

# APRIL

## DOTS and DASHES

Valencia County Amateur Radio Association  
Newsletter

### UPCOMING DATES

#### April

12<sup>th</sup> – QSO Party  
(see article)

*Every Saturday  
9-12 Breakfast club at  
club house.*

*First and Third Saturday 9-12  
Builder's club at Club house*

*Every Wednesday  
8pm Weekly Net*

*Every Thursday  
7:30pm ARES net*

*4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10-12  
ARES Group*

*VE TESTING  
VE testing is conducted monthly  
the 2nd Saturday  
at the VCARA Clubhouse  
See our website for Important  
Info on this process.*

*NM QSO PARTY  
See article in this newsletter*

#### Next Meeting Be Prepared

*David Hall, a new  
member will be  
speaking.*

### A Letter From A CLUB MEMBER

#### QSO EVENT

**April 12 8am-8pm**

As usual, the annual 2024 NMQSOP is on second Saturday of April (the 12th) from 8 AM to 8 PM. An operator schedule is at club so you can reserve a spot to sit at the mic and/or as a coach/control operator. If you are new, inexperienced or a bit rusty at the mic, the club officers would really encourage you to come out and get on the air with one of our helpful mentors. Yes, April 12 is a ways off, but signing up early will give you to claim a convenient time slot as well as get it on your personal calendar so it will really happen.

We have a great station and propagation this good won't come around again for a dozen years, so come out and have a great time and help us set a new record of number of participants as well as number of QSOs.

Direct questions to Ralph - nm5rc at msn.com

#### *April Meeting*

David Hall will be speaking  
about how he set up his car and runs radios out of  
it. Come meet this new member!



Website:  
<http://kc5our.com/wordpress/>

Facebook:  
 Valencia County Amateur Radio Association

Dues may be paid by PayPal

nm5cl@att.net  
 Enter: "Membership Dues Payment"

## Wednesday Night Net

\* See our website for net running protocol\*

Feb 07 - Earl, KB5UEW  
 Feb 14 - Charlie, NM5CL  
 Feb 21 - Nick, KI5MFF  
 Feb 28 - Ralph, NM5RC

Mar 06 - Greg, KG5OCW  
 Mar 13 - Al, W5ACW  
 Mar 20 - Gene, KI5BZI  
 Mar 27 - Chris, KF5EMP

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY April

Davis, Rick  
 Duffy, James  
 Gillespie, Christine



# Meeting Notes

## February Meeting

*We had a fascinating meeting.  
 We had guests from a club in Abq.*

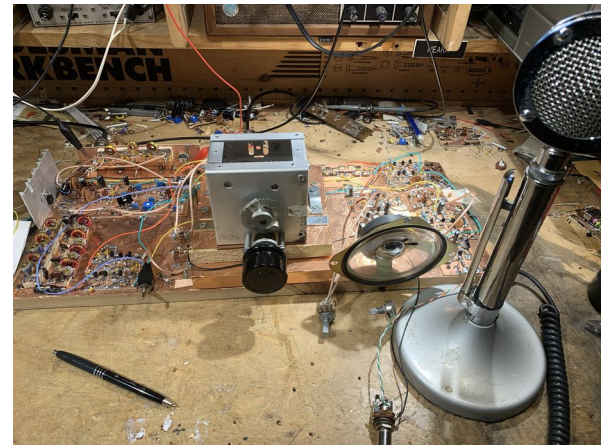
*They came and spoke to us about their special project supplying radios and antennas for Ukraine communities.*

*If you wish to donate to this cause you can do so by contacting them.*

<https://www.bosquearc.com/>

*We also had a lovely guest from Socorro join us.*

*The project group continues to work on a project using slow and low radio to communicate long distances.*



*Picture above goes with article on last page. Sorry. Space constraints.*

## Contact Us

President: John Schaaf,  
 Vice President:  
 Secretary: John Eldridge, KC5MTI  
 Treasurer: Charlie NM5CL  
 President Former: Earl Cox  
 Newsletter Editor: Ginger Eldridge, KC5MTI apoemge@q.com

Valencia Middle School Update, 03/07/2024:

There are many exciting things going on at Valencia Middle School! The Valencia Middle School students continue their STEM through amateur radio journey operating the KJ5DZQ call sign. The school's repeater is up and running for amateur use on 443.250, + Offset, 100.0Hz PL tone. Charlie [NM5CL](#) has worked several students on the repeater and it's getting out there! He made the first student contact with Luke working the [KJ5DZQ](#) call sign on the repeater. Please feel free to jump on and use the repeater as you desire. It is also C4FM compatible so feel free to play around with that digital mode if you desire. The Faculty advisor, Mr. Kennedy, [KJ5AEV](#), has accomplished much over the past school year. Of his cohort of teachers who attended the ARRL's [ETP](#) Program, he was the first of his group with an operational station, the first station with it's own call sign, and is the first of his group with a repeater! Many thanks to Mr. Kennedy for his hard work and dedication to use Amateur Radio to teach this upcoming generation STEM subjects through Amateur Radio! If you're interested or so inclined, please check out the Valencia Middle School QRZ page at <https://www.qrz.com/db/KJ5DZQ>.

The students continue to make MANY contacts and made their first "organic" contact on the School's Repeater with a handheld in March of 2024. [KE0TVI](#) tested out the repeater from the west part of Los Lunas and was answered by one of the students on the repeater. That was the first "Organic" contact I'm aware of on the repeater. Thanks for checking out the repeater and for looking for the students, John!

The station is in good order and now the students have 2 interactive flat panels in the lab to assist in learning. A lot of progress has been made over the past 8 months! Thanks to everyone who has helped and to everyone who has made contacts with the students!

In addition to the Repeater, a second VHF/UHF antenna was erected in March by Chris [W5CSG](#) and [K15MFF](#) for the schools dedicated VHF/UHF Radio. Many thanks to Chris for teaching Mr. Kennedy and I how to program a repeater! Also, it should be noted that Paul Choc [WA5IHL](#) donated and tuned the Duplexer that is in use at the school. Many thanks to Mr. Choc for assisting the school, staff and students in their Amateur Radio journey!

One of the new students made several DX contacts of note and was extremely excited to make a contact with Bill, [N2CQR](#), in Virginia on Bill's 2.5W home-made radio. The students at VMS were his first contact on his newly built radio! Good on Bill for making such an impressive contact over such distances with a home-built HF Radio! For more information on Bill's build, please check out his blog at <https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/> or his YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC20TcdWSSFliMhg3k2A1a5w>.

All in all, it has been a very interesting, educational and enlightening year at VMS! Thanks to everyone who has assisted, especially Ralph, [NM5RC](#), who got this whole thing going, the [Valencia County Amateur Radio Association](#), and to Mrs. Carter, the VMS principal, who saw Amateur Radio's educational value in our classrooms.

Finally, I would like to announce Mrs. Carter's retirement from education after 37 years. Without her forward thinking, the KJ5DZQ station would never have happened. Mrs. Carter has dedicated her life to the education of our youth and has had an extremely positive impact on our students, other educators, friends and especially, her family. Congratulations on your retirement and hopefully the KJ5DZQ station will prove to be a legacy to your educational leadership! I love you Joann, as do many of the students who you've positively impacted over your almost 40 years in education!

73 all!