

i. COVER PAGE

version date 04 MAR 2023/Partial Updates 12/24, 3/26

Valencia County Amateur Radio Association

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

PURPOSE

This manual was prepared to provide some useful information for new members and new Hams about VCARA and some local Amateur Radio resources.

SOME INFORMATION IS REFERENCED RATHER THAN INCLUDED

To keep this manual brief and current, the location of some information mentioned is provided rather than being included here. The club roster for an example is on our web page so it is not included here.

DISTRIBUTION

- At VCARA Club House
 - One reference copy in a three-ring binder.
 - Several copies kept for distribution to new and prospective members and to give to newly licensed Hams who live in the area.
- VCARA Website
 - A digital copy of this document is on the VCARA web site.

0ii. TABLE OF CONTENTS*version date 04 MAR 2023*

0i	Cover Sheet	0i - 1
0ii	Table of Contents	0ii - 1
A	Some Information about VCARA	A - 1
B	Activities	B - 1
C	Saturday Mornings at the Shack	C - 1
D	Our KC5OUR Station	D - 1
E	Repeaters in Our Area	E - 1
F	Nets in the Area	F - 1
G	License Exams	G - 1
H	ARES and Public Service	H - 1
I	Loan of Club Equipment and Books	I - 1
J	Public School Amateur Radio Stations	J - 1

A. SOME BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT VCARA

version date 04 MAR 2023

THE VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION:

Is THE club for Valencia County Ham radio operators.

Out-of-county members are welcome also.

Is a general interest club with a wide variety of interests and activities.

Has a clubhouse which includes a meeting room and a NICELY EQUIPPED shack.

LOCATION AND MAILING AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Clubhouse:

700 Camelot Blvd SW, Los Lunas

In building at the SW corner of parking lot of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Mailing Address:

VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042

Email Address:

KC5OUR@arrl.net

WEBSITE KC5OUR.com

CALLSIGN KC5OUR also have callsign K5OUR which is used for Field Day

OFFICERS Current officers are listed on website

MEMBER ROSTER

The roster link on the website brings up two rosters:

1. First roster only lists names and callsigns.
2. Second roster which has phone numbers, email addresses and physical addresses requires password for access.

Contact club Treasurer to get password or to have current roster emailed to you.

Roster is maintained by Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP EMAIL

Use this email to communicate with all members: vcara-members@googlegroups.com (must be a member to use this email. Email list is maintained by the club President).

NEWSLETTER

Distributed by email every month to (hopefully) all members.

If you are not receiving the newsletter, request being added to the distribution list by email to the Treasurer.

Your articles, photos and items of interest are welcome - email to the editor.

MEETINGS

Regular monthly club meetings are held at our clubhouse on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

Except:

No meeting in June due to Field Day.

September meeting is a potluck held at the clubhouse

No meeting in December due to Christmas Party.

Officers usually meet at 6:00 PM and everyone is welcome to attend.

Most folks arrive before the official 7 PM start to meet, visit and eat a cookie.

Note the 4th Tuesday is not always the last Tuesday.

VCARA IS AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

We are an American Radio Relay League affiliated club. ARRL is the national organization for Amateur Radio operators.

To be an affiliated club, at least 50% of our members must be ARRL members. While we encourage members to join ARRL, ARRL membership is not required to be a VCARA member.

VCARA IS A 501 (c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Thus, contributions to the club (not dues) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

A membership form is on the next page.

You do not have to have an Amateur Radio license to be a member.

NEWLY LICENSED HAMS RECEIVE COMPLEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP

Non-members residing in Valencia County who receive their first Amateur Radio license, or upgrade their license, at our exam sessions receive a complementary membership for the rest of the July-June membership year.

VCARA Membership Application

We would love to have you join us!

**It is easy to join. Just complete this form and mail it with your check to
VCARA Treasurer, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042
or hand the form with your payment to one of the club officers.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ \$30 Regular Membership | ☐ Renewing member |
| ☐ \$40 Family Membership | or |
| ☐ \$20 Associate Membership | ☐ New member |
| ☐ Free rest of year Membership for non-member Valencia County resident
earning Technician or upgrade at one of our exam sessions. | |

**Club "Dues Year" is July 1 through June 30.
After January 1, the dues are \$20, \$30, \$15 for the rest of the dues year.**

Are you an ARRL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ Call Sign _____ Birth Month** _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email * _____

Names (& call signs if Hams) and birth month** of those included in family membership:

* Email address will only be used to send our monthly newsletter and occasional special club mailings.

** Birth month requested for Happy Birthday greetings in newsletter.

Your email, address and phone will be included in our membership directory published on our web site in an area that is only viewable by club members. Your personal information and email will never be given out or distributed.

The latest edition of the club's monthly newsletter can be seen on our website at
www.KC5OUR.com

B. ACTIVITIES

version date 04 MAR 2023

PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION

At a quick glance, give new/prospective club members an overview of VCARA's reoccurring activities.

SOME NOTES ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES LIST THAT FOLLOWS

See website and other sections of this information packet for activity details.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Month	Activity	Notes
JAN	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday • Winter Field Day - Last full weekend	• • • • • • • KC5OUR on the air from shack. Everyone welcome to take a turn at the mic.
FEB	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday	• • • • •
MAR	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • License exams - Second Saturday • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday • Tome Hill Walk - Good Friday - can be in March or April	• • • • • • We assist Valencia County Emergency Management Office with communications.
APR	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday • NM QSO Party - Second Saturday	• • • • • • KC5OUR on the air from shack. Everyone welcome to take a turn at the mic.
MAY	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday • Officer elections at meeting	• • • • • • •
JUN	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • ARRL Field Day - Fourth full weekend	• • • • • Three rigs on the air from field. Meals and other activities. Lots of mic time available.

Month	Activity	Notes
JUL	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday	• • • • •
AUG	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday	• • • • •
SEP	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday	• • • • • Sometimes potluck at 6 PM in lieu of meeting
OCT	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday	• • • • •
NOV	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Club meeting - Fourth Tuesday	• • • • •
DEC	• Club net - Every Wednesday • Saturday Morning at the Shack - Every Sat • Builders Club - First and Third Saturday • License exams - Second Saturday • ARES Group Meeting – Fourth Saturday • Christmas Party - TBD • Greetings from Bethlehem, NM - for week +/- before Christmas ○ Waffle breakfast - First Saturday of Bethlehem special event station	• • • • • Usually 5-7 PM at Clubhouse • KC5OUR special event station on the air from shack. LOTS of mic time available.

C. SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE SHACK

version date 04 MAR 2023

FOR THE NEW HAM, WHAT'S A SHACK?

An amateur radio station is commonly referred to as a *radio shack*, *ham shack* or just a *shack*. These shacks are where most of the radio equipment is located and where a ham will spend most of his or her time while on the air. Ham shacks can be in a home, in a car or other vehicle, and even in a portable case, such as a backpack.

VCARA's KC5OUR shack is located at our club house and we interchangeably refer to the clubhouse as our shack.

SOME BASICS

- Every Saturday morning from 9 AM to Noon.
- Many bring their breakfast or coffee from their favorite fast-food restaurant.
- Visitors are always welcome.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THESE GATHERINGS?

Activities not limited to those listed below and typically several of these are going on at the same time.

- General chit chat.
- Discuss/plan upcoming club activities and projects.
- Help each other with:
 - My new radio - how to use, set up, program . . . ?
 - I'm having this problem . . . What is the cause and cure?
 - How should I operate when . . . ?
 - Rig and antenna suggestions?
 - Etc., etc., etc.
- Operate KC5OUR and, if desired, get mentoring on using the equipment, operating procedures and logging.
- License exams - second Saturday of the month.
- Builders club activities - first and third Saturday of the month.

BUILDERS CLUB

- Hands on activities focused on learning about electronics, designing circuits, building projects and figuring out why a piece of equipment is not working.
- First and third Saturday of every month.

ARES GROUP

What is ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)? Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. Hams serve our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others. ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

This group meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at the clubhouse for training, education, and preparedness and practice to assist Served Agencies.

D. OUR KC5OUR STATION

version date 04 MAR 2023

WE HAVE A GREAT STATION WITH FOUR OPERATING POSITIONS

KC5OUR Operating Positions



Meeting and Training Area



HF RIGS

- **ICOM 756 PRO-III**
 - Main use is as CW rig during Field Day.
- **YAESU FT-710**
 - Usually used for HF SSB voice.
 - In use most Saturday mornings and our special event and contest operations.
- **ICOM 7300**
 - For digital modes such as PSK-31, FT-8, RTTY
- **Linear Amplifier - Ameritron AL-600**
 - 600 watts
 - Used with the Icom 756 Pro-III or the Yaesu FT-710
- **Antenna Tuners**
 - One for each HF operating position

HF ANTENNAS

Can be connected to HF operating position of choice

- **Vertical Five Band - Hustler 5BTV**
 - 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands
 - With 30 ground radials.
- **Yagi Five Band Beam - Cushcraft MA5B with rotor**
 - 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meter bands.
 - On top of 60-foot tower.
- **40/80 meter inverted V dipole**
 - Peak of V at 50-foot level of our 60-foot tower.

VHF/UHF RIG (2 M & 70 CM)

- **ICOM ID-880H** (dedicated as a Winlink Gateway)
- **YAESU FTM-300**

VHF/UHF ANTENNA

- **2 M/70 cm Vertical Base Antenna - Hustler G6-27OR**
 - On top of 50-foot tower.
- **2M Vertical Base Antenna – Diamond DMN-X300A**
 - Attached to NW corner of building. Dedicated Winlink Gateway.

USE OF OUR KC5OUR STATION

- **AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS**

- CALLSIGN
 - OK to use KC5OUR.
 - Please log contacts.
 - OK to use your own callsign.

- **SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES**

- GREETINGS FROM BETHLEHEM, NEW MEXICO, SPECIAL EVENT STATION.
 - *Bethlehem, NM? Club was initially in Belen - Belen is the Spanish word for Bethlehem.*
 - For the 6 to 10 days before Christmas.
 - All members encouraged to participate.
 - Mentors/control operators available.
- WINTER FIELD DAY
 - Last weekend in January.
 - All members encouraged to participate.
 - Mentors/control operators available.
- NEW MEXICO QSO PARTY
 - Second Saturday in April.
 - All members encouraged to participate.
 - Mentors/control operators available.
- ARRL FIELD DAY
 - Fourth full weekend in June.
 - May be at remote site with some of station's equipment or at our Shack.
 - All members encouraged to participate.
 - Mentors/control operators available.

- **SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE SHACK**

- Our Shack is open 9 – noon Saturday mornings.
 - See the *Saturday Mornings at the Shack* section.
- The HF voice radio is typically in casual use for some of the morning.
 - Members and visitors are welcome to operate, observe and participate.
 - This is a great time to get one-on-one hands-on station/rig operating demonstrations. At-the-mic coaching/mentoring is also readily available.

- **INDIVIDUAL USE AT OTHER TIMES**

- MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS FOR MORE THEN ONE YEAR CAN ARRANGE ACCESS TO THE SHACK so they can operate the station. This allows members to:
 - Get on-the-air experience in a non-pressured environment.
 - Participate in contests and operating events.
 - Participate in KC5OUR activities when the club is participating - such as Bethlehem Greetings, Winter Field Day, NM QSO Party and Field Day (if held at shack).
- BEFORE REQUESTING SHACK ACCESS, members should (usually accomplished by request on Saturday morning):
 - Been briefed on building security system; unlocking and locking building and fence; temperature setting; etc.
 - Been briefed on station start-up and shut-down procedures.
 - Been briefed on rig usage.
- SHACK ACCESS IS ARRANGED BY:
 - Arranging for and signing out a set of keys with the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer on the Saturday morning before the planned use. Keys must be returned the following Saturday morning.

E. REPEATERS IN OUR AREA

version date 04 MAR 2023

SCOPE OF THIS SECTION

- This section only attempts to list the most used repeaters accessible from Valencia County.
- *RepeaterBook.com* provides information about additional repeaters you can hit from parts of the county along with a full list of the 350+ repeaters in New Mexico.

VALENCIA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION REPEATERS

The italicized features are expected to be functional in the near future.

- LIST
 - Meadow Lake Fire Station east of Los Lunas
 - 145.430 MHz, negative offset, 100 PL tone
 - System Fusion capable, *worldwide connection*
 - Belen - at water tank just west of I-25
 - 146.700 MHz negative offset, 100 PL tone
 - System Fusion worldwide connection
 - Belen - at water tank on top of mesa.
 - 442.700 negative offset, 100 PL tone
 - System Fusion capable, *worldwide connection*
 - Los Lunas – Valencia Middle School (This repeater is owned and operated by the Student Radio Club)
 - 443.425 positive offset, 100 PL tone
 - System Fusion capable, *worldwide connection*
- FEATURES
 - *Linked together, i.e., talk on one, be heard on all three. This is a planned project.*

UPPER RIO FM SOCIETY, INC. REPEATERS

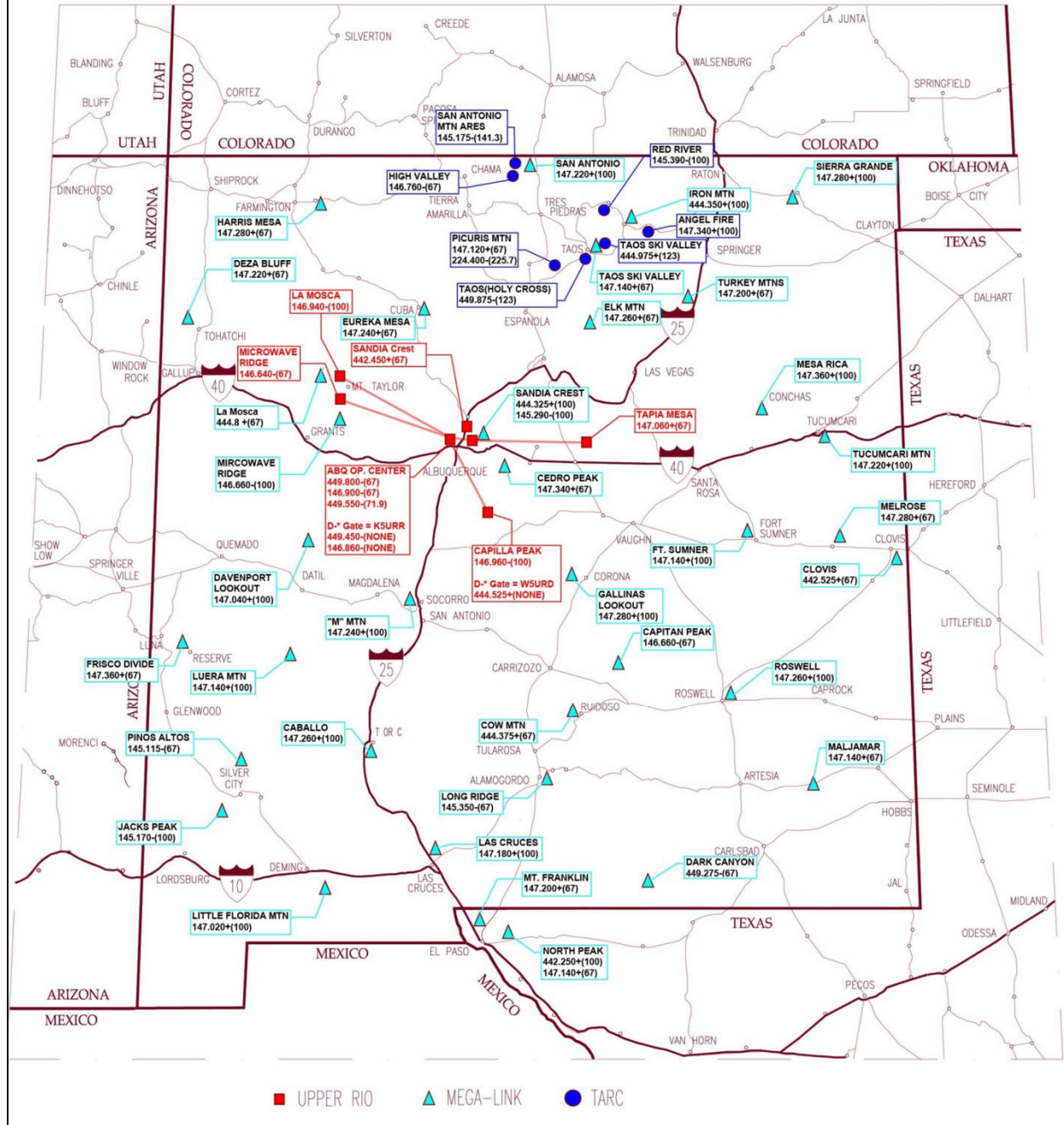
urfmsi.org

- SYSTEM DESCRIPTION
 - Seven repeaters in and around Albuquerque.
 - The four mountain top repeaters can easily be hit from Valencia County.
 - Normally not linked, but can be linked together as desired by URFMSI members.
 - Auto patch allows phone calls to be placed by URFMS members.
 - Auto patch feature extends to Mega-Link repeaters.
- REPEATER MAP AND LIST see next two pages

UPPER RIO FM SOCIETY, INC

LINKING SYSTEM COVERAGE

June 27, 2021



URFMSI LINKABLE REPEATERS

Frequency	Offset	PL Tone	Location
146.900 MHz	-	67	Albuquerque
449.550 MHz	-	71.9	Albuquerque
442.450 MHz	+	67	Sandia Crest (North Sandia Crest)
146.960 MHz	-	100	Capilla Peak (Southeast of Albuquerque)
146.940 MHz	-	100	La Mosca (Just north of Mt. Taylor)
146.640 MHz	-	67	Microwave Ridge (Just south of Mt. Taylor)

In addition to being linkable, these repeaters have AllStar and autopatch capabilities.

URFMSI D-STAR REPEATERS

Frequency	Offset	Location
146.860 MHz	-	Albuquerque
449.450 MHz	-	Albuquerque
444.525 MHz	+	Capilla Peak

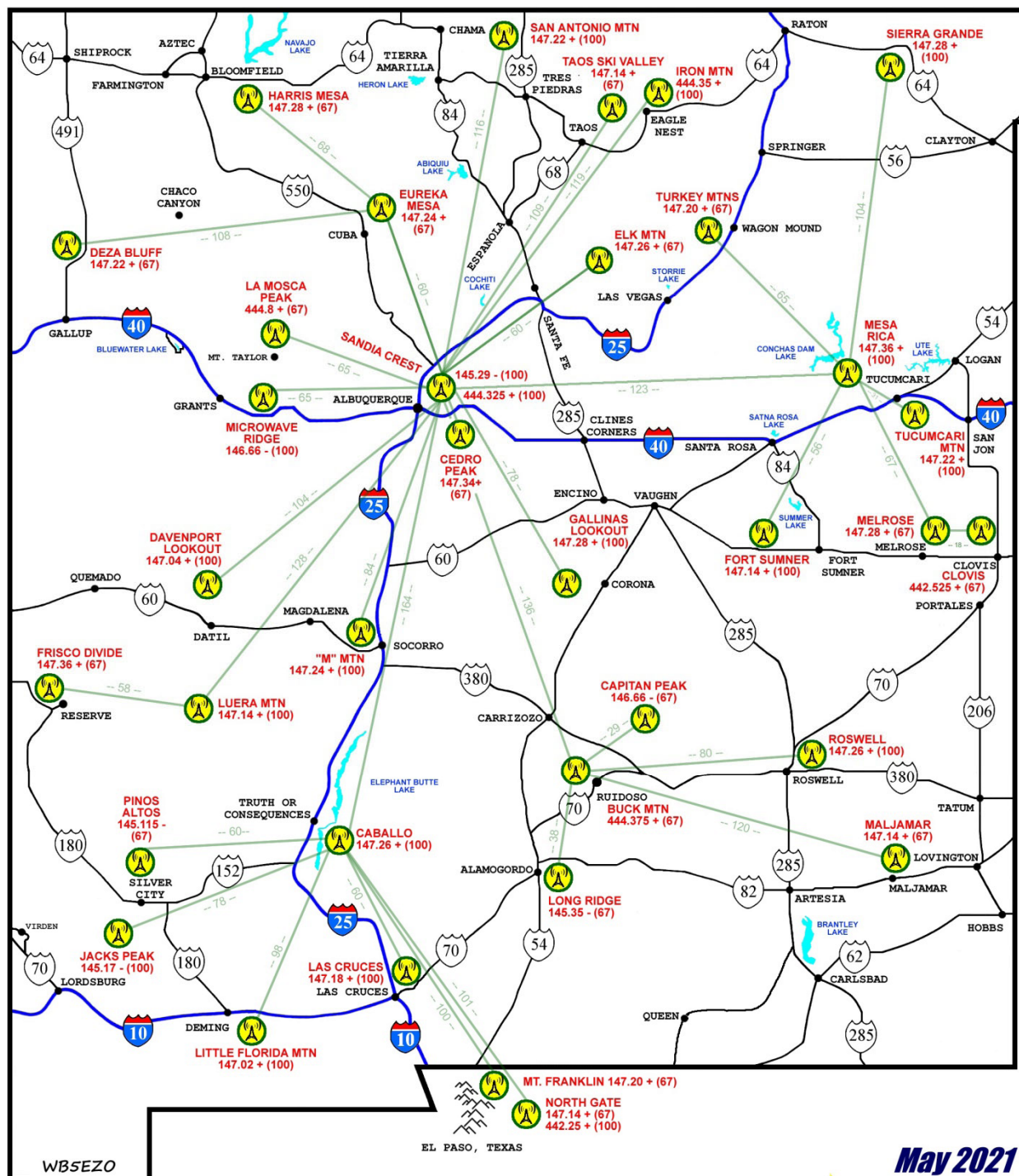
MEGA-LINK REPEATERS

www.NM5ML.com

- **SYSTEM DESCRIPTION**
 - 37 linked repeaters around New Mexico plus El Paso, Texas.
 - Talk on one repeater and be heard on all 37.
 - Nearly all these repeaters are on mountain tops.
 - Unless you are in a canyon, you can hit an URFMSI repeater from almost anywhere in New Mexico.
- **REPEATER MAP AND LIST** see next two pages



New Mexico Mega-Link Association, LLC
www.nm5ml.com



OCTOBER 2026 LIST OF THE MEGA-LINK REPEATERS

Central New Mexico	Elev.	Freq.	Tone	Operational Status
Cedro Peak (SE of Tijeras)	7,767	147.340+	67	
Elk Mountain (N of Pecos)	11,600	147.260+	67	
Gallinas Lookout (W of Corona)	8,730	147.280+	100	
La Mosca (NE of Grants)	10,991	444.800+	67	
M Mountain (W of Socorro)	7,201	147.240+	100	
Microwave Ridge (E of Grants)	9,332	146.660-	100	
Sandia Crest (East of Albuquerque)	10,680	145.290-	100	
Sandia Crest (East of Albuquerque)	10,680	444.325+	100	
Northwest New Mexico	Elev.	Freq.	Tone	Operational Status
Deza Bluff (N of Gallup)	9,000	147.220+	67	
Eureka Mesa (E of Cuba)	9,667	147.240+	67	
Harris Mesa (SE of Bloomfield)	6,949	147.280+	67	
San Antonio Mountain (N of Tres Piedras)	10,908	147.220+	100	
Northeast New Mexico	Elev.	Freq.	Tone	Operational Status
Clovis (Downtown)	4,295	442.525+	67	
Ft. Sumner (W of Fort Sumner)	4,580	147.140+	100	
Iron Mountain (NE of Eagle Nest)	11,732	444.350+	100	
Melrose (W of Clovis)	4,560	147.280+	67	
Mesa Rica (S of Conchas Dam Lake)	5,390	147.360+	100	
Sierra Grande (E of Raton)	8,720	147.280+	100	
Taos Ski Valley (NE of Taos)	11,900	147.140+	67	
Tucumcari Mountain (S of Tucumcari)	4,975	147.220+	100	
Turkey Mountain (W of Wagon Mound)	8,480	147.200+	67	
Southwest New Mexico	Elev.	Freq.	Tone	Operational Status
Caballo (SE of Truth or Consequences)	7,550	147.260+	100	
Davenport Lookout (N of Datil)	9,300	147.040+	100	
Frisco Divide (WNW of Reserve)	8,419	147.360+	67	Stand alone
Jacks Peak (NE of Lordsburg)	7,986	145.170-	100	
Las Cruces (E of Las Cruces)	5,270	147.180+	100	Not in operation
Little Florida Mountain (SE of Deming)	5,260	147.020+	100	
Luera Mountain (S of Datil)	9,420	147.140+	100	
Pinos Altos(N of Silver City)	8,163	145.115-	67	
Southeast New Mexico	Elev.	Freq.	Tone	Operational Status
Buck Mountain (NW of Ruidoso)	10,752	444.375+	67	
Capitan Peak (NW of Roswell)	10,450	146.660-	67	
Long Ridge (E of Alamogordo)	7,782	145.350-	67	
Maljamar (NW of Hobbs)	4,300	147.140+	67	
Roswell (E of Roswell)	3,971	147.260+	100	
Western Texas	Elev.	Freq.	Tone	Operational Status
Mt. Franklin (N of El Paso)	5,470	147.200+	67	Off-line
North Park (NE of El Paso)	3,950	442.250+	100	
North Park (NE of El Paso)	3,950	147.140+	67	

DMR REPEATERS EASILY ACCESSABLE IN VALENCIA COUNTY

Frequency	Offset	Tone Up / Down	Location	Call	Use	IPSC	DMR Local Network
442.25	+5 MHz	CC1	Albuquerque, Sandia Crest	WA5IHL	OPEN	AZ Trbo	AZ-TrboNet
443.25	+5 MHz	CC1	Mountainair, Capilla Peak	WR7HLN	OPEN	Brandmeister	BrandMeister US
443.30	+5 MHz	CC1	Albuquerque, Sandia Crest	WR7HLN	OPEN	Brandmeister	BrandMeister US
443.35	+5 MHz	CC1	Grants, La Mosca Peak (Mt Taylor)	WR7HLN	OPEN	Brandmeister	BrandMeister US

F. NETS IN THE AREA

version date 04 MAR 2023

Valencia County Amateur Radio Association Club Net

Wednesday at 8:00 PM, on a different repeater each week.

See website for the repeater being used.

145.430 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL) – Meadowlake Repeater

146.700 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL) – Aragon Repeater

442.700 MHz (+, 100* Hz PL) – Camino del Llano Repeater

443.425 MHz (+, 100* Hz PL) – Valencia Middle School

* denotes TSQL

Also, the other two VCARA repeaters when they are linked together (plans are in the works).

This open net starts with roll call of officers then is opened to all licensed Hams.

The **VCARA ARES** group conducts a morning check-in/chat net M-F at 0830 on the Meadow Lake repeater. The purpose being to test equipment, transfer information, and training. This is an open net with no requirement to be an ARES group or VCARA member.

Tri-County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Net

Thursday at 7:30 PM

Early check-ins taken at 7:15 PM

The URFMS repeaters

All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to check in to this ARES net. You do not have to be an ARES operator to check-in. Net starts with a roll call of operators in Valencia, Socorro and Tarrant Counties, then frequent check-ins from outlying counties.

Tri-County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Simplex Net

Last Thursday of each month at 8:00 PM

146.550 MHz simplex then

446.505 MHz simplex

Open directed net for ARES emergency operations, exercise and practice.

All licensed operators are invited to participate.

Socorro ARA Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Net

Wednesday at 7:30 PM

146.680 MHz (- , 100 Hz PL)

Rusty's Raiders Net

Weekdays from 8:45 to 10:45 AM The URFMS repeaters

Open net for general discussion. All Hams are welcome to participate.

SCAT Net

Monday thru Saturday 7:00 AM

145.33 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL) and 444.00 MHz (+, 100 Hz PL)

New Mexico Breakfast Club

Daily 6:30 AM

3939 KHz LSB

New Mexico Veterans Service / VA Net

Monday-Thursday 11:00 AM

14.287 MHz USB

Conducted by operators at N5VA based at Albuquerque Veterans Affairs hospital

New Mexico Roadrunner Traffic Net

Daily 6:00 PM MST or 7:00 PM MDT

3939 KHz LSB

New Mexico ARES/EmComm HF Net

First Sunday of each month 6:00 PM MST or 7:00 PM MDT

During New Mexico Roadrunner Traffic Net

3939 KHz LSB

To discuss amateur radio support of all types of emergency communications

All stations invited

New Mexico Ham Radio Preparedness Net

0900 every Friday Morning

Conducted on the Mega-Link network

G. LICENSE EXAMS

version date 04 MAR 2023

LICENSE EXAMS

At VCARA clubhouse

Second Saturday of every month 9 – 11 AM

W5YI VEC

Additional VEs (Volunteer Examiners) are needed.

More information:

See our website (KC5OUR.com) for more information and for contact information.

H. ARES AND PUBLIC SERVICE

version date 04 MAR 2023

VCARA HAS AN AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP

- ARES operates under the umbrella of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) with Section Emergency Coordinators (in our case, New Mexico) appointed by the Section Manager. The SEC appoints local District Emergency Coordinators (DEC) (in NM a district is usually a county). Our ARES DEC recruits ARES operators and coordinates our activities.
 - ARES operators must have an Amateur Radio license.
 - ARES operators do not need to be ARRL members.
- Our Valencia County DEC coordinates with the served first responder agency(ies) (in our case the Valencia County Emergency Manager) to coordinate our role in assisting with emergency communications. The county's Emergency Management Plan assigns specific duties and activities to our ARES group. Our ARES group can only be activated by the County Emergency Manager.
 - Our ARES DEC information is provided on our web page.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME AN ARES OPERATOR

- Procedure and Requirements:
 - Must hold an Amateur Radio license and be a VCARA member.
 - Submit application to DEC.
 - With DEC's approval you will become a limited Valencia County ARES operator.
 - Due to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations, you cannot be assigned to an Emergency Operations Center or other secure sites.
 - The County Emergency Manager cannot issue you a badge.
 - Complete several on-line DHS courses (ISO-100, 200 and 700)
 - Our DEC will then submit your information to the Emergency Manager who will:
 - Have a background check run on you.
 - Issue a county identification badge.
 - IN REALITY, county badges are usually issued/renewed for the ARES operators assisting in the annual Good Friday Tome Hill event.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

- GENERAL
 - Club members are encouraged to assist with communications for public events for the service aspect, but also to practice and develop their emergency communications skills and to test and exercise their equipment.
 - Don't let a lack of experience or minimal equipment keep you from volunteering to help with these events. Just let the event communications coordinator know you are new and they will assign you to work with an experienced operator.
 - In addition to Tour of the Rio Grande Valley Bike Ride mentioned below there are a LOT of bike rides, runs and other events that rely on Amateur Radio for event and emergency communications.
 - To get on the email list of these events and solicitation of volunteers, contact Ed Ricco, N5LI, n54li@arrl.net.
- GOOD FRIDAY TOME HILL EVENT
 - This event attracts about 8,000 who walk from all over the county to climb the hill. Others will drive to the base of the hill to begin their climb.
 - Under the direction of the county Emergency Manager, all (all, not just county) emergency responding agencies in the county assist with all safety, traffic and medical emergency aspects for the event. Our ARES group activates to provide supplemental emergency communications.
 - This is also Valencia County's annual large-scale/multi-agency/large-area, emergency training exercise.
 - Many of our ARES operators turn out to assist with this event along with some club members.
 - Non-ARES club members are encouraged to participate. If you are not yet comfortable in taking on a primary role, you will be paired with someone who has done it before.

- TOUR OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIKE RIDE
 - The route starts in Albuquerque and circles through the full length of Valencia County.
 - Typically 300 to 400 riders.
 - Usually in September.
 - Event coordination/management/emergency communications are via Amateur Radio.
 - Our ARES operators along with VCARA members have 'worked' this event for many years. Assignments vary from providing communications at rest stops to patrolling segments of the route to provide communications and arrange for transportation of participants who are not able to continue.

I. LOAN OF CLUB EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS

version date 04 MAR 2023

GENERAL

- The club has a few items and books that a member may find useful when assembling or trouble shooting their station. Examples:
 - SWR meter.
 - ARRL's Grounding and Bonding book

HOW TO BORROW SOMETHING

- Visit with club officer.
 - The Treasurer if he/she is available.
 - Usually at a Saturday morning gathering.
- Sign form listing what you are borrowing and when it will be returned.
- Take home and use borrowed item.
- Return item.
 - Usually at a Saturday morning gathering.
 - Be sure the form you signed when borrowing the item shows the item has been returned.
 - Borrower is responsible for returning borrowed item in the same condition it was when signed out. If an item is damaged, lost or not returned, borrower SHALL pay to have the item repaired or replaced within a reasonable period of time.

J. PUBLIC SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS

version date 04 MAR 2023

CONCEPT

- VCARA is sponsoring a nicely equipped Amateur Radio station at the Valencia Middle School. The project includes getting the participating students licensed.
- The station is primarily used during after school enrichment programs and during a one semester ham radio elective class. There are currently two of these elective classes. Over thirty students have passed the FCC tests and are now licensed hams. Several have gone on to upgrade their Technician licenses to General and Extra.
- Past and present school principals are supportive of the program by designating space for the station, and an ARRL trained and ham radio licensed teacher is administering the program.
- It is VCARA's intent to expand this program to several additional area schools in the future.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

- Additional mentors are needed at each school, as they come on line.
- Help will be needed to assemble the stations and to erect and connect the antennas.