

JANUARY

UPCOMING DATES

*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*

*4th 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.*

*Sept 20-22
Duke City Ham Fest
(see article in newsletter)*

Next Meeting Be Prepared

Sarah Gillen, NMCEM
KI5RLE/ WSCU393
Valencia County Emergency
Manager

**Speaking about
Ruidoso and her
experiences there**

DOTS and DASHES

**Valencia County Amateur Radio Association
Newsletter**

CLUB STUFF

KC5OUR WILL AGAIN BE ON THE AIR TO SEND GREETINGS FROM BETHLEHEM, NEW MEXICO

Our Club station KC5OUR will be on the air from December 18 to 24 to send out Christmas Greetings from Bethlehem to Ham stations around the world. This special event station operation is a lot of fun since there is no twiddling of the dials since everyone is looking for us and the informal exchange is whatever we want to say.

For those of you who are new to our Bethlehem operation, Belen is Spanish for Bethlehem and our club was started in Belen - hence greetings from Bethlehem

Our KC5OUR shack will be open at various times and each member is welcome to come in for some mic time. Mentors/control operators are ready to help too. If you need access to the shack contact one of the club officers.

If you live in Valencia County and you can operate from home using KC5OUR. Email Ralph NM5RC (nm5rc@msn.com) to get a sample exchange sheet which also contains the suggested frequencies. Be sure to log your contacts and pass them along to Ralph so they can be entered into the club's master log.

DECEMBER
Saturday 21st 5-7pm

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING.

POTLUCK!



HANDICAP RAMP AND PARKING COMING OUR WAY

Of course, you remember we received a \$32,000+ grant (money is in our bank) from ARDC to install a handicap ramp, pave a couple of parking spaces and rehab the building's rear stairs. Contracts for the aluminum ramp including installation and for the paving have been signed and deposits paid.

Work is already under way! Next time you come to KC5OUR, you'll notice one of the juniper trees in front of the building has already been removed so the ramp can be installed. This didn't require a member Saturday morning work day since a club member's relative volunteered to take it down for the firewood.

Bye, bye front steps: On **February 1** (the first Saturday morning after our January club meeting) we will gather to demolish the front stairs.

Asphalt paving and ramp installation is scheduled for the first week in February subject to weather conditions allowing paving.

Your Help and Tools Are Needed During the three 0900 -1200 Saturday Morning Work Sessions

Work plans for each Saturday are available at the clubhouse and our December 21st Christmas Party. Or email John KE0TVT (jthaney84@yahoo.com) to get a work plan(s) emailed to you as well as and to volunteer and indicate which of the listed tools you will bring. Questions, call John at 573-864-3959 or Ralph NM5RC at 505-821-7636.

UPDATED INFO:

BOY SCOUTS TO REBUILD REAR STEPS

The rehab of the rear stairs part of the overall handicap ramp project has been taken on by Mark Crain as his Eagle Scout project. Mark is a member of Scout Troop 360 which has a long history of producing Eagle Scouts and for many years lots of its Scouts have participated in our Radio Merit Badge and Amateur Radio licensing activities.

Thus, the prep work and the two Saturday mornings (December 28 and January 11) we had scheduled for members to do this part of the ramp project are canceled. Whoopie! **When we hear what day(s) the Scouts will be working, be sure to turn out to cheer them on and if asked lend a hand under Mark's direction.**

This will only leave February 1st as the only ramp Saturday morning work session when we will be removing the front stairs so the paving and ramp contractors can do their work.

Here's an update on the 2024 field day.

VCARA made 268 confirmed contacts
Total of 2650 points

41 people attended our field day event
We were in the 2F category which is an EOC

We were the only EOC listed in the state of New Mexico who participated.

While Field Day is not a contest, in the 2F category, we had the most contacts in NM, the most points in NM, and the most attendees in the entire nation.

The members of the VCARA should be pleased with their participation in Field Day!



UPCOMING MEETINGS

February – Bill Mader The New Mexico QSO Party is the second weekend of April. He will focus on operating from one's home and what it takes to have fun in a contest.

March – Neil Addis, w7fed, presentation about the NMFCC. Who we are, what we do, and how it benefits the amateur radio community ELECTION COMMITTEE PUT TOGETHER.

April – Voting for new president? Field Day Planning. (Month ahead of our normal schedule to due speaker availability)

May – Bill Mader Discussion about Field Day and Operating Techniques
June – Field Day

Meeting Notes

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Looking for volunteers and speakers and suggestions and contacts. IF you have any ideas or contacts we can contact for speaking let us know!

Wednesday Night Net

* See our website for net running protocol*

Dec 11 – Gene, KI5BZI

Dec 18 – John, K8JWS

Dec 25 – Earl, KB5UEW

Jan 01 – Nick, KI5MFF

Jan 08 – Ralph, NM5RC

Jan 15 – Greg, KG5OCW

Jan 22 – Al, W5ACW

Jan 29 – Gene, KI5BZI

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Clark, Ralph NM5RC

Cornett, Mary Ann NS7X

Cusack, Trudy

unlicensed

Eldridge, John

KB5ENN

Johnson, Claudia

KB9NBS

Locke, John

K6KUF

Redeye, Thomas

KI5OEC

Steinke, Elizabeth

KI5UMW

Weeks, Ken

KG5IDN

INFORMATION

Website:

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

Facebook:

Valencia County Amateur Radio Association

Dues may be paid by PayPal
nm5cl@att.net
Enter: "Membership Dues Payment"

Main repeater

145.430 Mhz,

Valencia Middle School repeater

443.425 Mhz

Read this:

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASSES

January 13 – 17, 2025

NM DOH, Santa Fe

This training is free but there will be the standard fees for licensing upon completion of the classes.

Click on the link below for all information

<http://kc5our.com/wordpress/tech-license-classes/>

RECAP LAST MEETING

By John Schaaf, K8JWS

First, we had a good meeting last night but missed those of you that couldn't make it. Bill Mader, K8TE, our ARRL Section Manager stopped in for the meeting and brought us up to date on several things going on with ARRL and ham radio in NM.

WEBSITES TO VISIT

Have you seen this site?

<https://hamamerica.org/>

The goal of our Ham club is to connect all Ham's across the world. The Ham America Radio Club promotes the hobby of Ham Radio throughout our communities.

HARC - Connecting Ham's and Ham Club's Everywhere.

Contact Us

President: John Schaaf,

Vice President: John Haney, KE0TVT

Secretary: Chris Schaaf

Treasurer: Charlie NM5CL

President Former: Earl Cox

Newsletter Editor: Ginger Eldridge, KC5MTI apoemge@q.com