



Making Waves

High Desert Amateur Ham Radio Club Newsletter – January, 2021

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
Year 2020 Summary – Yul Bratcher, WA5YUL

Article by Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ
No VE Testing Results in December
January Event Schedule: Jim Faulkner KO5V



President's Corner, David Ham N6SIK Happy New Year!

I am looking forward to a new year filled with exciting new adventures for our club. I was thinking the other day of all the members who have stepped up to take an active part in our club despite imposed restrictions.

Here is the list I came up with.

Ham Radio Exhibits and Presentations, Tanda N5TMH, Yul Bratcher WA5YUL

Membership Bob Gilbert N5YYF Field Operations Bob KG6RGM

New Ham Mentoring Gerry N2GJ Balloon Fiesta Dave N5LVA

Property Coordinator Susan Matzner K1IHY, Yul Bratcher WA5YUL

VE testing Jim AF5FH and lots of others

Refreshment Coordinator Suzanne Jurrens Soft Drinks Terry W4RCN

Information Coordinator Jim Faulkner KO5V Station Help Jim KO5V

Hopefully, we will be able to get back to meeting in person very soon!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW By Yul Bratcher, WA5YUL We are truly **THE MOST** active HAM radio club in the state of New Mexico, so much so that other clubs have taken notice. This is no small task especially when you consider the circumstances that we all have had to deal with this year.

Here are the projects **YOUR CLUB, WITH YOUR HELP**, have completed since March.

Let's start with what you are viewing now,

Monthly Newsletter—I can't say enough about our main distribution media, we have with the newsletter. It has been the hub of everything the club has participated in and accomplished this year. As you know David, N6SIK and Becky Ham, N6TYT faced some real challenges this year, and yet they have kept this going for all of us. **THANK YOU GUYS!! BLESS YOU!**

Donation—In the spirit of the season, our membership answered the call and donated a total of \$6050.00 to the Roadrunner Food Bank here in Albuquerque. This is an amazing gesture, and definitely made this holiday season cheerful for many families. A huge thankyou to the membership. You should be proud!! Well done!!



Web site—We have a beautiful, new and modern website. Bill Firth, KE5TOB provided a lot of information to transition from the old website. Ed Poccia, KC2LM created the new website and worked on it for several months off and on to get it up and functioning. Thank you again Ed for your efforts!

Ham Sandwich Productions—Our president, David Ham, N6SIK initiated a weekly VLOG for the club on YouTube, which has been very informative and quite successful, based on the feedback from the Saturday morning nets. Great idea David!

Membership--We have almost DOUBLED our membership this year. Thanks go to Jim Kajder, AF5FH for creating a safe environment to continue monthly testing. I'm sure these new hams contributed significantly to the growth. The weekly Saturday nets also helped with our growth in members by allowing non-members to check in and become familiar with our club.

Radio Loaner Program—We now have a radio loaner program for pending and new members to utilize while preparing to take their tests. Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ is the new member coordinator and has been doing a fantastic job!

Radio programming—The club is offering radio programming to the membership (and pending members). If you have a radio and you want to program it to make it more functional, please contact David, N6SIK for help in the process. The club **WANTS** to make your systems useful for you, so they can be integrated into your work or recreational life. HT's are excellent for camping, skiing, kayaking, or any outdoor activity. Also programming a base unit will expand its usefulness in your shack. **WE** have a deep well of experienced Hams in the club who are ready to help **YOU!** And in doing so, it will help other members...they may have some of the same questions you did!

Technical Library—We now have both a hardcopy and digital technical library available to the membership. The last components are being put into place. Books will be available for checkout, and E-books will be available online for download. The subjects are wide ranging, from understanding basic electronics, to upgrading your license, communication modes, etc. More to come on this....

Saturday morning nets—This has been a tremendous success. It has allowed club members a venue to meet on the air weekly, in this year of no in person meetings. Our average participation is 55 people weekly. Although it started out on the HDARC Club Repeater, we coordinated with the **Caravan Club** to use their repeaters which allow Echolink access. This has allowed members who are out of town to participate in the nets, which has happened on a regular basis. We've had contacts from as far away as New Jersey and Atlanta (think about it...We're going 2/3 of the way across the country)!! A big thanks to the Caravan club for allowing us the use of their equipment.

WAMO—The WAMO program has been an amazing success since its start. So far, 15 members have achieved 20 contacts, 7 have achieved 40 contacts and 2 have 60 contacts. Remember the WAMO nets occur on Saturday after the club net, and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Don't be shy, call in and make some contacts!

DSTAR - Robert Longoria, N5JH has started up a DSTAR net to promote that digital platform. Lots of good information has come out of the net, and it has been growing since its inception.

Presentation Saturday—Brand new! On the third Saturday, since we can't meet as a group, we are having a Zoom meeting where a guest speaker will speak on a particular topic. And speaking of Saturday meetings...

Meeting locations—with the growth of the membership, we have been scouting out new locations for holding meetings. We have a few prospects, and once restrictions are lifted, we will move forward on it. Also, we are looking into streaming the meetings when we start, for those who can't make the meeting.

Zoom meeting—We started a Wednesday zoom meeting that all members are welcome to join. It starts at 12 Noon.

Club equipment—Susan Matzner, K1IHY and Yul Bratcher, WA5YUL cleaned up and performed a FULL inventory of the club's equipment last summer in the club storage area and the club trailer.

NEW presentations materials---Tanda Headrick, N5TMH is continuing to work with Explora on integrating HAM radio equipment into their new building. Although most members haven't seen it yet, we have new presentation materials to use at museums and schools. They include interactive and tactile demonstrators, along with audio/visual displays that show wireless power transmission, crystal radio sets, a CW key decoder, satellite communications, the ISS, NASA's deep space network, and cover the following topics: the electromagnetic spectrum, the history of radio, and who is most responsible for commercial radio. There are new banners for display on the trailer and for interior presentation. We also have new handouts, some games, trivia, and other pamphlets that go with the displays

Coordinator program—We started the Coordinator program, where club members have headed up different projects with the help of other members. Remember we have new and interesting projects coming up...this is your chance to get involved! In the new year we have projects that **need your help**, like setting up the club repeater that is in storage, and assistance with displays at the Explora Museum. Contact David, N6SIK for details.

Field Day---Although participation was light (and understandably so), the June field day was a great success, with some serious DX contacts being made in the beauty of Northern New Mexico! Thanks to Ken Ham, AG5UY for the use of his RV park as a private location for field day.

New local Vendor—We have an additional local vendor who can make customized apparel for the club. Club logo patches, callsign patches, club t-shirts, club polo shirts, club backpacks, you name it, they can do it! See the details later in the letter.

Contests—Despite Covid, the club had excellent participation in 2 sprint contests this year. The idea of Ed Poccia KC2LM) --- A 2-meter sprint on May 2nd, and a 6-meter sprint on May 30th. These involved other clubs in the area and we more than held our own. Again, great job **HDARC!!**

Club Business—The bylaws of the club were brought up to date and more in line with our current and rapidly changing club functionality. Thanks to all the board members and officers for their hard work!

Amazon Smile—HDARC is now listed on Amazon Smile to accept donations. If you check HDARC, when you make a purchase on Amazon, they will make a small donation to our club. Please consider this as we have plans to do more community outreach, education on the art of ham radio, and work with the museums. This will be a great funding tool and it costs you nothing.

WHEW! If that isn't radio active, I don't know what is!

Article by Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ What is SOTA all about? I contacted two friends of mine who are active in this aspect of amateur radio to see if they were interested in collaborating on an article for "CQ" magazine's "QRP" special issue planned for February, 2021. They were eager to share some of their reasons for participating in this activity. Having accompanied them on a couple of trips to New Mexico mountains since moving here four years ago, I can attest to their enthusiasm! The following is an excerpt from the article.

Albuquerque's George Yoakum, WB5USB and Tim Kean, K5DEZ are two of the most visible SOTA participants in this part of the Southwest United States. Often posting one or two planned activations

per week, they always follow up with an "After-Action" report, often accompanied by beautiful photographs of the flora and fauna they encounter in their environs.

The acronym SOTA means "Summits On The Air." Like similar ham award programs such as "Lighthouses on the Air," "Islands on the Air," "Parks On The Air," and "Museum Ships on the Air," SOTA offers its participants fame (if not fortune) for operating amateur radio equipment from locations identified in a database as qualifying for 'activation.' In New Mexico, these locations are always mountain tops. Sometimes one can drive a good distance from a main road to the summit and hike the rest of the way. Other times, so-called "roads" are next to impassable, despite the best efforts of organizations like the US Forest Service to maintain them. Hence, hiking becomes a major component of SOTA success.

If you are interested in this exciting activity, please drop me an email at n2qj@arrl.net and I will make sure you are added to the email list that George maintains. In that way, you will know when they are heading out to activate a mountain here in New Mexico!

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 – January Jim Faulkner, KO5V has the following update for the January events and contests.

ARRL Straight Key Night: January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. Straight keys or bugs are preferred. All authorized Amateur frequencies, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands. <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

January is "SKCC Straight Key Month": <https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/>

The ARRL's lists Special Event Stations - there are five or six for January:
http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event

The following contests/events are mostly courtesy of WA7BNM's Contest Calendar web site. I've only listed a few of the larger ones, and there are many more sprints, etc, listed: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

1. ARRL Straight Key Night: January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. Straight keys or bugs are preferred. All authorized Amateur frequencies, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands. <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

2. ARRL Kid's Day: Jan 2, 1800Z-2359Z SSB on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10M, and FM on 2m repeaters. Exchange: name + age + QTH + favorite color. <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

3. ARRL RTTY Roundup: 1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m
<http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

4. SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, CW: 1200Z, Jan 9 to 2400Z, Jan 10. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6m. http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/
5. North American QSO Party, CW: 1800Z, Jan 9 to 0559Z, Jan 10. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
6. Hungarian DX Contest, CW, and SSB: 1200Z, Jan 16 to 1159Z, Jan 17. on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://ha-dx.com/en/contest-rules>
7. NA Collegiate Championship, SSB: 1800Z, Jan 16 to 0559Z, Jan 17. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://www.w9smc.com/nacc/>
8. North American QSO Party, SSB: 1800Z, Jan 16 to 0559Z, Jan 17. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
9. ARRL January VHF Contest, any mode 50 MHz and up: 1900Z, Jan 16 to 0359Z, Jan 18. <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>
10. Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, CW: 2300Z, Jan 17 to 0100Z, Jan 18. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://qrptest.com/pigrun/>
11. UK/EI DX Contest, CW (UK/Ireland): 1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <https://www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php>
12. CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW: 2200Z, Jan 29 to 2200Z, Jan 31. 160m Only. <https://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>
13. REF Contest, CW (France and overseas territories): 0600Z, Jan 30 to 1800Z, Jan 31. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. http://concours.r-e-f.org/reglements/actuels/reg_cdfhf_dx.pdf
14. UBA DX Contest, SSB (Belgium): 1300Z, Jan 30 to 1300Z, Jan 31. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules/uba-dx-contest-rules>
15. Winter Field Day, any mode (see rules for exceptions): 1900Z, Jan 30 to 1900Z, Jan 31. All bands except WARC. <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

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 February 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