



Making Waves

High Desert Amateur Ham Radio Club Newsletter – September, 2020

CLUB REPEATERS 442.750 + PL162.2 224.480- PL 100

Weekly net every Saturday at 10 am on 145.330 - PL 100 Monthly Meeting is the Third Saturday of the month and is cancelled until further notice.

Weekly Vlog on YouTube is found on Ham Sandwich Productions. HDARC Facebook page is found at <https://www.facebook.com/nm5hd/>.

President's Corner David Ham, N6SIK

A Look Back, How I Started: Larry Elkin, NY5L

VE Testing Results in August

Storage Unit Update: Sue Matzner, K1HY

September Event Schedule: Jim Faulkner KO5V

Membership Committee Update

New Style Shirts and Name Tags: Rio Rancho T Shirt



President's Corner, David Ham

N6SIK Let's take a look at all the things we accomplished in August, 2020.

A pair of handheld dual band radios and accessories were donated by former members, the McCreary's. Yul Bratcher WA5YUL went out and bought some very nice cases to hold the radios. They will be used as loaners to new club members until they purchase their own radio. Jim Faulkner KO5V became the club's Information Coordinator. The club was set up on Amazon

Smile. Log on information will now be on every newsletter and shortly on the new web page. August saw 242 Saturday Club Net check-ins and 80 WAMO check-ins. Jim Kajder AF5FH continues to successfully test at his residence. Thanks to all who have been helping him. Wednesday Lunch Chat on ZOOM saw about 40 August

check-ins. WAMO, the Wall of Fame now has nine members at level 20 and three at level 40. Seven new members were added in August for a total of 41 new members since March of this year. The lion's share of the work on the club inventory is finished. The By Law changes were passed and can be found on the club website.

Looking to September, Tanda Headrick N5TMH is continuing her meetings with EXPLORA and may have some exciting news this month. With the continued improvement in the COVID 19 news, I'm guessing the restrictions on meetings may be removed by October. We shall see.

Have a great September, David N6SIK

A Look Back, How I Started: Larry Elkin, NY5L We all have our reasons for becoming a HAM. For me, I have always been a hunter as in, receiving far off stations with a radio, not the other kind of hunter!

Way back in the early/mid 50's, (I know, that far back) when I was 7 or 8, I wondered what other TV stations I would be able to receive. At the time, I received six channels from the Empire State Building and one from Newark, NJ. Well, I turned the window antenna around to the north and picked up a station on channel 3 from Connecticut. Later on, this station became very important. Wow! I continued checking for open channels and one day picked up channel 6 from Philadelphia. Later on, I was able to also receive a station from Winston Salem, NC.

On my 13th birthday, my uncle let me choose a portable radio as a gift. I picked an RCA 3 way portable radio. If you have never heard of this term, google "3 way portable". One Friday night, I was listening to the Gillette Calvacade of Sports boxing match and during a commercial just turned the dial and heard the same commercials all across the band. Thus began my broadcast band DX'g. How many of you ever heard of "White's Radio Log"? I received stations as far away as the Mississippi river and XERF in Villa Ocuna, Mexico, a "border blaster". That was the first station to feature the famous national DJ, Bob Smith. Do you know his radio persona? I even was able to receive Havana, Cuba on 670 kHz and stations in Baranquilla, Columbia. I also built a short wave with a converter kit. That was when I taught myself to solder. The first station that I received was the BBC, "Big Ben". I was now bitten and became a "SWL". My first real shortwave radio was an eight transistor dual band radio, AM and 3.9 to 12.3 mHz.

Using a 40 foot inverted L stealth antenna, I received QSL's from 68 countries and Col. John Glenn as he passed over New York City on America's first sub-orbital flight. I also received strange transmissions just before the Bay of Pigs mess and later on, the infamous "Numbers" stations. The SWL hobby ended abruptly when I reported my intercepts to the FCC. One day as I crossed the street, headed to a college class, I spotted a guy sitting in a plain four door beige Dodge holding a camera with a telephoto lens. When you see a plain beige or black four door American brand car, it most likely is not a family car. At least, we knew that in New York City! When the driver saw that I had made him, he burned rubber leaving. Remember, I was receiving mail from short wave stations all over the world, including from behind the Iron Curtain and the Bamboo Curtain. Well, my father checked with someone in the know, who said, "Don't worry, they know he is just a hobbyist."

Oh, the channel 3 thing; when Karen and I were first married, we lived on a two floor apartment building in Queens, NY. Someone below us moved out and abandoned a TV antenna on the roof. I connected it to my Heathkit TV and turned the antenna towards Connecticut. During the NFL football season, we beat the local TV blackout and were able to view all the NY football Giant's home games with a house full of people.

Time goes by and ten years later, my late wife, Karen saw an ad in the Miami Herald for a HAM radio class. She said, "Go take the class." Well, I earned my Novice and started building my code speed for the General license. Then I read that code was done and so was I with it. I earned my Technician Plus license and General when we moved to Indiana. First, I had a ten meter Hamstick dipole in the

attic and then a Mosley triband vertical in the backyard. Now the club has that antenna with a 40m section added. I received QSL's from around 70 countries while living in Indiana.

At first, when we retired to Rio Rancho, I used the Mosley vertical before purchasing the 5BTV vertical. This Hustler operates on 10 bands as a 6BTV, and thanks to Jerry Aceto, K6LIE, includes 6 meters as a bonus. After a few years, I earned my Extra thanks to club co-founder, Frank Warren, (SK). It took me a while, but I earned DXCC and have an additional 18 QSL cards from more countries.

This article is a tribute to my late wife, Karen. Without her prodding, I would never have known about or taken the Novice license class. For over ten years, we shared a computer desk where half of the desk was for HAM radio. Here in Rio Rancho, Karen sat right next to me at her computer desk and just tuned me out and never complained if I was not using headphones.

I was a lucky guy.

73 Larry Elkin, NY5L

VE Testing in August Jim Kajder, AF5FH has provided the results for VE testing in August. The test session on 8/15/2020 went well. Eleven candidates tested, and all passed. Six candidates passed Technician, six candidates passed General, and one candidate passed Extra. Overall, four Technicians, six General, and one Extra. Four of the General were upgrades from Technician, and the Extra was an upgrade from General.

Thanks to Michael Rohrkemper AG6ES and Marty Soffran NM5MS for volunteering as VEs for this session. If you are interested in testing, please contact Jim Kajder at jkajder@gmail.com. Our club, HDARC offers a free one year membership to anyone who passes a test using our VE testing.

Storage Unit/Trailer Cleanup Sue Matzner K1IHY, Yul Bratcher WA5YUL, and David Ham



N6SIK worked hard in August for several days to create an equipment list, categorize the status of the equipment and also clean up the storage unit. Even though they started in the morning, it was still hot and dusty work. The pictures show the result of their efforts, clean and organized, ready for the next opportunity to meet again and have ham radio events. If you need equipment out of either the storage unit or the trailer, you can contact any of them.



The trailer is also ready for use for ham radio events.

Event Schedule – September Our new Information coordinator, Jim Faulkner, KO5V will be providing an update on HAM radio events. Here is his first update for September. The Valencia County Amateur Radio Association has resumed their VE testing, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Sept 12 from 0900 to 1200. Check their website for contact details: <http://kc5our.com/wordpress/> Presentations from QSO Today's 'Virtual Ham Expo' are still available for on-line viewing or download until September 9.

There are many other sprints and small events as well, but I've only included the larger ones that will occur on the weekends. (Thanks to WA7BNM's web site, ARRL, CQ Magazine and W6JBT):

1. All Asian DX Contest, Phone. 0000Z, Sep 5 to 2359Z, Sep 6

https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2020AA_rule.htm

2. CWOps CW Open. 0000Z-2359Z, Sep 5 <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/>

3. Route 66 On the Air. September 12-20, 2020 http://w6jbt.org/?page_id=15

4. WAE DX Contest, SSB. 0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

<http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/>

5. SKCC Weekend Sprintathon. 1200Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

6. Texas QSO Party. 1400Z, Sep 12 to 2000Z, Sep 13 <http://www.txqp.net/>

7. ARRL EME Contest, 2.3+ GHz. 0000 UTC Sept 12 through 2359 UTC Sept 13

<http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

8. ARRL September VHF Contest. 1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14

<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

9. ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest. 0600 local, Sep 19 to 2359 local, Sep 20

<http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

10. Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW. 1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20

<https://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/>

11. New Hampshire QSO Party. 1600Z, Sep 19 to 2200Z, Sep 20

http://www.w1wgm.org/nhgso/NEW_HAMPSHIRE_QSO_PARTY_RULES.pdf

12. New Jersey QSO Party 1600Z. Sep 19 to 0359Z, Sep 20

http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/njqp_rules.html

13. Washington State Salmon Run. 1600Z, Sep 19 to 2359Z, Sep 20

<http://salmonrun.wwdxc.org/>

14. CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY. 0000Z, Sep 26 to 2359Z, Sep 27

<http://www.cqwwrtty.com/>

15. Maine QSO Party. 1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27 <http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html>

Membership Update Bob Gilbert, our membership chairperson, is continuing to update the membership list. This is the list of the 7 new members for the month of August.

Sean McGraw KI5KMW David MacKenzie KI5GYF David Carlson KI5KMV

Steven Laird KF5UHY Garry Cramins AE5HL Glen Caine N6HEW Richard Hill N5RAH
Our Club currently has 38 Technicians, 37 General, 6 Advanced and 44 Extra members.

New Shirts and Name Tags Yul Bratcher, WA5YUL has sourced this nice looking denim shirt and name tag. If you are interested in buying this style of club shirt, it can be found at Rio Rancho T-Shirt. The shop is located at 1207 Golf Course Rd, Ste F in Rio Rancho. Speak with either Wayne or Penny at 505-891-1521. Prices are dependent on the style of shirt and number of Club patches.



Weekly Zoom Meetings The weekly Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 12pm is still ongoing and usually has about 10 to 15 people joining. If you are interested in attending, there is an email that is sent each week to members only with the secure login information. Prior to the meeting, go to Zoom.us and sign in to download the required operational software. David Ham, N6SIK is the moderator for the Wednesday lunch.

Please help our club maintain our ARRL club affiliation

The HDARC is an ARRL affiliated club. To maintain this status with the ARRL, we must have a minimum of 50% of our membership in the ARRL. If you are joining the ARRL for the first time, please consider joining through our club. For every new subscriber that joins through our club, we will receive a \$15 commission from the ARRL. For every member that renews their ARRL

membership, the club will receive a \$2 commission. Go to nm5hd.com, click on Member Services, then Membership Information, then click ARRL Membership Application Form. Fill out the form and bring it to a meeting or email it to the Membership Chairman at jrgilb@comcast.net.

You can now designate the HDARC as your charity on Amazon Smile. The club is now set up on Amazon Smile. You need to designate HDARC as your recipient of 0.5% of your purchases.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-2180552>

If you are interested in contributing to an article for the newsletter, please contact Becky Ham, N6TYT. I am looking articles for the October Newsletter. My email is Beckylham@aol.com.

Club Shirts can be ordered through Turbo Threads 505-999-1234

1503 Golf Course, Rio Rancho, NM

Club Badges can be ordered through The Signman of Baton Rouge

Order online: <https://thesignman.com/clubs/hdarccart.html>

Questions about the club? Contact the president at hdarcpres@gmail.com.

Newsletter editor Becky Ham, N6TYT