

MARCH

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.*

Next Meeting Be Prepared

*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.***

DOTS and DASHES

**Valencia County Amateur Radio Association
Newsletter**

The Last Meeting

We had an interesting meeting with lots of information about emergency response and how we can help. Also lots of stories from Ruidoso.

ALL THE PHOTOS IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THANKS TO MEMBERS. Thanks to everyone who has swung by to check on the ramp progress. These photos are amazing. Looking forward to being able to use it.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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 – HELP!

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

June – Field Day

July - Bill Mader Discussion about Field Day and Operating Techniques



NM5RC says they are making progress!



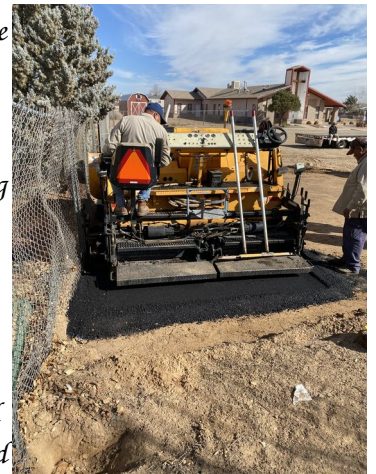
ARDC Handicapped Ramp

Action got started on the Club's ARDC handicapped ramp project on January 4 with ___ local Scouts from two troops, their leaders and several parents replacing the rickety back steps at the Clubhouse. They removed the old structure, trued up the frame, and totally rebuilt the steps and landing. The project was directed by a scout working towards his Eagle rank. They put in ___ hours of work, with the Club purchasing the materials.

The next phase of the project was to demolish and remove the front steps and landing. On February 1, a dozen Club members gathered and made quick work of taking the structure apart, utilizing numerous power tools and a lot of sweat equity. A member's daughter hauled off the tough

looking boards for a project of her own.

The asphalt paving contractor arrived the next Monday to begin paving the handicapped 2-space parking lot and pathway to provide access to the soon-to-come ramp. They spent one day grading and preparing the site for asphalt utilizing a small tracked loader and vibratory roller. The next day the asphalt showed up and the real fun began. Since the lay-down machine could not go thru the gates, there was a lot of hand work near the building entrance. Paving, utilizing the lay-down machine and vibratory roller, of the parking area was completed that same day. Five crew, a lot of shoveling and raking, and 2 truckloads of asphalt combined to finish the job. They returned a few days later and painted the required handicapped striping and signage. This last activity created a hiccup, which is still being addressed.



The last phase of the project was the installation of the aluminum ramp itself. It was estimated by the contractor to take one and a half days to complete this job. Due to some missing/damaged parts from the factory, an underestimation of the complexity of the structure and the "MacGyver" efforts needed to compensate for factory design errors, it actually took parts of five days to complete. There were a few hiccups along the way during the installation that are currently being addressed. On Saturday, February 15, the ramp was officially opened for business with Charlie NM5CL, making the first trip up the ramp into the Clubhouse!

Kudos go to all involved with this project, specifically Ralph NM5RC, who wrote the grant and did the majority of the design and engineering, John H KEOTVI, who served as Project Manager (head babysitter), the Scouts, and all of the Club members who helped out.

We have decided to try to move the Wednesday night net back to the Meadowlake repeater on 145.430 MHz 100hz tone. 146.700 will be the backup if we have problems.

John K8JWS Club President.

Repeater Repair/Maintenance

Over the past year or so, we have all been frustrated on and off during the Wednesday night Club nets as the Meadow Lake repeater seemed to have a mind of its own as it worked intermittently on only it's schedule. With the advice of both Charlie NM5CL and Chris W5CSG, Nick KI5MFF made numerous trips to the site and tried countless "fixes", but having limited success. The unpredictability of the machine finally led the Club to utilize either the Valencia Middle School UHF repeater or the Aragon VHF repeater for Wednesday night Club nets. And then, as the ARES group exercised all of the repeaters on their morning check-ins, whoa-and-behold, Meadow Lake started behaving and the Club net returned to it, with fingers crossed.

We all suspected we were on borrowed time before Meadow Lake started acting up again. So, Nick KI5MFF, Charlie NM5CL, and Richard AB1Q visited the site again and found that a bad cable was intermittently causing the problems. Claiming a victory, Nick decided since he had the help of Richard, they would check the Aragon and Camino Del Llano repeaters also. These machines were checked and given a clean bill of health. That, along with help from Liz KI5PGJ doing some IT magic enabling the Camino machine to be linked with Rocky Mountain Ham's microwave system, Nick scored another "victory".

License Testing

Under the direction of Chris W5CSG, Club President John S K8JWS conducted several sessions of license testing accompanied by several Club VE's. Two people tested at the clubhouse February 8 and both passed their Technician license. On Tuesday, February 11 testing was held at Valencia Middle School and we now have 3 more students as Technician amateur radio licensees. They join 2 previously licensed students from VMS. As part of the Meta grant received by the Club, these students will receive a Yaesu FT-70DR HT radio and a comprehensive Amateur Radio Reference Guide prepared by the Club upon receiving their FCC callsign. Both the students and those testing successfully thru the Club receive a complementary membership in VCARA for the remainder of the year.



ABOUT OUR CLUB

Wednesday Night Net

* See our website for net running protocol*

Jan 22 – Al, W5ACW

Jan 29 – Gene, KI5BZI

Feb 05 – John, K8JWSF

Feb 12 – Earl, KB5UEW

Feb 19 – Nick, KI5MFF

Feb 26 – Ralph, NM5RC

Mar 05 – Greg, KG5OCW

Mar 12 – Al, W5ACW

Mar 19 – Gene, KI5BZI

Mar 26 – John, K8JWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dreibelbis, J E (Jay)

Zuni, Ashton K

Gray, Gil

Hunt, Elvira

McLaughlin, Mark *

Osborn, Loren "Oz"

Pankretz, Steve

Quick, John

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

WEBSITES TO VISIT

<https://www.qsl.net/nmfcc/>

This is the repeater frequency coordination website.

Another Website to Visit

Click on the link above to read about exploring the WPTF Radio Station

(Thanks Chris G. for the link)



Contact Us

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