



Making Waves

High Desert Amateur Ham Radio Club Newsletter – December, 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.

President's Corner David Ham, N6SIK
Ham Radio and You, Larry Elkin, NY5L

No VE Testing Results in November
December Event Schedule: Jim Faulkner KO5V



President's Corner, David Ham

N6SIK Happy December to All. With the holiday shopping season upon us here is the information to sign up for 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>

When you click on this unique link, you'll be taken to smile.amazon.com and will automatically be asked if you want to support High Desert Amateur Radio Club of New Mexico Inc. Go ahead and give it a try! I did!!

Great News, we now have a NEW fully functional website. Ed Poccia, KC2LM, has created a beautiful, and modern website. The URL remains the same. www.nm5hd.com Check it out!

Club Repeater. Let's get out there looking into possible locations for the club's VHF repeater.

The club is now offering Radio Programming Sessions. Please contact me for information on programming your radio.

Well here we grow again! Presentation Saturday. The third Saturday of every month, at 10am, is our Presentation Saturday on ZOOM. Please, mark your calendars. November saw 39 members in our first session. Bob Wien KG6RJW, had an interesting presentation on AM DX'ING. Links to that live presentation are on the club's webpage. I have presenters scheduled for December and January. Looking for others. I have updated the club's Zoom membership thus eliminating the 40-minute restriction. Look for the link to Presentation Saturday in your Friday email.

Station Help. Jim Faulkner, KO5V, is now the Station Help Coordinator. **He is looking for a member with a GIN POLE he can borrow for a job.** The concept of Station Help is a group of members who would like to help other hams with station work. Those of you who wish to help with this can contact Jim, or if you can loan him a **GIN POLE** please send him an email at ko5v@arrl.net.

The WAMO program continues to grow. The Wednesday evening WAMO net is now at 6:30 pm on the club's UHF repeater 442.750+ pl 162.2 and cross banded on VHF simplex of 146.46. There is also a WAMO net that follows the Saturday Club Net. I'm looking to expand the Net Control for WAMO. It's easy, just read the script, and keep a list of log ins. I want to thank KI5GYF David Mackenzie, WAMO 185 for stepping up and taking a turn with the WAMO net and Bob Longoria N5JH for taking the 2nd Saturday Monthly Net!

The Wednesday Lunch Chat on Zoom certainly is a nice way to spend some time with our members. Look for your log on info in Wednesday morning's email.

Net Control Stations. I started these Saturday nets in March of this year. Since then we have had almost 70 new members join. Starting as soon as possible I would like to get a new set of Net Control Stations. The current list of the Saturday Net Control Stations have been serving for 9 months. It's very easy and very fun. There is a script to read and you have help with the call signs.

When I became president, I said I wanted to make our club experience fun. The best way I know how to do that is for folks to get involved. Thanks So Much to the members who have volunteered since February.

To contact me to volunteer for the Net Control operators for either the WAMO net or the weekly Saturday net, you can contact me at my call sign, n6sik@arrl.net

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ham Radio and You, Larry Elkin, NY5L OK, so you are playing it safe at home. Now what?

If you have been fortunate to have graduated from an HT to a HF base station, you can now search the world! I know, propagation is not great but, you can still search for hams in different states and providences in North America and countries beyond. My motto to all new hams on HF: "tune slowly and listen carefully." And, get yourself a pair of headphones. Generally, during the daylight hours 20M on up "might" be open in N.A. and to the south. As we go to evening, look for Europe with 40M and 80M opening up. Now that is not to say propagation to the west may allow contacts with the South Pacific, the Pacific Rim and mainland Asia. But, if you want to have a somewhat better opportunity of making a westerly contact you need to get out of bed just before sunrise until those signals in Asia begin to fad. I would suggest, if you do not have one yet, to purchase an external computer interface

like a "Signalink" to operate the digital modes like FT8, JS8 and so on. The software is free to download such as WSJT-X and MMSSTV. Without the computer interface, you can work the world on SSB but until propagation levels really become higher, the digital modes are best. And, that includes CW!

Now if you just want to "ragchew", just turn on your transceiver and if you hear a station wait for a pause and call in or just call CQ on an open frequency.

Here is a hint to view how propagation conditions are in different parts of the world; Go to "QRZ.com" and find the header "Data Base" and scroll down to DX Spotter Network. I would suggest registering with the site so you can then enter a call sign and find information on the station you hear.

Now I must admit that I am a DX'r. I now get up around sunrise to search out S.E. Asia, the last area I have only had one FT8 contact and no SSB. In the last couple of months, I have seen stations in the eastern part of N.A. working Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam all on FT8. So far, I have worked Viet Nam and received a QSL card from the station operator.

Lastly, you can work satellites with your HT and a homemade handheld satellite antenna. Go to "gpredict.com" and select set up the site to work the hamsats and use the ISS repeater when it is turned on.

So, the Amateur Radio Service is what you make of it. If you are only interested in Search and Rescue that is great but, how do you communicate if you are out of range or the repeaters are inoperative? High Frequency can get you through to someone!

Have fun 73 Larry NY5L

VE Testing in November No VE testing in November.

If you are interested in testing, please contact Jim Kajder at jkajder@gmail.com. Our club, HDARC offers a free one year membership to new HAM's who pass their Technician test using our VE testing.

Event Schedule – December Jim Faulkner, KO5V has the following update for the December events and contests.

ARRL 160-Meter Contest, cw only. 2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z, Dec 6, 2020. <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

PRO CW Contest (Romania). 80,40,20,15,10M. 1200Z, Dec 5 to 1159Z, Dec 6, 2020. <http://www.procontestclub.ro/PCC%20Rules.html>

ARRL 10-Meter Contest, CW, Phone. 0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13, 2020. <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

TRC Digi Contest (Bulgaria) RTTY. 80,40,20,15,10M. 0600Z, Dec 12 to 1800Z, Dec 13, 2020. <https://trcdx.org/rules-trc-digi/>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, cw. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m. 1200Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13, 2020. http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Padang DX Contest (Indonesia) cw, SSB. 80,40,20,15,10M. 1200Z, Dec19 to 1159Z, Dec20, 2020. <http://padangdx.com/rules/>

Croatian CW Contest. 160, 80,40,20,15,10M. 1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20, 2020. <https://9acw.org/index.php/rules/english/129-rules-2019>

ARRL Rookie Roundup, cw. 80,40,20,15,10M. 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20, 2020. <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Flying Pigs QRP Club - Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, cw. 160, 80,40,20,15,10M. 2300Z, Dec 20 to 0100Z, Dec 21, 2020. <http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/>

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)

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 December 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>

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.



Questions about the club? Contact the president at hdarcpres@gmail.com.
Newsletter editor Becky Ham, N6TYT