
HDARC NEWS



HIGH DESERT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, NM5HD

August 2011

Editor, Jerry Aceto K6LIE **NEXT CLUB MEETING 7 PM AUGUST 17th** . Email: jerold45@yahoo.com

President's Corner - Larry Elkin, NY5L

I hope all of you are trying to keep cool during New Mexico's Summer of roasting heat.

Well, our inaugural Explora Children's Museum field operation for July is now history. Overall, the operation was success. Our team of veteran field operation members were able to set up and begin operating within an hour of arriving at Explora with a CW position, SSB position and UHF/VHF position on the second floor semi covered patio of the museum. We all learned a great deal from this event. You can operate in near darkness with LED illumination and even make international contacts with poor propagation conditions. For September, we hope to change our location at the museum to a site better suited to allow the club to display ham radio information under improved illumination and, of course, improved operating conditions. There will be more information to follow on the September Explora museum location. The museum "Adult Night" theme will be "The Science of Food". The HDARC theme will be "Meet the Ladies of Amateur Radio". We are inviting all our over eighteen licensed YL's and XYL's to join us on the night of Friday, September 23 to operate on all HF frequencies allocated to Extra licensed members (who will be the "control operators") and meet the guests of the Explora Museum to discuss your interests in ham radio. All us guys will really like to see a great turnout of our "lady

hams".

As I have mentioned in the past, I had been in contact with a representative of the Santa Fe Southern Railroad trying to plan an outing including a railroad mobile special events station operation. I am sorry to say the SFS RR representative has not been responsive to my follow up contacts, so, regretfully, I am abandoning this idea. Maybe we can organize something with the Cumbres and Toltec RR in the future.

Just a reminder, the August club meeting will be held at our usual location but not on the third Saturday of the month. Instead, we have reserved the APD Community Room for Wednesday, August 17 at 7PM (1900 MDT). We are looking to be more creative with our meeting schedule to see how members like the change. Also, we are looking to change the Saturday meeting time to 10:00 AM MDT to allow members to not have their weekend broken up by a meeting. We will "see how it goes".

Until next month!

73's,

Larry NY5L

UPDATE ON LINDA

Linda Soffran, KC0LOS, had surgery a couple of weeks ago and is now home and doing very well! She even joined us for coffee since returning home. Best wishes Linda, from your HDARC friends!

TOWER SECTIONS FOR CLUB REPEATER

Thanks to Specialty Communications, we now have four ten foot tower sections for the club repeater antenna. We are looking for a base and top section. This will raise the antenna to 50+ feet and should improve our 2 meter repeater's coverage. We hope to complete this project in October and will be looking for a tower raising party to complete this task soon.

Next VE Session

The next High Desert Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **August 20 at 10:30 AM**. Please bring the following:

- ◆ **Photo ID** (drivers license)
- ◆ **Original** Amateur Radio License
- ◆ **Copy** of Amateur Radio License
- ◆ **Original** CSCE's
- ◆ **Copy** of CSCE
- ◆ Test fee is \$15.00 .
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.
- ◆ SS Number will be needed if you don't have an FRN number.

In This Issue.....

<i>Presidents Corner</i>	1
<i>Update on Linda Soffran</i>	2
<i>New Tower for Club Repeater</i>	2
<i>Birthday Greetings</i>	2
<i>Next VE session</i>	2
<i>Officers & Board Members</i>	2
<i>From the Editors Desk</i>	3
<i>Next Club Meeting</i>	3
<i>Club Repeaters</i>	3
<i>VE Testing Report for July</i>	3
<i>Want to Upgrade to General</i>	3
<i>South Dakota Tower Accident</i>	4
<i>New Mexico Fires & Ham Radio</i>	5
<i>Alamogordo Hamfest</i>	6
<i>August Lunch of the Month</i>	7
<i>Commercial & Free Ads</i>	7
<i>Club Raffle</i>	8
<i>DX News</i>	9
<i>Club Services & Calendar</i>	9



AUGUST HDARC Birthday Greetings!

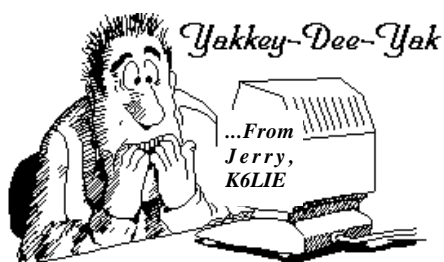
We want to extend warm **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** wishes to our club members celebrating their birthday in the month of **August**:

George Key W5YZ

Chuck Palmer NM5F



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From The Editor's Desk.....

Hi Everyone,

August marks our clubs first evening meeting. We have been working hard to bring this about through changes in our club's by-laws and now we can have meetings when we wish. Most of you seemed to like Wednesday evening as our new meeting night. So this month marks the first Wednesday evening meeting. I hope we have a good turn out. I think this will work out great and am looking forward to an "outing" on the third Wednesdays of the month. We are also discussing alternating meetings between Wednesday evenings during the Spring/Summer months and Saturday mornings during fall and winter. This will make it easier for those of you that may have a problem driving at night. We will discuss this further in the coming months. Best 73's to all!

Next club meeting– Wednesday, August 17th at 7 PM at The Community Room of the West Albuquerque Police Station on Ellison across from Cibola High School. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

HDARC VE TESTING FOR JULY:

July 16: El 4 - one person passed and upgraded from General to Extra

WANT TO UPGRADE TO GENERAL?

Some of the HDARC license instructors are willing to provide an informal class for those current club members who are interested in upgrading to the General Class License. The class would be at some one's home and would be about 2 - 2.5 hours per session. If you would be interested in this assistance, please contact Marty, NM5MS, at lindamarty@cableone.net or Fred Lete, KC5IPK, at letefred@aol.com.

Times and dates will be set once we know how many persons are interested.

Marty Soffran NM5MS
505-410-3992

CLUB REPEATERS

145.370 Mhz PL 162.2 Hz IRLP Node 7706
224.480 Mhz No PL IRLP Node 3285
442.750 Mhz PL 162.2 Hz IRLP Node 7855

Our club repeater systems, including our IRLP systems are open to our members as well as the entire Amateur Radio community.

Echo Link coming to 145.370 soon!
IRLP is now operational on the 442.750 club repeater!

By the way, rumor has it that we will be adding two more repeaters! Stay tuned for more info.

ONE HAM KILLED, ANOTHER SERIOUSLY INJURED IN TOWER ACCIDENT

ALWAYS BE CAREFUL !

07/19/2011

As a group of South Dakota hams were dismantling a 110 foot tower outside of Hot Springs on Saturday, July 16, a gust of wind toppled the final section, trapping two local hams underneath. Tim Anderson, K0OR, 54, and Tom Embree, NC0K, were transported to Rapid City Regional Hospital via helicopter, where Anderson died of his injuries. Embree underwent surgery on Sunday and is expected to have more on Wednesday; he remains in serious condition. Both are members of the Hot Springs Amateur Radio Club; Anderson was the club's president. Hot Springs is located about 57 miles south of Rapid City.

According to Fall River County Emergency Manager Frank Maynard, members of the Hot Springs ARC had taken down all but the final

30 foot section of the tower. As the ground crew was just beginning to release the guy wires, a gust of wind blew the tower over with Anderson and Embree still on it. The tower then collapsed on top of them. Maynard said that the men were helping the club take down the tower that was no longer in use. The tower's owner offered the structure to the club and they were planning to move it to a new location. According to John Embree, his brother Tom -- a Vietnam Veteran who had just retired from a 25 year career in law enforcement -- was new to the area, "After being in Hot Springs for only a month, he was out helping move that radio tower," John Embree wrote on the *Rapid City Journal's* discussion board. "Tom is undergoing surgery Wednesday for his injuries. He had his skull drilled to re-

move a blood clot there. He has a broken pelvis that they are going to try to pin and glue back together. His jaw was broken badly and they will try to fix that somehow. But he is a tough old guy and with a little help, [he] will recover."

Anderson and Embree were both ARRL Volunteer Examiners. Anderson, a VE since 1984, was one of the first ARRL Volunteer Examiners after the FCC established the program. Anderson was also the advisor to the Hot Springs School Radio Club.

A memorial service for Anderson will be held at 10 AM on Thursday, July 21 at the Mueller Center Theater in Hot Springs. -- *Thanks to the Rapid City Journal for the information*

New Mexico Hams Provide Communications Support During Wildfires

07/26/2011

One month after it began, the Las Conchas Fire -- New Mexico's largest fire on record -- has burned almost 157,000 acres and is 90 percent contained. The fire, which began on June 26, is believed to have been human set. The next day, the fire threatened the Los Alamos National Laboratory, forcing the evacuation of the entire town of Los Alamos. The American Red Cross established two shelters, one in Pojoaque and another in Espanola, both north of Santa Fe. During the evacuation, the Santa Fe ARES® (SFARES) Group placed itself on alert.

On June 28, the American Red Cross requested communication support at the two shelters due to a lack of landline telephones in the shelters, as well as poor cell phone coverage and quality. The New Mexico State Emergency Operations Center activated the Santa Fe and Los Alamos ARES® Groups that morning. It requested the SFARES® Group to establish a communication post at the shelter in Pojoaque, while the Los Alamos ARES® (LAARES) Group was asked to establish a similar capability at the Espanola shelter. Both communication posts were directed to utilize the VHF 2 meter repeater (146.82 MHz) on Tesuque Peak. This repeater allowed both Shelter communi-

tion posts to communicate with each other, as well as with the State EOC, south of Santa Fe.

SFARES members responded to the activation and established a communication post within 45 minutes of the activation. SFARES members developed a continuing watch that was manned from 7 AM until 10 PM. Although the start and stop times varied a little based on Red Cross requirements, SFARES members maintained the communication post until July 2 when it was placed in a standby status by the State EOC. The LAARES Group maintained the same continuing watch at the Espanola shelter. During the activation, LAARES members were also displaced from their homes, due to the mandatory evacuation from Los Alamos.

“While message traffic normally concerned health and welfare and originated by the Red Cross, there were requests from the State EOC and from the Incident Commanders staff,” said SFARES Emergency Coordinator Don Hinsman, N4VIP. “All traffic was logged according to normal ARES® procedures and responses to all requests were obtained. Due to external demands on LAARES members, SFARES Group members augmented the Espanola shelter.”

Hinsman, along with ARRL State Assistant Section Manager Bill Boedecker, NM5BB, and ARRL Santa Fe and San Miguel County District Emergency Coordinator William Beardsley, KE5ZAV, found they needed digital transfer capability between the Pojoaque

shelter and the State EOC.

“On June 30, Alex Kent, NM5AK, utilized the VHF 2 meter repeater on Pajarito Peak to transfer test messages to and from the shelter to the State EOC using MT-63 mode in FLDIGI and FLMSG,” Hinsman told the ARRL. “All test messages were received with 100 percent copy. The Pajarito Peak repeater is located within the active fire boundary of the Las Conchas Fire. This repeater functioned continuously during the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000. It is powered by solar panels and is not susceptible to landline power losses. Pajarito Peak is one of five repeaters maintained by the Santa Fe Amateur Radio Club (SFARC); the Tesuque Peak repeater is another. SFARC members noticed a less than optimum performance on Tesuque Repeater, so Alan Hill, N5BGC, and John Spiess, KB5ZQE, went to Tesuque Peak on July 2 to repair the SFARC repeater system. The repeater had 20 W forward and 10 W reflected, which is not acceptable. They replaced a 50 foot section of coax, resulting in a new reading of 20 W forward and 0 W reflected. This repair was coordinated through the State EOC during the communication support. No loss of communications was experienced during the repair and a better repeater was available after the repair.”

As of July 26, the Las Conchas fire had destroyed 63 homes and 49 outbuildings. On July 23, a National Incident Management Team (NIMO) took over management of the Las Conchas fire suppression efforts from the Northern Rockies

Continued from page 4

National Incident Management Team. "The NIMO Team will continue management of the Las Conchas fire and assigned resources until the fire is declared contained," the US Forest Service declared on its Las Conchas Fire **website**. "The fire has been divided into four branches and local fire suppression resources from the ranger districts, Bandelier National Monument, and Valles Caldera National Preserve will form Task Forces of firefighters, engines and water tenders. Each Branch will continue to mop-up hot spots, patrol the fire perimeter, and complete remaining fireline suppression rehabilitation." More than 130 people have been involved in fighting the fire. According to the USFS, four helicopters, 18 fire engines, two water tankers and three bulldozers are assisting in fighting the fire.

"The response by LAARES and SFARES Groups is another excellent example of how Amateur RadioFT- operators provide support in times of emergency," Hinsman said. The following hams helped provide communications support: K5RVR, K5SDC, K5YDX, KB5ZQE, KD5IRG, KD8QAQ, KE5ZAV, KJ5KU, KM5HH, N4VIP, N5BGC, N5EYS, N5UJT, N5XDF, N6ZZT, NM5AK, NM5BB, NM5RW, W4KYM and W5UO.

(From the ARRL Letter, July 28, 2011)

ALAMOGORDO HAMFEST

The Alamogordo Amateur Radio Club will once again be hosting its annual HAMFEST this year on Saturday, September 3, 2011 at the Otero County Fairgrounds exhibit building. Doors will open to the public at 7:00 AM MDT.

RVs may be dry-docked in the parking lot Friday night, or you may consider using a local RV park or campground such as the Alamogordo Roadrunner Camp-

Ground (a Good Sam Park).

Talk-in: K5LRW REPEATER: 146.80, PI 100 Hz.

Pre-Registration tickets: \$5.00. (Pick up pre-paid tickets at event). Prize tickets at the door \$6.00. Reserve Swap Meet Tables - \$5.00.

Registrations received by August 31, 2011 are eligible for the Pre-Registration Prize which is the Yaesu FT-1900R.

Main Door Prize - Yaesu FT-857D

2nd Prize - Icom IC-208H

3rd Prize - MFJ-4225MV

Food available at the Fairgrounds or the White Sands Mall.

ARRL Forum –Traffic Net Forum – MARS Forum

Hourly prizes

Banquet at 6 PM Saturday at the Golden Corral

For Additional Information, Please Contact Dave Pote, AE5OV at 575-446-4441 or visit www.qsl.net/k5lrw

AUGUST LUNCH OF THE MONTH

Hi, Everybody!

We are getting together Friday, August 5th at 12 noon, for our Lunch of the Month at **Boston's The Gourmet Pizza**, located at 4300 The 25 Way NE, Albuquerque 87109.

Great friends and great Pizza. But if Pizza is not your thing, they have all kinds of other dishes that you will enjoy!

As always, spouses, family members, partners and guests are welcome, too! That way, when our illustrious fellow members return from Taos, we can tell them we weren't just sitting on our rear ends, either. **We were eating!!!** Hi Hi!

Looking forward to seeing you at our Lunch of the Month!

Kathey WB6JAN

COMMERCIAL ADS

Ad rates are \$20 per year or \$5 per month. Send ads to Jerry Aceto, Editor, 1023 Purple Aster Dr, Bernalillo, NM 87004 or email jerold45@yahoo.com

Help support the HDARC. Donations accepted and are tax deductible!

WANTED: New Mexico Amateur Radio Call sign License Plates, all years. Especially need 1959-1964, inclusive, plus 1976, 1977, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, and 2000. Will buy or trade. Bill Johnston, K5ZI, P.O. Box 640, Organ, NM 88052-0640. Tel. 575-382-7804. e-mail: K5ZI@arrl.net (5/2011)

FREE HAM ADS

Kenwood TS-2000. Rig only, no power supply. \$1200. Contact Bill Warshauer, K5BNW at 505 867-1441.

SPECIALTY COMMUNICATIONS

201 Conchas Street Southeast
Albuquerque, NM 87123-3324
(505) 294-6100

Need Antennas, coax, connectors, mobile installations, repair services? Contact Paul Choc, WA5IHL.

In business since 1964, Paul can help you with all your Amateur radio needs.

<http://www.specialty-communications.com>

CLUB RAFFLE



Our club's first raffle will feature the Wouxun (sounds like 'ocean' in Chinese) KG-UVD1P 2 meter/70 cm Handheld Transceiver. This little beauty features complete coverage of both ham bands. It can be setup for a multitude of frequencies anywhere between 136 Mhz and 520 Mhz. It includes a 76-108 FM broadcast receiver, should you choose to listen to music instead of talk to your fellow hams. The rig includes such features as DTMF encoding, CTCSS/DCS Scan (both digital and Analog), VOX transmission, Voice guide, Wide/Narrow bandwidth, Priority Scan, High/Low Power Selection, Channel Name Edit and Display, Programmable by computer....whew, that's just a portion of it's features. Oh, did I mention that it runs 5 Watts output on 2 meters (4 on 440) and 1 watt out on both bands in low power? Oh yes, it also includes a built in LED flashlight! (don't all Handheld radios include a flashlight?).

If you're lucky, you can get yours for a mere \$3 per ticket or an even better deal at 2 tickets for a \$5 bill.

We hope to collect enough money to pay off Terry, W4RCN, who purchased the unit while at Dayton, and gain a few extra bucks for the club treasury. The plan is to raffle off this unit at the September or October club meeting. We plan to continue raffles if successful. These will include 50/50 raffles, where you get 50% of the monies collected. So it could be profitable for you just to attend the meetings! We hope everyone will support these activities as we move forward with various club projects.

DX NEWS - LARRY ELKIN, NY5L

Another month has gone by and conditions still have not really improved here in New Mexico. Over the last few weeks, Signals have been fairly weak from Europe whether at 0530, 0700, 1700, or 2300 MDT. Japan and the south Pacific islands have been almost non-existent. The Australian and New Zealand hams can be heard and worked but their signals have been down to about a 5-5 signal report.

Average Sunspot numbers have increased from 41 to 92 over the first three weeks of July. Tuning around the 40, 20, 17, and 15 meter bands shows that we are far from out of the low end of the cycle if you go by observation rather than science! The best times to tune the 17 meter band is from 1600 until sunset MDT. For 40, 1600 MDT on, and 20 during the mornings until around 2000 MDT.

12 meters has not had any action and 10 meters has ground wave QSO's.

Oh yes, start checking 6 meters if 10 meters shows any life.

One last note; I just received a QSL (via direct--11 months) from VP8DMH, "Mike Clarke Rothera Station Antarctica. Remember, tune slowly and listen carefully!

73's

Larry

CLUB MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

MEMBER TRANSPORTATION –Need a ride to club meetings or other club activities? Call Jerry Aceto, K6LIE at 771-1323 or Larry Elkin, NY5L, at 771 0391. We will arrange transportation for you from your home to club activities.

MENTORING SERVICES –If you are a new ham, or are interested in becoming a ham, or just have a question, we offer various services to help you along. Check out our website at www.nm5hd.com and click on the “Mentors, Education, VE testing” link. Here, you will find whom to contact for help with all your questions on various subjects.

LICENSE CLASSES AND TESTING –If you are interested in becoming an Amateur Radio operator, or want to upgrade your license, contact Marty Soffran, NM5MS, at 410-3992 or Fred Lete, KC5IPK at 892-0380. We provide VE testing before our club meetings and also will be doing classes from time to time.

HDARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2011

Coffee - Every Wednesday, 2 PM at the Flying Star in Corrales

Breakfast – Every Thursday morning at 8 AM at the Flying Star in Corrales

Club Net –Every Wednesday evening on 145.37 (Pl 162.2), 224.48 (no pl) and 442.75 (pl 162.2) at 7:30 PM. (Except August 17)

Lunch of the Month at Boston's Pizza at 12 Noon on Saturday, August 5th.

Club meeting – Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 PM at the West Albuquerque Police Station on Ellison across from Cebola High School.

VE Testing, Saturday, August 20 at 10:30 AM at the West Albuquerque Police Station.

Club Breakfast at the Thur San Buffet, Sandia Casino at 9:00 AM.

Club Members and their Families and Friends are always welcome at all club meetings and events!