

JUNE

DOTS and DASHES *Valencia County Amateur Radio Association Newsletter*

UPCOMING DATES

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

*First and Third Saturday 9-12
Builder's club at Club house
Bring a breakfast!*

*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

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

Wear your name tag please!

GOING FORWARD!

WHAT WILL YOU DO??? **How can you help this year for the club?**

We need help!

- Find a speaker!
- Plan Field Day!
- Take on Pancake Breakfast at Christmas!
- Organize a special event!
- Speak on a topic that interests you!
- Call people for meeting reminders!
- Do the newsletter! Write a newsletter article! Take your pick!
- Bring cookies for meetings!
- Fill an office position!
- Write an article for the newsletter!
- Volunteer for the Christmas party set up!
- Send letters to hams who are not members and invite them to visit.

President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Newsletter Editor:

Phone call Person:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July - Bill Mader Discussion about Field Day and Operating
Techniques. New officers begin their term!

**The new president will need help with arranging meetings and
speakers. IF you have any ideas – please share.**

**Building Amateur Radio
Valencia Middle School
Peer to Mentor**

Valencia Middle School General Class Ham Radio Operators Become Mentors to Peers
Los Lunas, NM – April 2025



Valencia Middle School is buzzing with more than just the usual academic chatter. Thanks to a

growing interest in amateur radio, several students who recently earned their General Class

licenses are now taking on an exciting new role: mentors to their peers.

Over the past year, the school's ham radio club has blossomed into a hub of learning, leadership,

and communication. A number of students successfully upgraded from Technician to General

Class licenses, unlocking new frequencies and privileges on the amateur radio spectrum. But instead of stopping there, these young radio operators have turned their enthusiasm into mentorship.

"It's common now for a General Class student to bring their friends into the radio club," said the club advisor and teacher, Mr. Kennedy, himself a longtime ham operator. "They guide interested students, help them prepare for their Technician exams, and even walk them through their first contacts on the air."

This peer-led model is working wonders. The club has seen a surge in new interest as students bring in classmates who are curious about amateur radio. And the mentoring doesn't stop with studying—experienced students are helping newcomers get hands-on experience with radios, antennas, and on-air etiquette. It's not unusual to hear a General Class student coaching a friend through their very first QSO (radio conversation), patiently explaining radio lingo and logging procedures.

What's more, many of these General Class operators aren't stopping at their current level. A significant number have already set their sights on the highest level of amateur radio licensing—the Extra Class. Several students are planning to take their Extra exams this May, aiming to master the most advanced rules and access the entire amateur HF spectrum.

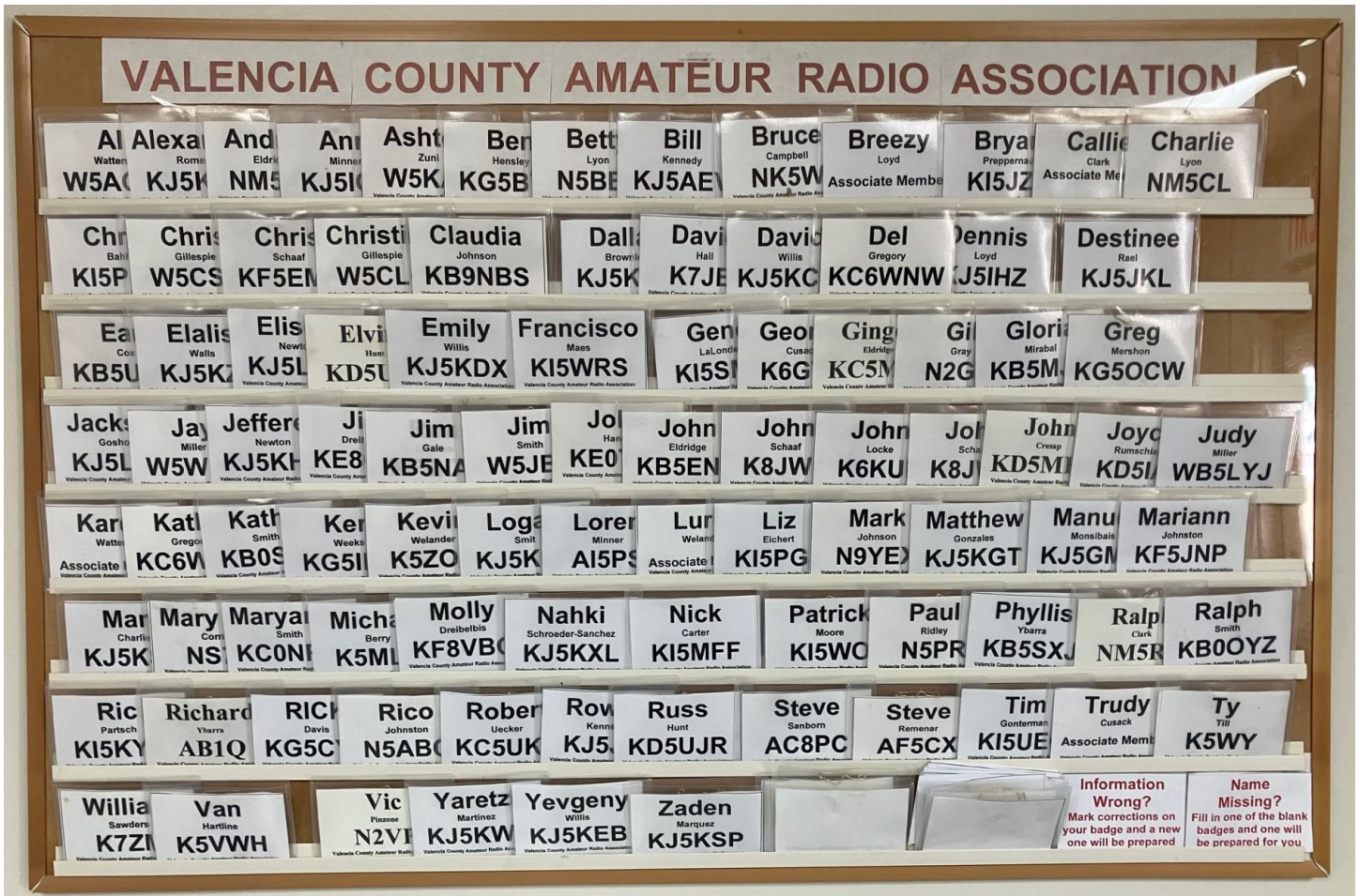
"I want to be able to talk to more people around the world," said 7th grader Logan D., who's been helping new students learn antenna theory. "And I want to help others do the same."

The club's success is a testament to student initiative and a school culture that supports curiosity, exploration, and peer leadership. Amateur radio, once seen as a niche hobby, is proving to be a powerful educational tool—building skills in electronics, communication, geography, and public service. As more students pass their exams and "get on the air," the spirit of amateur radio at Valencia Middle School continues to grow. And with experienced student mentors leading the way, the next wave of young operators is already tuning in.

TOME HILL AND GOOD FRIDAY!



CHECK THIS OUT



MEMBER NAME BADGES UPDATED

The name badges have been updated to reflect the current roster. Wow do we have a lot of members!!!!

At your next visit please check that your badge is there and correct. If there are any changes needed, please mark-up you badge (or make a new one) so the necessary corrections/additions can be made.

We are asking everyone – PLEASE Let's make it an effort for everyone to wear their badge during club events so new members and visitors feel comfortable and get to know us.

ABOUT OUR CLUB

Wednesday Night Net

* See our website for net running protocol*

Apr 23 – Charlie, NM5CL

Apr 30 – Greg, KG5OCW

May 07 – Al, W5ACW

May 14 – John, K8JWS

May 21 – Earl, KB5UEW

May 28 – Nick, KI5MFF

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April Birthdays

Bryan Preppernau

- Sorry I missed it. Probably missed others as well. I am sorry.

MAY Birthdays

Welander, Kevin
Gillespie, Christopher
Hartline, Van
Locke, Liz
Maes, Francisco

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Cresap, John

Eldridge, Ginger

Schaaf, John

Schaaf, Christopher

Smith, Maryanne

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"

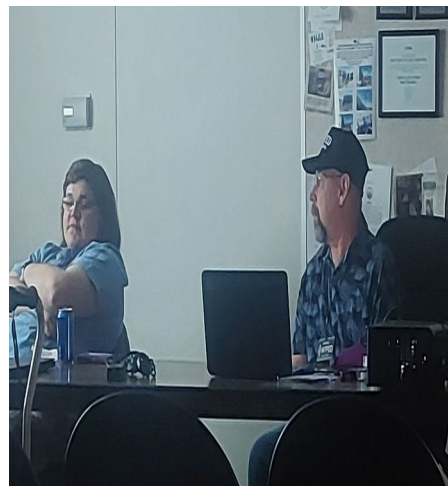
Main repeater

145.430 Mhz,

**Valencia Middle School
repeater**

443.425 Mhz

Last Meeting!



Contact Us

President: John Schaaf,

Vice President: John Haney, KE0TVT

Secretary: Chris Schaaf

Treasurer: Charlie NM5CL

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