**Tri-County Net 146.96mhz**  
Emergency scheduled net.

- \$5931.14 is the checkbook balance on August 31st
- \$67 in raffle tickets collected at the August meeting
- Reminder to use the club's Amazon smiles account for purchases. This results in an Amazon refund to the club.

**Antennas report (Chris G.)**

- Both towers have been erected.
- Chris provided a recap of the antenna and tower work as outlined in the officers meeting.
- There is some additional grounding work that is needed for the tower and antenna installation.
- Ralph, NM5RC, has submitted the final report to Facebook concerning the grant that paid for the tower work.
- Provision are in place to install Christmas lights on the towers during the Christmas season. This includes pulleys at the tower apex. This activity is in support of the Church for providing the club meeting facility.
- The club is addressing security concerns related to the towers and club house. Receive quote for security cameras. Estimated cost if \$1200.

**New Business:**

**New grant proposal –**

- A new Facebook grant proposal in development to fund and install full radio stations at two local county schools. See discussion notes from officers

meeting. Facebook will make grant selection notifications in January 2023 and would provide funding in March 2023 for a successful grant application.

- Nick Carter is working the middle school principal to arrange for site surveys and coordination.
- The schools have pledged to provide books, cabinets, computers, and a meeting/equipment space.
- An elementary school has also expressed interest in having VCARA mentors provide help at their school.

**The Christmas party is scheduled for December 12th at 5pm at Rutillio's restaurant**

in Los Lunas. See notes in officers meeting section for Christmas waffle breakfast and Bethlehem operation contest to occur in late December. Reimbursements from the W5YI testing sessions that the club sponsors throughout the year help fund the Christmas party prizes.

**Comments –**

- There is a license exam testing session scheduled for October 8th at the club house. Testing includes a \$35 test fee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm local time.

**Presentation on QRSS was given by Earl Cox.** QRSS is a digital transmission mode that transmits small messages over extended transmission times. This transmission mode if extremely low power and has

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very small bandwidth requirements.

Narrower transmission bandwidths reduces the noise floor on and power necessary for a successful signal reception. Typically the slow data rates allow for transmission of callsign over about four minute times and can be achieved with typical transmit power of 200 mW for worldwide contacts. Mode transmissions are synchronized over 10 minute windows.

WA5DJJ has set low power Distance/Watt records for transmissions between Las Cruces and Florida. Earl displayed a small QRSS transmitter he designed and constructed on a surface mount development board that he mounted in a food can. He also handed out photos of other implementations of locally built transmitters from other ham operators. Because of the long transmission time, stable oscillators are required to prevent frequency drift. In Earl's transmitter, he implemented a simple temperature sensor that controlled heat generated in resistors mounted next to the crystal oscillator. This arrangement maintain the crystal at a constant temperature.

Signal reception for QRSS transmission occurs in distributed grabber nodes that operate around the world on specific frequency segments in the amateur radio bands. Reception is decoded by visually reading spectrum waterfall

displays that are generated by the grabbers. These displays are post over the world wide web.

QRSS transmitters can be easily home built from kits such as the Ultimate3/3S QRSS/WSPR kits from QRP Labs, <https://www.qrp-labs.com/ultimate3.html>. A couple of good websites about QRSS include: Scott Harden's at <https://swharden.com/blog/2020-10-03-new-age-of-qrss/> and David Hassal at <http://www.zianet.com/dhassall/>. Respectfully submitted,

*John Eldridge, KB5ENN  
VCARA Secretary*

**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*



**VCARA Builders Group is active**



**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

- Oct 26 – Nick, KI5MFF
- Nov 02 – Ralph, NM5RC
- Nov 09 – Greg, KG5OCW
- Nov 16 – Al, W5ACW
- Nov 23 – Gene, KI5BZI
- Nov 30 – Chris, KF5EMP
- Dec 07 – John, K8JWS
- Dec 14 – Earl, KB5UEW
- Dec 21 – Charlie, NM5CL

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:** John Schaaf,  
K8JWS

[firewood26789@gmail.com](mailto:firewood26789@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Charlie Lyon,  
NM5CL, [nm5cl@att.net](mailto:nm5cl@att.net)

**Secretary:** John Eldridge,  
KB5ENN, [jmeldri@q.com](mailto:jmeldri@q.com)

**Past President:** Kevin Welander,  
K5ZOO, [kevinwelander@msn.com](mailto:kevinwelander@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  
Peralta, New Mexico 87042

US POSTAGE  
Required

**BE SAFE  
AND GET ON  
THE AIR**

