



The High Desert Dispatch

**The BI-WEEKLY PERIODICAL
FOR THE
HIGH DESERT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF NEW MEXICO INC.**
"Celebrating over 20 years of service to the Amateur Radio Community and the General
Public as a non profit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization"

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Introduction from the President

Greetings,

All I can say is WOW! We started the year with so much positive energy at the January 2026 General Membership Meeting and inaugural Homebrew Exhibition. Thank you to all who were exhibitors! Thank you to all that attended. What a fantastic way to launch our new year as a club. From talking to those who exhibited and attended it appears we will be having some group builds starting soon. I can't wait for the 2027 HDARC Homebrew Exhibition. Photos, handouts and a report of the event within.

The ARRL has named 2026 as “The year of the Club”. The ARRL recognizes that the growth and development of amateur radio rely on our vibrant community of radio clubs. Throughout the year the ARRL is sponsoring different activities to recognise clubs. Click on this link <https://www.arrl.org/year-of-the-club> to learn more.

I am looking forward to our year ahead. Please keep the suggestions for events, builds, and activities coming in. The year ahead of us will be filled with hands-on activities, growth as a HAM and as a club, exploration, and building new friendships and reaffirming the ones we already have.

Here are some important updates:

This past Wednesday our V.E team met with the UNM Small Satellite Group and tested their students at UNM. Fifteen students registered to take a licensing exam. Twelve took an exam and nine passed. Thank you to those HDARC members who provided support at our previous study sessions with this group and who provided V.E. services on Wednesday. More info.within the newsletter.

Thank you to the members who have begun paying their 2026 membership dues. The official date to collect dues is during the month of February. Dues are \$36.00 a year for regular membership and \$6.00 a year for a family member. The collection of dues makes up a large part of our operating budget for the year. We do not send out individual invoices. We rely on members to make payment before the end of February. More details within the newsletter.

Dr. Fongs antenna orders are in. More details within.

Club elections will be held for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three Board Director positions at the upcoming February 2026 General Membership Meeting. Per the Club By Laws we can entertain open nominations up to the actual election the morning of the February meeting. I have recruited a full slate for your consideration. More information within.

We have our first two workshops booked for the beginning of 2026. On Saturday March 21, 2026 Ed Poccia KC2LM will be offering “ How to program a Baofeng UV-5R HT from the field just using the HT’s keypad. On Saturday May 16, 2026 Rob K5NBN will offer a workshop/build on “ The HF Tape Measure 20-10 Meter Antenna”. Check out his article on this subject with this newsletter. I am working with Dr. Ed Fong for a ZOOM workshop this summer. Check out the Future events section of our Calendar in this newsletter.

The 2026 HDARC Winter Field Day Event was cancelled due to the Winter Storm. The location, Moriarty Airport in Moriarty New Mexico closed down due to the Winter Storm. The HDARC East Mountain Group will reschedule with Hangar 80, home of the Commemorative Air Force Lobo Wing, for a date in the near future to operate a field day at their location. More info. within.

I have reached out to the organizers of the “National Air Races Championship and Air Show” about the possibility of our club setting up a special event station at their event in Roswell NM during the Fall. Once I receive any response I will keep you informed.

Check out in the classified section for the posting of the current Silent Auction.

You can reach out to me either at 1930 hours checking in on HDARC 2 Night , by email hdarcpres@gmail.com or call/text at 505-401-0219. I hope to hear you on HDARC 2 Night, the Bravo Sierra Net and Saturdays Statewide Chat Shack Net. I look forward to a prosperous year for our club.

73 Mike KI5NBP



THE SOUNDER SECTION

“To join together by pressure, fuse together for strength”

Club Repeater and Simplex Frequencies

The Club operates on the HDARC Repeater

443.750+ PL 100 on the Sandia Crest.

This repeater is dedicated to the memory of

Marit Clifford **KF5ZVY/SK**

The Club uses two Simplex frequencies, 146.460 and 446.025

Join the FUN,Join the Club

Are you aware that the HDARC is one of the most active Amateur Radio Clubs in New Mexico? Well, it is! Read on and find out! Tell a friend! www.nm5hd.org

To become a club member go to www.nm5hd.org and click on the "become a member" tab to join the ever growing group of the coolest Hams in New Mexico, you'll be glad you did!



Join the ARRL



The American Radio Relay League, the ARRL, a non-profit organization, is the largest membership association of amateur radio enthusiasts in the United States. The ARRL represents the interests of amateur radio operators before federal regulatory bodies, the ARRL provides technical advice and assistance to amateur radio enthusiasts, it also supports a number of educational programs and sponsors emergency communications service throughout the country. The HDARC is an ARRL Affiliated Club and a ARRL Special Service Club. We encourage you to join. Click on this link: <https://www.arrl.org/membership>



Welcome New Members

Andrew Taylor

Richard Geiger - KL5MM

George Whitmore - KC0LKT

Jeremy J Chavez - No call sign yet

Vonda Krakar Love - No call sign yet

Ruth Anne Lachendro - KE8ZVO

Shannon Kyle Bloodworth -KJ5LZB

New Member Orientation

Don Shoemaker (N9DCS) is leading the club's efforts to provide a new member orientation within weeks of a member joining. Don will be providing these sessions on the same day of our in person club meetings @ 0930 hours at the same location. If you have any ideas or comments on this subject or are a new member who has not received outreach, contact Don at dc_shoemaker@comcast.net

2026 Membership Dues

Just a reminder that membership dues must be paid by the end of February 2026. Full membership dues are \$36.00 per year per person and a family member is \$6.00 per year. Those of you 80 and older do not pay.

There are several ways to pay.

1. You can bring cash or a check made out to HDARC to our February 21st, 2026 meeting and pay the HDARC Treasurer directly.

or

2. You can go to this link:
<https://www.nm5hd.org/application-for-membership> and enter the application and click renewal. Click “APPLY”. Do not pay anything at this point. You will receive an email with an invoice that gives you instructions on how to pay electronically.

or

3. Go directly to our DONATE PayPal page by clicking this link:
<https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=9iQNu7vsp8hlpJFySqk2ZQKNwCKzEOtOWwGJXx1h0kRmmRzVYc4QeokspnykS84Bk8ElAqS5taoU1J1M>

Make a direct payment to the club. If you choose this route you will need to email Treasurer Mike at michaelchirin@gmail.com and notify him that you did this so he can register your payment as club dues.

2026 Club Elections

It is that time of year for membership to elect leadership. Section 12 of the HDARC bylaws state:

“All officers shall be elected at the same time. Elections for officers will be held in even-numbered years. There is no requirement for a 30-day notice to run for an office. Elections shall be held at the February general membership meeting. The officers will be elected in even-numbered years for two-year terms. At least two Board of Directors’ seats will be up for election every year.”

We have a slate of pending officer nominations as follows:

President 2026 - 2028: Mike Smith KI5NBP (seeking 2nd term)

Vice President 2026 -2028: Elaine Summerhill KJ5ATL

Treasurer 2026-2028: Michael Chirin NM5HD (seeking 2nd term)

Secretary 2026-2028: Don Shoemaker N9DCS

We have three (3) Board Director positions that will require election for the 2026-2028 terms. We have a slate of pending nominations for those positions:

MaryAnn Cornett NS7X

Marc Matteson KD6KR

Gary Surad K5BIQ

We have two (2) Board Directors position that stay in place till February of 2027; Ken Ham AG5UY and John Dodd KJ5KUF

Nominations are open until the question is called at the February meeting. The President will announce that we have a slate for the membership to consider. The question will be asked for any other nominations. We will proceed as needed with the approval of all nominations and then begin the voting process. Once the new Board Directors are elected the bylaws state that the Board will meet immediately for the sole purpose of electing a Chairman of the Board.

You can access the current version of the bylaws at this link:

https://www.nm5hd.org/_files/ugd/d9cb96_7f1b3602e31f4b48a727de79a9387d6a.pdf

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me directly.

THE COUNTERPOISE SECTION

“To have an opposing and balancing effect ”

A Tribute to Marit Clifford KF5ZVY/SK

By Elaine Summerhill - HDARC Secretary and Co-Editor



The recent addition of the HDARC repeater on top of Sandia Mountain would not & could not have taken place without David Clifford WA6CCB wanting to establish a memorial for his granddaughter, Marit Clifford. Marit was the youngest

person to get her Ham license in this area. She got her Tech license at 7 years old, 2 months shy of her 8th birthday, in Jan 2014. She was also a net controller for a youth net. From speaking with David, Marit was bright, beautiful, loving, and compassionate. She loved old movies, especially ones with Audrey Hepburn. Her life was full of potential. Sadly, it was cut too short. High Desert Amateur Radio Club is honored to memorialize Marit's life. Thank you to her grandfather David Clifford for entrusting us with her memory. In the upcoming months the club will be honoring her in different ways.

From the Elmer NS7X

The following is provided by Tom, N5ATR, the net manager of the New Mexico RoadRunner Net. For more information, including the net roster, go to Tom's (N5ATR) QRZ.com page. If you haven't already, and have HF capabilities as a General or Extra class, check out the RoadRunner net. It's a fun, friendly net, and may be habit-forming.

The New Mexico Road Runner Traffic Net 3.939 0100 UTC

(This page is updated often. Check back regularly @ N5ATR on QRZ.com.)

Our recurring weekly Net Control Station schedule is as follows:

Friday - Leroy - KJ5KL Experienced Operator

Saturday - Gerry - N2GJ - NTS Liaison

Sunday - Tom N5ATR NTS and EMCOM Liaison

Mon - Bob, K9GMA

Tuesday - Uncovered / Self Serve

Wednesday - Uncovered / Self Serve

Thursday - Uncovered / Self Serve

The New Mexico Road Runner Traffic net is an HF Voice net for New Mexico occupying the 0100z time slot on 3939 Khz LSB. This net has been active for several decades thanks to member support. We are in need of NCS volunteers.

Operators participate for a variety of reasons to include:

- Camaraderie and friendship,
- Emergency communications,
- NTS and RRI message handling,
- Operational checking of equipment,
- POTA/SOTA activation reporting and contacts,

- **RV and hiker communications and more...**
- **We are a roll call style net and call for stations alphabetically by city.**

If you are interested in becoming a full-time or part-time Net Control Station, contact Tom N5ATR via email (<atrussell4@gmail.com>).

Most sessions last under 25 minutes with 25-35 operator participants.

Short timers and guests are welcome. Upon check in, ID with your callsign, name and QTH.

Please follow NCS instructions for when to check into the net.

NCS preferred experience: Familiarity with net operations or the ability to learn the basics. Must have at least a 100 watt rig with an appropriate style antenna for regional communications. NCS may be required to copy a NTS message and forward.

Thank you to net members and NCS, current and past. Help us keep the RRTN going for years to come!

Frequently asked questions:

Q1: When should I ask to be added to the roll call?

A1: A good rule of thumb is that if you are able to check in to the net on average, once per week. We know everyone's situation is different. If you are out of town, we usually just make a mental note of that and look forward to your return.

Q2. What is a short timer and when should I use this feature?

A2. Short timers are already on the roster, but on occasion, cannot be around for the entire roll call. Adapt to your situation so that you can enjoy participating in the Road Runner Traffic Net. When checking in, ID with your callsign, name and QTH.

Q3. I was thinking of helping out and being a net controller. What does that involve?

A4. Reach out to Tom, N5ATR. If you have a good HF station that can communicate with folks in New Mexico "and beyond", and you have a flair for running an HF net, this may be a good fit for your skills. You can take a full time "day" slot, or operate impromptu on one of our uncovered days. Self-serve days are available for anyone. Coordinate at 0100z to see if it is already covered. If

not, use the provided preamble and roster. Send a net report of total check ins and messages to Tom, N5ATR.

Q5. What is the purpose of the Road Runner Traffic Net?

A5. Operators participate for a variety of reasons to include: camaraderie and friendship, emergency communications, National Traffic System message handling, and operational checking of equipment. RV'ers, campers, hikers, POTA and SOTA check in here as well. This is a 0100Z HF Voice communications opportunity to contact operators in New Mexico and the SW region.

**New Mexico Roadrunner Traffic Net Preamble
24 December 2025 Version**

CQ CQ CQ the New Mexico Roadrunner Traffic Net. This is Amateur Radio Station _____, net control for this evening. This net is organized to pass traffic in and out of the State of New Mexico and meets on 3939 Khz every day at 0100 UTC. All properly licensed stations are invited to join the net.

This is _____ in _____, _____ and the name here is _____.

Is there any Emergency or Priority Traffic?

Are there any QST's?

Any Mobile or emergency powered stations on frequency?

Any Member or Visitor with Formal Traffic, please list at this time.

Any Member or Visitor with informal or station to station traffic, please list at this time.

A call will be made for late members or visitors checking in after roll call. Please do not transmit until invited to do so by net control. All members stand by for roll call.

Any short timers?

(Call members from roll call)

Any late or missed members?

Any visitors to the net?

Last call for late or missed members or visitors

(Close net)

The New Mexico Roadrunner Traffic Net is organized to pass traffic in and out of the state of New Mexico and meets on 3939 Khz every day at 0100 UTC. Visitors are welcome to check in with or without traffic.

Anyone wishing to join the net may do so by sending an email to Tom, N5ATR in Edgewood, NM.

This is _____ net control closing the net at _____ UTC.

Thank you one and all for checking in and I wish each of you a very pleasant good evening.

73 MaryAnn NS7X

Club Elmer and HDARC BOD Director

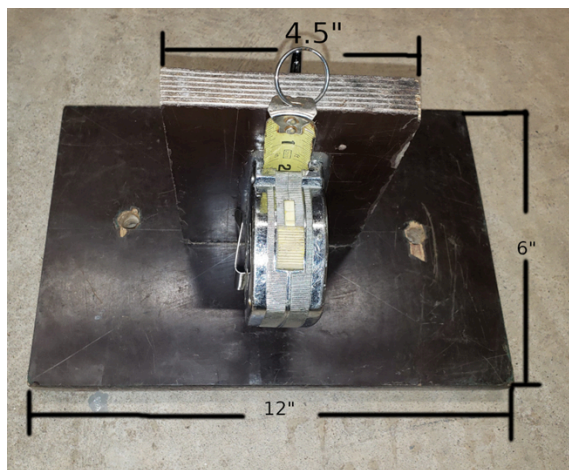
The Tape Measure Portable Antenna 20-10 Meters

By Rob Summerhill K5NBN

This easy to make portable antenna can be assembled for less than 20 dollars using brand new parts or nearly free, if you have the parts list items laying around your QTH. The tape measure itself can be either a metal or plastic casing. The minimum length that I have found works very well is 25 feet. If you want to do lower bands, increase the length to 35-50 feet, depending on the adjusted SWR of the tape material itself and the materials used to hook up the antenna and counterpoise. My measurements are a good place to start. This article is for 20,15 and 10 meters build. I use these bands on Parks On The Air as they are the ones most commonly used by portable stations.



The width of the tape should be 3/4-1.0" wide. This allows it to be wind resistant, as well as rigid enough to withstand normal use. The first item to build is the tape measure holder. This needs to be a non-conducting material. Plywood, 3/8 to 3/4" thickness, is ideal.



1. Make the base 6"x12". The vertical support for the tape measure should be 4½"x6". This gives you enough clearance around the tape measure.
2. Use a hot glue gun to glue the tape measure onto the vertical

support piece of plywood. Gorilla Hot Melt Glue is really strong.

3. Mount the vertical plywood with the attached tape measure to where the pulled out tape is in the center of the plywood base. This will allow an even upward pull of the tape. Either 1½" wood or deck screws work.

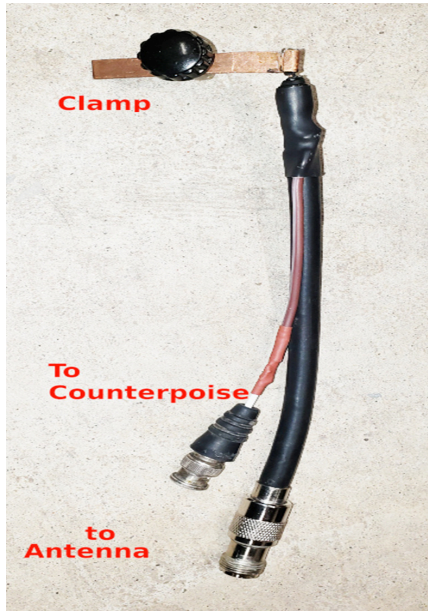
4. Drill two holes to secure the antenna base to the ground. I have found that 100 penny nails or tent stakes work great. For use on asphalt, lead weights or sand bags can be used.

5. THE Thread is a key ring or something similar through the tape measure tape end. You will use this to pull the tape out of the housing. You can also use a tie wrap or string.

6. This antenna must be used with radials or a counterpoise. I'm using 26 gauge wires stripped out of old telephone cable. Any wires can be used. The "more-the-merrier." My wires are wound around a piece of wood closet rod making it is easy to roll up the 16 wires I'm using. The wires are 9 feet long. The wires are spread apart like the tines of a comb. The length you pay out will adjust the SWR. This adjustment is very sensitive! How far the wires are out and how high above the ground is to be checked with an antenna analyzer or your radios SWR meter on Tune.

My counterpoise wires are held off of the ground by two plastic T-posts for Police Caution Tape. These have steel spikes built into them and are easy to force into the ground using foot pressure. The wooden closet rod will just sit on the tape holder arms by gravity and wire tension. You can use small bungees as well.





7. The antenna connection is a short piece of RG-8 COAX cable. The thick copper center will hold up to normal use. Keep it as short as possible to keep the SWR low.

8. Hammer flat an 8" section of 1/4" copper tubing. This is the electrical connection to the tape measure antenna steel tape. The tubing is hammered flat and then folded over onto itself to form a clamp. Drill a hole to hold a threaded knob and nut. This is used to control the clamping pressure by the force of the

threaded knob and nut.

9. The COAX cable center conductor is soldered to the copper clamp. An electrical connector can be used also.

10. A PL-259 or SO-259 is attached to the other center connector of the RG-8 COAX cable.

11. The shield of the RG-8 COAX cable is twisted together at the antenna connector end and a wire is soldered or electrical connector is attached to an adapter of your choosing. This wire is going to your radials or counterpoise and must not touch the center antenna wire.

12. The tape measure steel tape has to have the paint removed. The paint is tough stuff to remove. I used a Dremel tool with a sanding wheel at low speed to expose the bare steel tape underneath. Sandpaper or a razor blade can be used but will take some time to complete.

13. You do NOT have to remove the paint to find the correct tape length of steel tape for a band being used. A temporary jumper with an alligator clip on one end going to the copper electrical clamp will work to dig under the paint for contact tuning the tape antenna. Do not use the alligator clamp as a permanent connection. It WILL fail!

14. The distance for your antenna at the bands should be close to my findings: 10 Meters = 85 inches, 15 Meters = 120 inches, and 20 Meters = 200 inches. Other bands on this antenna can be found as well, 11-12-17 Meters.

15. A longer tape measure for 40 Meters and lower will be needed.

16. A sectional mast, or a telescoping mast to hoist the tape antenna, rising to 30 feet is ideal. Whatever type of mast you use must be able to support the spring force and the weight of the

tape being withdrawn from the tape housing. I'm using a small roller at the top of the mast to raise the tape measure tape up as if raising a flag. Paracord or strong string can be used to hoist the tape up to the desired height.



17. A small cleat is used to hold the paracord / string at the desired height, as needed. This makes life much easier, trust me. If your tape measure has a thumb lock, use it! OK, your pretty much ready to go do some HF radio!

Set the antenna base, hoist up the antenna (even a tree limb can be used) and lock in the band you have marked. Remember to keep the tape close to the tape housing but not touching the housing! Adjust your radials or counterpoise for the lowest SWR. Remember the counterpoises must be off of the soil and will be very sensitive to height! On asphalt, they may be OK just laying on the surface. If not, find a non-conductive way of raising the counterpoise wires to the correct height.



This antenna is great for QRP rigs or 100 Watts with no issues. How well you “clamp” to the bare steel portion of the tape measure is important. Do not let it move! I have made contacts with S-9 reports on both USA coasts, as well as Canada. This antenna works!

Bill Of Materials

- Plywood or the like, 12"x6"x 3/8-3/4" thick.
- 4 1/2"x 6" plywood
- 25 foot Tape Measure.
- Wood or Deck Screws 1 1/2" or 2" long
- 1/4" copper tubing 8" long
- 10x24 threaded rod and knob 1" long (or whatever works)
- Hot melt glue gun. Gorilla Grip is the best glue to use.
- COAX cable 14-16" long. RG-8 is stronger than most others.
- PL-259 or SO-259 antenna connector.
- A connector for the counterpoise cables. You decide.
- 100 penny nails or tent stakes (2 needed) Lead or sand bags
- Two each, T-stakes for Police Tape. Anything non-conductive but at least three feet tall is needed.
- A ring or tie wrap to go through the end of the tape measure to hoist it up.
- A Closet Rod wood dowel 4 feet wide.
- A Dremel tool or the like to remove the paint from the tape measure at the Band points.
- A 12" piece of wire to attach the COAX shield to the counterpoise.
- An alligator jumper to find the true band length that will bite through the tapes paint.
- Old phone cable with 8 wires or more for the counterpoise. 22-28 gauge works very well and rolls up nicely. I found 12 wires are the minimum, 9 feet long, more wires are better.
- A Cleat for holding the hoisting para cord or string.
- Paracord or string 70 feet long.



Note: The HDARC May 2026 Workshop will be Rob K5NBN leading a hands on seminar on this build.

Amatuer Radio News on the World Wide Web

Amateur Radio Newsline: <https://www.arnewsline.org/>

ARRL News: <https://www.arrl.org/news>

FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz Coordination Information

<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-allocates-60-meter-world-wide-amateur-band-approved-at-wrc-15-continues-amateur-use-of-four-addi>

FCC License Counts

<https://www.arrl.org/fcc-license-counts>



WP2H Radio Internet Radio Station for HAMS. Live DJ's are HAM's

Programming 24/7 classic Rock and Oldies with HAM Radio Programs. Show like" This week in HAM Radio", "ARRL Weekly News", ARES Nets during Storm Activations

<https://W2PHRadio.com>

THE CHAT SHACK SHEET SECTION

"Reaching out to each other through the art of verbal dialogue"



Saturday CHAT SHACK NET/MegaLink

Saturday 10 A.M. STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET will use the 444.325 + PL 100 and the 145.290 - PL100 on Sandia Crest in order to access the MegaLink system.



NM5HD Net Controllers :

1st Saturday, Open for Volunteer

2nd Saturday, Mike Smith KI5NBP

3rd Saturday, Club Meeting. No net

4th Saturday, John Dodd KJ5KUF

5th Saturday, Jean Morse-Sanchez KG5ZRU

The NET Controller for this coming Saturdays session is KI5NBP

Mike HDARC President

You can reach this Net from any part of NM because of its design. You just need to be on the right frequency, offset, and PL tone for the local repeater closest to your location at the day and time of the net. For current mega link frequency information go to www.nm5ml.com. If you're having issues programming your radio email hdarcpres@gmail.com. You will be directed to someone in the club that can help you. Please [click here](#) to see the operational status of NM5ML Mega Link Repeaters.

HDARC VP John K5JVG is the Committee Lead for HDARC Net's.

Please consider trying the Net Controller experience. Contact John K5JVG if you are interested. You will be mentored and try it once to see if you like it. No commitments.



HDARC 2 Night

“HDARC 2 Night.” operates seven (7) nights a week at 7:30 PM local on the HDARC Repeater 443.750+ PL 100 located on the Sandia Crest. *This is a casual net.*

- **Do not short key each other**
- **There is a 5 second delay after you release the PPT for the repeater to reset**
- **If you are involved in a QSO, *every 5 minutes or so during the QSO check to see if anyone else would like to join the conversation.***
- **Don't forget to announce your callsign at least every 10 minutes when engaged in a conversion.**
- **The Repeater is connected to ECHOLINK. Look for the callsign KD5MHQ-R to connect.**

There are great exchanges happening, come join the conversations and camaraderie.



New Mexico CW Training Net (NMCWTN)

The New Mexico CW Training Net (NMCWTN) meets on the HDARC repeater (443.75 + 5 MHz, 100 Hz pl) at 1730 hours local on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, local time at least until the time change next month when it will accommodate the RoadRunner Net schedule.

This training net is led by MaryAnn NS7X in hopes that the "Training Net" evolves into a traffic net and eventually will be moved to 80 meters as the NM CW section traffic net. When the NMCWTN picks up formal traffic it can be fed into the RoadRunner Net.

BRAVO SIERRA NET -NEW Frequency and Time

Join HDARC East Mountain Group members on the Bravo Sierra Net. The net moved to Tuesday Evenings at 1830 local time on the HDARC repeater **443.750+ PL 100** on the Sandia Crest. Laid back get together for chatting, telling jokes/riddles/puns and generally having fun.

THE REPEATER SECTION

“Receive and retransmit a communication signal”

443.750 + PL100 Repeater -UPDATE

The Clubs' New 440 repeater NM5HD/R

As you know the club repeater is up and running. In the December 2025 club meeting the membership established for FY2026 a \$1000.00 budget line item dedicated to repeater repair/maintenance/upgrade. Other members have approached leadership asking to donate money directly to this line item. If you wish to do so email Mike KI5NBP at hdarcpres@gmail.com for information on how to donate.

Snow has kept us from returning to the repeater building over the last few weeks. Soon Rob (K5NBN) will be getting back up to the site to install the newly tuned Cans, change the identifier to the new callsign, along with adding some new remote access capabilities.

We will also be working on a permanent solution to adding ECHOLINK capabilities on site. Thank you Bob (KJ5MHQ) for providing us with a temporary solution at this point.

Thank you David Clifford (WA6CCB) for the donation of the repeater. As a Club and as HAMS we will always honor the memory of Marit KF5ZVY/SK.



HDARC Youth Outreach Mission Statement

Over the past few months HDARC President Mike (KI5NBP) commissioned a committee to develop a Youth Outreach Mission Statement to help guide the clubs direction as we promote HAM radio to Youth. The committee has fulfilled its purpose and submitted the following youth outreach mission statement to the membership for approval which was unanimously adopted at the October 2025 membership meeting.

HDARC Youth Outreach Composite Mission Statement

“The HDARC Youth-Outreach Program defines youth as any person between the ages of 11 and 25, approximately middle school 6th grade age up to an individual pursuing a post-graduate degree. HDARC welcomes youth within this range who have a curious, energetic, and keen desire for scientific learning. Our goal is to engage younger folks with a STEM/STEAM focus and welcome maturing adults who wish to pursue the joy of learning. We broadly wish to engage youth participation in the amateur radio art, offering mentorship, teaching, and a variety of programs with a vision for guiding their development into the leaders of tomorrow. The HDARC recognizes that our degree of success may be unmeasurable and distant. However, we dedicate our near-term commitment to this mission, knowing that we commit ourselves to a generational embrace of RF sciences and its benefit to youth.”

A big 73 to the following members who were a part of the committee:

KJ5KUF John AG5UY Ken KI5YIF John K5JVG John Gabriel KJ5KFG
ED KC2LM

This mission statement will be used as a compass to guide the club in its development and deployment of outreach to youth in relation to HAM radio.

HDARC and Sandoval County ARES - MOU

This MOU has been ratified by the membership of both organizations and signed by both club presidents. You will find a signed copy of the MOU on our club website under important club documents soon. The next step is for both Presidents to get together and decide who to bring to the table to discuss what to approach first. SCARES elected a new leadership team during their January 2026 meeting.

Representatives of the HDARC leadership team will be reaching out to them shortly to establish a working group between both organizations to develop a plan to execute the MOU. Please visit the SCARES webpage to learn about our new partners: <https://nmscares.org/>



UNM Small Satellite Group Mass Testing Session



On Wednesday January 21, 2026 The HDARC VE Team provided V.E. testing for 12 members of the UNM Small Satellite Group at the University of New Mexico. This was the culmination of a series of events provided by HDARC that started last year at UNM. Congratulations to the following students who passed the exam:

Julien Wezowa - KJ5MUA - Technician to General

Liam Salvo - Technician

Liam Brockschmidt - Technician

Jarett Jones - Technician

Alexander Ashcraft - Technician

Kameron Chaaleunphonh - Technician

Marnina Willard - Technician

Nathan Nail - Technician

Elizabeth Whitney - Technician

Three (3) participants did not pass the technician exam and plan to test at our normal testing session this coming February of 2026.

HDARC members donated over \$360.00 to purchase HT's for the students who passed the exam. The HT's will be ordered next week and awarded to the students named above at the February 2026

General Membership meeting. These students will also be offered free membership into the club for 1 year. A Big 73 to the HDARC V.E. team members who volunteered their night to offer this testing:

WA5YUL - Yul

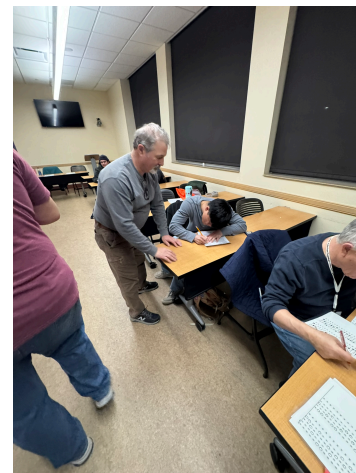
NM5MC - Mike

KC2LM - Ed

KI5NBP - Mike

N9DCS -Don

KI5TUR -Tim



This initiative aligns directly with our newly adapted Youth Outreach Mission Statement. We continue to look for other opportunities with youth. If you have a suggestion, reach out to HDRAC leadership.

THE CONNECTIONS SECTION

“a relationship in which a person, thing, or idea is linked or associated with something else.”

QRPy's Smoke Shop

By John KJ5KUF



All: Based on our recent HDARC Homebrew, I was wondering if there might be some interest in starting an activity group focused on the QRP radio type. If we give the group a name and develop the idea, we could call it QRPy's Smoke Shop (which is not to be confused with QRPy's Roadhouse or QRPy's Learning

Center). Our Smoke Shop would pursue fun use and participation in HF events, centered around this low-power type of radio. We would develop a hobby-radio configuration and hold events through repeater chat, Zoom meetings, hands-on workshops, and POTA/SOTA outings. I believe the QRP radio offers us a low-cost way to develop skills in HF band operation, kit building, soldering projects, antenna construction, use of antenna analyzers, etc., and an overall way to be part of a great learning experience.

Our goal behind this activity would be the participation of equals. Everyone would have the opportunity to share and steer the learning. This would not be a chat group but an evolving learning experience.

We will develop an instructional record of our activities through presentations, recordings, and postings, archived to the HDARC website or elsewhere. Hopefully, the Smoke Shop archive will encourage others to share our experience and join the group.

Well, if you have any interest in wandering into QRPy's Smoke Shop then let me know (John Dodd, KJ5KUF, jrpdodd@gmail.com) and we'll see where this leads us. Oh, BTW, "QRPy" is a fictional person who is loaning us his Smoke Shop. He will always be off somewhere else, kind of like Waldo, and we might hear from him occasionally.



CW Training anyone?

Club Elmer and BOD Director is seeking anyone with interest in learning CW or wanting to improve from their current level in 2026. We would like to take a head count before the planning stages begin. If you think you might be interested contact MaryAnn on HDARC 2 Night most evenings at 1930 hours on the HDARC repeater on Sandia Crest 443.750 + PL100.

Test Equipment Loaner Program for Members

HDARC Director Harvey Dove (KI5YVY) is the lead for this program. *A copy of the program outline and how to contact Harvey to request a loaner is posted on the home page of NM5hd.org. Click on this link: https://www.nm5hd.org/files/ugd/d9cb96_5fe894d5a99c434191712575def6987b.pdf*

The current inventory of loaner test equipment includes:

- MFJ -263 Dummy Loads
- MFJ - 802B Field Strength Meter
- RigExpert AA-650ZOOM Antenna Analyzer



We CURRENTLY have several donated pieces of test equipment. Please consider if you have a piece of gently used and functional test equipment you can donate for this program. The next purchase of test equipment for the program will include RF noise detectors (MFJ 805). An MFJ 259 Antenna Analyzer was donated by Roger (K5RPE). 73 Roger

We are looking for volunteers to help us make in house instructional videos to demonstrate how to use each piece of test equipment. Your role would be to be the on air talent. Other members would assist in creating the storyboards, help writing the script, recording, editing, and posting. If you have the hands on knowledge, help us share that with other club members.

RT Systems Programming Software Available for Use

The club has in its possession the following RT Systems programming software available for use:

- Icom-2730
- Alinco-635
- Yaesu FT-60
- Yaesu FT-2900
- Yaesu FTM-6000

Please contact Past President David Ham (N6SIK) if you wish to use them at n6sik@arrl.net

HDARC Member Name Badges/Hats/Shirts-New



I have been asked by members how to purchase a HDARC Membership Badge. [Click Here](#) to be directed to our vendor's web store. **The site is fully operational again.**



HDARC Shirts, hats, and other Club gear can be ordered from Rio Rancho T-Shirts, 1207 Golf Course Rd SE Ste F, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. Speak with Wayne or Penny at: (505)



891-1521.



HDARC Promotional Items: You have recently seen the Promotional Items made by Shirley Godfrey for HDARC.

- Band Plan Tumbler
- Patch
- Mouse Pad

All are customizable with your call sign.

sjgodfrey@aol.com



HDARC EAST MOUNTAIN GROUP

The HDARC East Mountain Group will be holding their monthly luncheon/meeting on Thursday March 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Chile Hills Restaurant located at 1805 U.S. Rte 66 Moriarty, NM 87035

BRAVO SIERRA NET: Join HDARC East Mountain Group members on the Bravo Sierra Net. The net has moved to Tuesday Evenings at 1830 local and the frequency has changed to the HDARC repeater 443.750+100. Laid back get together for chatting, telling jokes/riddles/puns and generally having fun. Each week is a new Net Controller so that volunteers can practice their skills as Net Control in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Dr. Fong Antennas Club Members Orders

The club placed a group order for over \$800.00. Dr. Fong sends his appreciation and is putting the order together. He is not charging any shipping. The order has been shipped to Mike KI5NBP and is ready for distribution. Some of you picked up your products already at the January 2026 club meeting. President Mike KI5NBP will be reaching out to those of you that placed an order to arrange pick-up or drop off.

Dr. Fong has offered to do presentations on other topics to our club in the future. A big 73 to John KJ5KUF for spearheading this Dr. Fong event and leading the workshop after the zoom presentation.

Dr. Fong's webpage is <https://edsantennas.weebly.com/>

HDARC Club Home Brew Exhibition January 2026 - REPORT

The inaugural HDARC homebrew exhibition was a great success. A big 73 to all of you who provided an exhibition and to those who attended. We had battery builds, QRP equipment, various types of HF antenna builds to go kits exhibited. I look forward to the 2027 HDARC Home Brew Exhibition. Handouts from this event will be attached in the email that sends you this newsletter.





HDARC at the National Nuclear Museum of History and Science STEAM DAY Saturday February 28th 2026

The club has been invited once more to exhibit our craft at the “Discover STEAM Day” at the [National Nuclear Museum of History and Science](#) 601 Eubank Blvd SE Albuquerque, NM 87123 on Saturday February 28th 2026 in Albuquerque.

On Discover STEAM Day, the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History opens its doors to families in an all-day STEAM showcase. Area businesses and other organizations are invited to bring STEAM hands-on activities or displays to share with the community. In the past, this event has had over 1200 visitors for Discover STEAM Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with our community. We will set up various stations and antennas and let the public interact with the world through HAM radio. Contact Yul WA5YUL if you wish to participate on the HDARC exhibition team for this event. HDARC will be there from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

New Mexico Techfest February 28, 2026

<http://www.rmham.org/wordpress/new-mexico-techfest>

Rocky Mountain Ham Radio (RMHAM) is pleased to announce its (Twelfth!) annual New Mexico TechFest, an ARRL-sanctioned operating specialty event, on Saturday, February 28, 2026. TechFest features a day of quality presentations, posterboards and demonstrations provided by some of New Mexico and Colorado's (and beyond!) leading technical hams on a variety of emerging and relevant topics within amateur radio. Its purpose is to facilitate the sharing of technical knowledge and collaboration within the amateur radio community, and to encourage the discussion of new ideas with one another.

New Mexico TechFest is a hybrid event: Both in-person at the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center (**1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102**) and, for those unable to travel or attend in-person, online via Zoom's professional webinar platform.

TechFest is open to all interested hams. Admission is \$15 (proceeds will offset event related expenses detailed on the event website). Online registration will open on/about January 25 when the event's lineup of presentations, posterboards and demonstrations is officially announced. Amateur radio related prizes will be drawn throughout the event. Coffee, water, and light snacks will be available for in-person attendees. An optional, catered lunch will be provided to in-person attendees who purchase one.

CALL FOR TECHFEST PRESENTATIONS, POSTERBOARDS, AND DEMONSTRATIONS: The New Mexico TechFest is seeking presentations, posterboards and demos on emerging and relevant amateur radio technical topics, techniques, and applications. If you've been working on a special project, are researching or experimenting with a technical topic, or have discovered or adopted a technology or technique that you're using within amateur radio, TechFest is a great venue to share your knowledge with the amateur radio community in a casual and friendly environment. Presentation slots are 50 minutes in length. Posterboards and demonstrations are more casual, shorter in length and occur during time slots during the day. Hams interested in providing a presentation, posterboard or demonstration are asked to submit a summary/abstract of their proposed topic for consideration by January 20, 2026. Visit the New Mexico TechFest website for submission details and key dates.

Club Calendar
January 2026 - March 2026
SAVE THE DATES

January 2026

All Evenings all month from 1930 -2030 hrs: “HDARC 2 Night” casual net, operating on the HDARC repeater 443.750+ PL 100

Tuesday January 27, 2026 1830 - 1930 hrs: HDARC E. Mtn Group Bravo Sierra Net. HDRC Repeater 443.750 +100 on Sandia Crest.

Wednesday January 28, 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Saturday January 31, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML. Net controller Jean KG5ZRU

February 2026

All Evenings all month from 1930 -2030 hrs: “HDARC 2 Night” casual net, operating on the HDARC repeater 443.750+ PL 100

Wednesday February 4 , 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Saturday February 7, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML. Net controller is HDARC Pres. Mike KI5NBP

Wednesday February 11, 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Saturday February 14, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML. The Net controller is HDARC Pres. Mike KI5NBP

Wednesday February 18 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Thursday February 19, 2026 11:00 AM: East Mountain Group Luncheon at Chili Hills Restaurant ,1805 Rt. 66 WEST Moriarty, NM 505.832.5458
<https://www.chilihillsmoriarty.com/>

Saturday February 21, 2026 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM: HDARC February In Person General Membership Meeting.

9:30 A.M. New Member Orientation

10:00 A.M. General Membership Meeting & Elections

11:30 A.M. V.E. Testing for FCC Licensing

Wednesday February 25, 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Saturday February 28, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML. The Net controller is HDARC Pres. Mike KI5NBP

Saturday February 28, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC exhibit @
the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History: 2026
Discover STEAM Day. 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. 601 Eubank Blvd
SE Albuquerque, NM 87123

Contact Yul WA5YUL for more info.

March 2026

All Evenings all month from 1930 -2030 hrs: “*HDARC 2
Night*” casual net, operating on the HDARC repeater 443.750+
PL 100

Wednesday March 4 , 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime
Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3
MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1) PIN 737373

Saturday March 7, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD
STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML.
Net controller is Mike KI5NBP

Wednesday March 11, 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Saturday March 14, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML. The Net controller is Mike KI5NBP

Wednesday March 18, 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Thursday March 19, 2026 11:00 AM: East Mountain Group Luncheon at Chili Hills Restaurant ,1805 Rt. 66 WEST Moriarty, NM 505.832.5458
<https://www.chilihillsmoriarty.com/>

Saturday March 21, 2026 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM: HDARC February In Person General Membership Meeting.

9:30 A.M. New Member Orientation

10:00 A.M. General Membership Meeting

**11:45 A.M. Workshop - How to program a Baofeng UV-5R
HT from the field just using the HT's keypad**

by Ed Poccia KC2LM

**Wednesday March 25, 2026 Noon: Club ZOOM Lunchtime
Chat Room. Click on the link below to enter the virtual room.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3
MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1) PIN 737373**

**Saturday March 28, 2026 10:00 A.M.: HDARC NM5HD
STATEWIDE CHAT SHACK NET on the MEGA Link NM5ML.
The Net controller is HDARC Pres. Mike KI5NBP**

Future Scheduled Club Events

- February 2026 Club Officer and BOD elections
- March 2026 Workshop: How to program a Baofeng UV-5R HT from the field just using the HT's keypad by Ed Poccia KC2LM
- May 2026 Workshop/Build: HT Tape Measure Antenna by Rob K5NBN

Club Events in the Bull Pen (Not Scheduled Yet)

- POTA - Field Days
- HF QRP Field Days
- Dr Fong Antenna / QRP Zoom Webinar
- Basic Soldering Workshop
- Hamming Around New Mexico
- Operating FT 8 Workshop
- Operating Winlink Workshop
- Club Test Equipment Workshops
- EmComm Workshop
- Antenna Build Workshops
- Foxhunt Field Day
- Summer BBQ and Field Day
- Spaceport USA Special Event Field Day (Upham NM)
- National Championship Air Races Field Day (Roswell NM)

V.E. Testing

The HDARC is the sponsor of the Institute of HAM Radio Sciences, which conducts free V.E. testing sessions on behalf of the HDARC at 11:30 on the 3rd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December immediately following the Monthly HDARC In-Person Club Meeting in classroom #4 at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. Look for the link [FREE TESTING](#) on the club web page. Please, pre register on the club web page for testing www.nm5hd.org. For more information contact Yul Bratcher at his email, yul.bratcher@att.net A big 73 to YUL and the V.E. team for volunteering their time and resources.

The next testing dates for 2026 are:

February 21, 2026

April 18, 2026

June 20, 2026

August 15, 2026

October 17, 2026

December 19, 2026

**Congratulations to the following HAMS from the December 2025
Testing Session**



Left to Right:

Andrew Taylor -New Technician

**Mark Tibbett KJ5ITL -
New General**

**Steve Ortley KJ5KNL -
New General**

**William Hutchinson KJ5KSE-
New General**



[QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com) through a partnership with GigaParts, has developed a program that is designed to lower the barrier to entry into amateur radio by providing new hams with a high quality radio for only \$17.99 (plus tax and shipping). Effective February 28, 2025, new hams will be entitled to a 70% discount on the Explorer QRZ-1 VHF/UHF handheld transceiver, as well as a variety of accessories. You must have been licensed within the last 6 months to qualify.

The eligible ham must have a QRZ user account and be able to log in and apply for the program. Certain types of identification, including a photo ID, will be required. This information is not shared or exchanged with any party and is used only to validate eligibility under this program.

This program is available exclusively to USA licensed amateur radio operators who obtained their first license from the FCC within the last 6 months. The Jumpstart program may be changed or terminated without notice based on availability and corporate sponsors.

Click here for more info: <https://www.qrz.com/jumpstart>

Classifieds

Welcome to the classified section. The intent is to give members and other HAMS a place to advertise any HAM related equipment they have for sale. It is also a place for members to list what HAM related equipment they are seeking to buy. ***This is a free service with no fees attached. This week we are featuring items from the Club SK inventory. Contact our Quartermaster Rob KI5NBN at this email if you are interested: dynomutt@reagan.com Feel free to haggle with Rob. We will update this inventory as needed.***

Silent Auction

HDARC COB Ken Ham has donated a 50' Tower, Antenna and Rotor to the club. We are holding a silent action for club members only until February 28, 2026 for this package. The unit is disassembled on the ground ready for pick up. We have a minimum reserve set of \$500.00 dollars.



(Pictures shows package before it was taken down)

The winning bidder is responsible for pick up, transportation, and installation. The complete unit is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. If no club member bids on this offer, the club will go out to the general public for auction of this package with a reserve of \$1500.00. If you wish to bid on this package as a HDARC member at the reserve bid of \$500.00 please email hdarcpes@gmail.com to get the current bid and to place a bid before February 28, 2026.

CONCLUSION

Check the club's website often, there are interesting things being added weekly. www.nm5hd.org

I want to thank the club's COB, Kenneth Ham, AG5UY, for maintaining the website. 73 to my co-editor Elaine KJ5ATL. Thanks Yul, WA5YUL and V.E. team for what they do to provide free testing to the public. MaryAnn NS7X for the Elmer contribution & leading the NMCWTN. Thank you Rob K5NBN for providing a list of gear to offer to the club members, working on our repeater project, and hosting HDARC 2 Night. Thanks to those of you who provided content for this periodical. Feel free to reach out to me anytime at hdarcpres@gmail.com. If you wish to add content to "The High Desert Dispatch" periodical the deadline for submission is Monday preceding the Thursday publication date. If you get the chance, monitor the HDARC repeater every night at 1930 hours. Check in on the Statewide CHAT SHACK NET Saturday at 1000 hours local on the Mega Link.

73 Mike

Michael R. Smith, KI5NBP, President HDARC

The High Desert Amateur Radio Club of New Mexico, Inc.





The High Desert Amateur Radio Club Of New Mexico Inc.

The 2025 Leadership Team

Executive Leadership

Michael R. Smith KI5NBP, President 2024-2026 hdarcpres@gmail.com

John Gleason, K5JVG, Vice-President 2025-2026

Elaine Summerhill, KJ5ATL, Secretary 2024-2026

Mike Chirin, NM5MC, Treasurer - 2024-2026

Board of Directors

Ken Ham, AG5UY, Chairman - 2025-2027

John Dodd KJ5KUF Director- 2025-2027

Mchael R. Smith, KI5NBP Director- 2024-2026

Harvey Dove, KI5YVY, Director- 2024-2026

MaryAnn Cornett, NS7X- Director - 2025-2026

Committee Leader's (Appointed by President)

Past President: David Ham, N6SIK

Elmer: MaryAnn Cornnet, NS7X

Test Equipment Loaner Program: Harvey Dove, KI5YVY

Quartermaster: Rob Summerhill, K5NBN

Club Programming & Workshop Development: Mike Smith, KI5NBP

Special Projects: Marc Matteson, KD6KR

Canteen: Elaine Summerhill KJ5ATL / John Dodd, KJ5KUF

50/50 - Raffles: Becky Ham, N6TYT

The High Desert Dispatch Co-Editors: Mike Smith, KI5NBP

Elaine Summerhill KJ5ATL

Website: Ken Ham, AG56UY

Club YouTube Channel: Elaine Summerhill , KJ5ATL

East Mountain Group: Rob Summerhill , K5NBN

License Testing: Yul Bratcher, WA5YUL

Club Net's: John Gleason, K5JVG

Club Repeater(s): Rob Summerhill, K5NBN

Field Days: John Gleason, K5JVG

Membership Recruitment and Retention: Don Shoemaker N9DCS

Public Relations Outreach

Youth and Student Outreach

Safety Coordinator

Club Senior and Veterans Affairs Outreach

EmComm

