



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,

Happy Valentine's Day!

Next Saturday is our monthly membership meeting at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center in Albuquerque NM. We start at 10:00 A.M. local. This meeting will be a combination of required business and celebration. Members will be voting on HDARC leadership positions that have come to term. We will be celebrating those UNM Small Satellite Program Students who passed their FCC Technician and General License Exam. Those that attend will be receiving a free HT courtesy of the generosity of our members. We will also begin the discussion of an opportunity that has been presented to us by Rocky Mountain Ham Radio of New Mexico concerning our repeater, internet access for our repeater and participation in the microwave project. There is more information on all these topics with the newsletter.

Thank you to the members who have begun paying their 2026 membership dues. The official date to collect dues is now 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.

We have received some equipment from a SK donation. The club was directly named in the last will and testament of SK KE5TJ PAUL L SCHMOLKE. Quartermaster Rob K5NBN has collected the equipment from David N6SIK who collected the equipment from the deceased family. We have two HF radios, a variety of CW keys, misc. equipment and a fully assembled tower which will need to come down when the weather conditions improve. Rob is bench testing the HF radios. One is up for grabs in the Classified section of this newsletter.

Please do not forget about our club's silent auction for club members. We are auctioning a tower, rotor, and antenna. All information is in the Classifieds section of the newsletter.

Here are some important updates:

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.

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. I have not received a response. Check out in the classified section for the posting of the current Silent Auction.

Don’t forget to participate in the Wednesday Noon HDARC ZOOM room. Here is the link to access the ZOOM room:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1>

Meeting ID: 824 1074 1347 Passcode: 737373

If you're a new member we have a ZOOM New member orientation on February 18,2026. More info below.

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

Salvatore Benevegna - KI5UYY

Elizabeth Whitney - KJ5OAT

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

Welcome all new members! Our next orientation will be FEBRUARY 18th at 7:00pm MST on ZOOM.

Here is the link:

Topic: HDARC New Member Orientation

Time: Feb 18, 2026 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82356347963?pwd=a98aZy3b00aTp8KkbRQFtV2kC7Zkhs.1>

Meeting ID: 823 5634 7963

Passcode: 857175

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82356347963#,,,,*857175# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82356347963#,,,,*857175# US (Houston)

Join instructions

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/82356347963/invitations?signature=nKJzqNpkDxZull0lyqmCM18cnGBWNIpGO_PEs8bkAfA

I hope to see you there!

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

Don Shoemaker HDARC Membership Committee Lead
N9DCS

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=9iQNu7vsp8hlpJFySqk2ZQKNwCKzEOtOWwGJXx1h0kRmmRzVYc4QeokspnykS84Bk8EIAqS5taoU1J1M>

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

Did you know there's an easy way to learn Morse code? Let me rephrase that. Wouldn't it be nice if there were an easy way to learn Morse code?

Alas and alack, learning code requires commitment, discipline, time, and effort. It can be challenging, confusing, and frustrating. But like many things in life, knowing code is well worth the price paid in achieving that goal.

Although there are no shortcuts (unless you've got an AI brain that can add the CW software to your program), many hams are their own worst enemy when it comes to mastering it. Here's a short list of how to never successfully learn CW:

- 1.) Attitude. "I can't learn the code because I'm too old, too busy, too hard of hearing, too this or too that..." If truth be told, there's no way you can learn Morse if you've already convinced yourself you can't learn it.
- 2.) Establishing the wrong goals. There are those that believe that if they can send the characters, it should be a simple matter to copy them as well. It turns out that learning to copy is the critical skill. As you master copying characters, the sending comes naturally and requires virtually no effort.
- 3.) Setting yourself up for failure. Memorizing a chart in which characters are defined by dots and dashes is perhaps the most popular way to sabotage efforts to learn code. Morse is not a visual language, it's something you hear. So lose the dots and dashes and think in terms of dits and dahs instead.
- 4.) Over-doing it. If practicing code for 10 minutes is good, then an hour-long session must be really good. NOT! Code requires your brain to be focused in order to fully concentrate. For most people that means you're better off working on copying code 10-15 minutes once or twice a day. Trust me on this one – if your brain is no longer recognizing code characters, you're no longer learning code.

The bad news is that there is no secret to learning Morse code quickly and easily. The good news is that you get to control how successful your attempt to become a CW operator may be. And you might just have some fun as you work at it.

The HDARC is planning to sponsor a Morse code class later this spring if there is sufficient interest. It'll meet Saturdays at 9 AM at the North Domingo Baca Center. The class will last 6 weeks.

For more information or to register, contact MaryAnn, NS7X (email: ns7x@arrl.net)

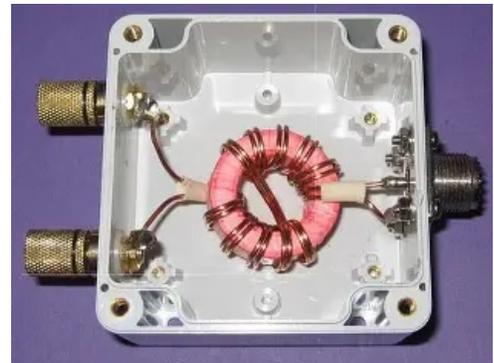
73 MaryAnn NS7X
Club Elmer and HDARC BOD Director

Life in Balun

By John KJ5KUF

I recently developed an interest in QRP radios and building their associated antennas. My subject radio is the uSDX+, which Dr. Fong recently brought to the Club's attention, as his students had them leftover from one of his courses. Dr. Fong is quite taken with these open-source radios and we have exchanged several emails regarding their use. In general, QRPs are pretty versatile, providing multi-band coverage, CW key and decoder support, and embedded power sources. There is an established community of POTA hams who litter the internet with their triumphant exploits with these devices.

As part of my discussions with the learned Dr., I broached the subject of antennas with an eye towards POTA. I mentioned the JPC-12 as a candidate, which is a portable all-band coil antenna. Folks like Salty Walt of *Coastal Waves and Wires* has done a couple of reviews of this antenna, along with other aspiring salts. Dr. Fong would have none of it, though, and recommended that I pick up one of the 20/40m trap dipole kits from Pacific Antenna (PA) at <https://www.qrpkits.com>, located in the heart of



Fayetteville, Arkansas. I did, and got bitten by the antenna-building bug. (Incidentally, PA is a great site for all kinds of inexpensive ham kits, which will lend themselves to future workshop activities. In my own defense, the JPC-12 is a great antenna and works great with the uSDX+ radio.)

So, now to the subject of antenna building. Once I built the PA trap dipole, I started looking around at other types of antennas that I could cobble together for use with my QRP radio. That search led me to Baluns. Baluns are as common as toll roads in Florida. From the EMS website: *“A balun is a passive electrical device that converts between balanced and unbalanced signals. It is commonly used in RF circuits to interface balanced transmission lines.”*¹

Yuk, not helpful. In my mind, balun is a contraction of “balanced-unbalanced”. In radio usage, it serves to change (or maintain) the impedance between two sources and protect your radio from damage that can be caused by common mode RF running back down the coax and ruining your life.

If you look inside a balun you will usually find a round ferrite donut with wires wound around it, in variable numbers and turns. The donut is known as a toroid or choke, because it chokes off the bad RF energy. There are all flavors of baluns with different ratios of impedance balance and preference toward voltage or current signal support.



A balun’s ratio defines the step-up or step-down of impedance between the balanced antenna side and the unbalanced radio side of the balun. For example, a 4:1 balun sits between a 200-ohm antenna and a 50-ohm radio coax cable. The simplest balun, with a 1:1 ratio, (you guessed it) maintains a 50-ohm balance.

The previous figure depicts a DIY balun. Once you decide you want to build a center-fed or end-fed dipole antenna, then you are going to need a balun. But never fear, when you start looking around for antenna and balun designs, you will discover a host of internet sites and videos to guide your journey.

¹ <https://electronicmanufacturingservice.org/what-balun-and-does-your-rf-pcb-need-one/>

There are some really smart folks out there, like Peter Miles (VK6YSF) at <https://vk6ysf.com/index.htm>, who has a host of articles on the subject. No worries, you don't have to be as smart as Peter, you just need to be able to copy his open-source work using some simple radio skills, like drilling holes, soldering wires, measuring lengths, and attaching connectors. I can see now why President Mike (KI5NBP) wants to conduct these skills workshops. For the majority of us, however, people like Peter can conduct the science, and the rest of us can do the hands-on assembly (while we even learn something).

Well, that's Life in Balun. DIY antennas and baluns are really fun. So, if you can get down into the full lotus position, and repeat *ohmmm...* in a low tone, then you can build a balun. If you can't (assume the position), then go on a walkabout to the local deli for a coffee and eat a real donut. By the way, we've asked Peter if he would be interested in Zooming into a HDARC meeting and chatting about antennas, baluns, sheep ranching, or whatever is of interest to him. Stay tuned.

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.

Amateur Radio News on the World Wide Web

Amateur Radio Newslines: <https://www.arnewslines.org/>

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

Amateur Radio Daily: <https://daily.hamweekly.com/>

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-additional-channels-and-updates-420-mhz-coordination-information>

ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation's 250th Anniversary

<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-joins-america250-as-a-supporting-partner-for-the-nation-s-250th-anniversary>



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 conversation.
- 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 Friday Evenings at 1930 local time on Simplex 146.550 VHF . 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 -NEW

The Club 440 repeater

NM5HD/R

Rob K5NBN has been leading a team of HDARC members (KD5MHQ Bob / KJ5ITL Mark/KJ5KUF John/WA6CCB David) in maintaining and improving the operations of our repeater. One of the current projects is finding a way to get internet access to our repeater so we can set up a permanent on site access for echo link. During the research phase of this project the team found that our neighbor in the repeater house on Sandia Crest, Rocky Mountain Ham of NM has internet access. The team reached out to the leadership of Rocky Mountain Ham of NM and they are very open to allowing us to access their internet for our needs plus more. This is a very fresh opportunity that is still developing. Our leadership will be meeting with members of the leadership for Rocky Mountain Ham of NM soon to see what the opportunity entails. This is one of a few projects we have going on with the current repeater. You will be advised as everything comes together. I want to put out there that we will be discussing replacing the current repeater with one that is newer in the near future and allows remote access. A big 73 to Rob, Dave, Bob, Mark and John. Thank you to Rocky Mountain Ham of NM for allowing us to discuss how we can partner together. If you have the chance to monitor

HDARC 2 Night at 1930 hours on any night you can hear a current update of the repeater projects.

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

UNM Small Satellite Group Summary

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 KJ5OAO- Technician
Liam Brockschmidt -Technician
Jarett Jones KJ5OCG - Technician
Alexander Ashcraft KJ5OBM - Technician
Kameron Chaleunphonh KJ5OCY- Technician
Marnina Willard KJ5OAS- Technician
Nathan Nail KJ5OBN - Technician
Elizabeth Whitney KJ5OAT - Technician**

Three (3) participants did not pass the technician exam and we hope to see them test this coming Saturday. .

HDARC members donated over \$360.00 to purchase HT's for the students who passed the exam. The HT's have been received and will be awarded to the students named above at this Saturday's Club 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."



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 February 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Chile Hills Restaurant located at 1805 U.S. Rte 66 Moriarty, NM 87035



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
February 2026 - March 2026
SAVE THE DATES

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 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/>

Friday February 20, 2026 7:30 P.M - HDARC East Mountain Group Bravo Sierra Net. Simplex 146.550 VHF.

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

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=kXb9i18t3bc3](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1)
[MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410741347?pwd=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1) PIN 737373

Friday February 27, 2026 7:30 P.M - HDARC East Mountain
Group Bravo Sierra Net. Simplex 146.550 VHF.

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 moe 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=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Friday March 6, 2026 7:30 P.M - HDARC East Mountain Group Bravo Sierra Net. Simplex 146.550 VHF.

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

Friday March 13, 2026 7:30 P.M - HDARC East Mountain Group Bravo Sierra Net. Simplex 146.550 VHF.

**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=kXb9i18t3bc3
MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1](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/>**

**Friday March 20, 2026 7:30 P.M - HDARC East Mountain Group
Bravo Sierra Net. Simplex 146.550 VHF.**

**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=kXb9i18t3bc3MATidQmEsJb31DoVnR.1> PIN 737373

Friday March 27, 2026 7:30 P.M. - HDARC East Mountain Group
Bravo Sierra Net. Simplex 146.550 VHF.

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

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 /POTA Polozza
- HF QRP Field Days
- CW Workshop
- 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 in the Manzanos
- Spaceport USA Special Event Field Day (Upham NM)
- National Championship Air Races Field Day (Roswell NM)
- Rte 66 A Tribute to the Mother Road threw New Mexico- HDARC Hamming Style Tucumcarri to Gallup. (Spring threw Fall 2026)
- 2026 Holiday Party Dec 2026
- Understand what Prepping really means

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. We have the following equipment needing a new home.*



Kenwood TS 590

\$500 - tested. It works



Various Keys: Make offer.

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. Thank you Don N9DCS for providing new members with a welcome. 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 Wednesday preceding the 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
Michael 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 Cornett, 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

