

Socorro Amateur Radio Association

SARA News

www.socorroara.org

April 2017

Meetings

The minutes for the March meeting at www.socorroara.org/sara/minutes.

The agenda for the April meeting is located at: www.socorroara.org/sara/agenda/agenda.pdf

The April meeting will be at 1930 hours, Wednesday, 11 April 2017 at the Socorro County EOC on Neel Avenue.

SARA Repeater

SARA supports a VHF repeater located on Socorro Peak immediately west of Socorro. The repeater is "open". The auto patch is currently inoperative.

146.68 (-)
100 or 123 Hz required
123 Hz on output

SARA also supports a UHF D-STAR module 'B' operating at 444.500 MHz + 5.000

Registration instructions are at www.socorroara.org/sara/repeaters/D_STAR_Gateway.pdf

SARA Officers

President: Jim Lommen, KC7QY
Vice President: Brad Smith, KD5JN1
Secretary: Bear Albrecht, W5VZB
Treasurer: Anneliese Bowman, AD6UY
Director: Luis Aguilar, WB5JMD
ARES DEC/Dir.: Al Braun, AC5BX
Newsletter Editor: Henry Newton, KC5WYA

April Special Days

1 Apr, April Fool's Day
9 Apr, Palm Sunday
14 Apr, Good Friday
18 Apr, Income Taxes Due (yes, 18)
16 Apr, Easter Sunday
17 Apr, Patriot's Day
28 Apr, Arbor Day

New Mexico QSO Party Sponsored by SARA

April 8, 2017 (8:00am-8:00pm MDT)

See last page
for more information

Socorro April VE Session

Sunday, 23 April 17, 100pm
NM Tech IMSEC Bldg, Room 195
\$15

Upcoming Area Events

NM QSO Party (Sponsored by SARA): 8 April

ABQ AR Caravan Club Spring Tailgate,
29 Apr, dawn to noon, 1400 Eubank SE, see
<http://caravanradio.org/calendar/> for details

Mesilla Valley Bean Feed: 6 May

RM Division Convention (in WY): 26 - 28 May

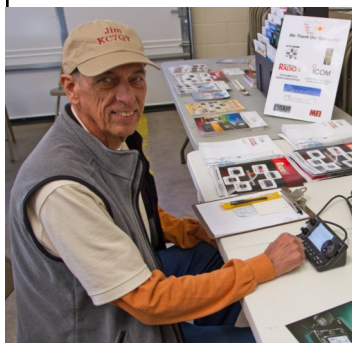
Central States VHF Society Convention:
27 - 30 July

Chile Harvest Triathlon: 5 Aug

Duke City Hamfest: 11 - 13 Aug

The President's Corner

If you recall, I wrote about our trip to Minnesota last summer and attending the Central



States VHF Society Conference. This year the conference will be held in Albuquerque the last weekend in July. If you have a rig with an unused band switch position marked 50 MHz

(or maybe 6 meters) you might want to attend to find out about operating on the "Magic Band" and above. There really is activity there – OK, at times. I got started there waaaaay back when you had to buy a separate transceiver (or a transverters for your HF rig) to work 6M. Back then the rigs were typically 10 Watts with pretty poor selectivity. Add a 100 Watt amp and you were really up there with the serious guys. My first antenna was a two element quad that the managers of my condominium allowed me to mount on the roof. I built another one a few years later when I got to Wyoming in 1981 out of wood dowels and bits of pine boards; Penny still refers to it as my tinker-toy antenna. Anyhow, the CS VHF Conference will bring in a number of VHF/UHF/microwave enthusiasts in for a weekend of technical talks and general comradery. Last year there was a demonstration of 10GHz EME from a portable station set up on a table top outside of an RV. There will be VHF 101 (VHF/UHF) and VHF 102 (microwaves) introductory sessions for those wanting to learn more about weak signal VHF and above operation. This year will be the 51st annual meeting and the first in New Mexico, get there if you can, it probably won't be this close again for many years.

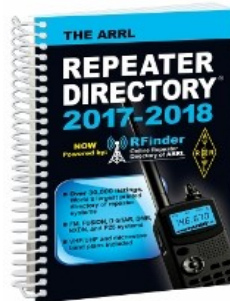
SARA elections are coming up at the May meeting. Jim Boswell and Luis Aguilar are the nominating committee. If you haven't heard from them yet then call and step up to keep SARA going strong.

You will see in a side bar that Henry Newton, KC5WYA, has completed his final edition with this issue of the SARA News. A huge thanks goes to Henry for putting together a really fine newsletter and prodding the President to get a column in each month. THANK YOU Henry!!!

Jim KC7QY

New ARRL Directory

The 2017-2018 ARRL Repeater Directory will be out in early April 2017 and will be in one size of spiral "lay flat" 6 by 9 inches. Price for ARRL members is \$17.95. It has over 31, 000 listings and includes digital repeaters with FM, Fusion, D-Star, DMR, NXDN, and P25 systems.

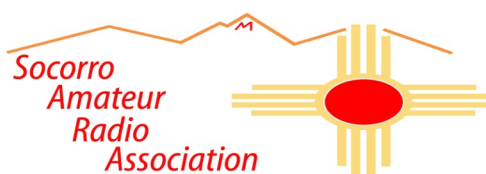


NM Tax on Amazon Purchases

By the time you read this Amazon will be imposing a New Mexico gross receipts tax on your online purchases. I understand it will be approximately 5 percent.

MS Vista OS No Longer Supported

Windows Vista OS was first launched over 10 years ago on 30 Jan 2007. Microsoft will end extended support for Vista on 11 Apr 17. The product will no longer received security updates, non-security hotfixes, free or paid assisted support options, or online technical content updates from Microsoft.



International Crystal Manufacturing Going Out of Business

International Crystal Manufacturing (ICM) of Oklahoma City has announced that it will be going out of business, probably at the end of May. Royden Freeland Jr., W5EMH, son of the company's founder, posted a letter this week on the ICM website.

"We will be honoring all orders that we have already taken and will be able to fill a limited amount of new orders dependent upon raw materials available," Freeland said. "We would like to thank you for your past business. The success of ICM over the previous 66 years has been largely due to its amazing customer base."

International Crystal produces RF control devices — quartz crystals, oscillators, QCM crystals, filters, TCXOs/VCTCXOs, and precision crystals.



Royden R. Freeland Sr. founded International Crystal in 1950, at first operating out of his garage. One of his first contracts was to produce crystals for Collins Radio. The elder Freeland and his wife died in a 1978 air crash, and his son took over the company, which expanded into the production of other electronics in the 1980s.

In the 1990s, though, it sold off some of its equipment and distribution business to concentrate on its core enterprise — the manufacture of crystal and oscillator products. The announcement caught some manufacturers

off guard, and they are seeking to source the products they had been buying from ICM, one of the few remaining US based manufacturer of crystal products. Radio amateurs requiring crystals for projects or as replacement parts for older equipment also will have to look elsewhere.

Ironically, International boasts on its website that it's "a proud supplier to RadioShack," which, for the second time in 2 years, declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy this week.

From ARRL, 10 Mar 17

Editors Note: I can recall buying ICM crystals for RadioShack crystal based scanners over 30 years ago.

No Nonsense Tech Study Guide

www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2014-no-nonsense-tech-study-guide-v20.pdf



**Support the Socorro
Amateur Radio**

Last SARA Newsletter for Newton

This April 2017 issue of the SARA Newsletter will be my last. I have been the editor since June 2014. It is time for someone else to take the reins.

I use Microsoft Publisher. It is a part of the Microsoft Office Suite. I can email a soft copy of this issue of the SARA Newsletter in Publisher to anyone interested in taking over.

KC5WYA Signing off, Henry

New VCARA Antenna

Valencia County Amateur Radio (VCARA) Association ARES group swapped out a defective 2m antenna at the 146.7000 MHz site in Belen on Saturday, 18 Mar 17. The antenna was replaced with an Andrew DB-224 antenna. The tower man was Casey Dewey, KC5CRD.

This information was received from NM5CL, Charlie Lyon by way of AC5BX, Al Braun.



Central States VHF Conference Coming to New Mexico

The Central States VHF (CSVHF) Conference is the preeminent VHF+ amateur radio conference in the nation. This year's conference is being hosted by Rocky Mountain Ham Radio and will be held in Albuquerque on 27-30 July 2017.

This year's conference at a glance includes the following activities:

- A Thursday evening Family Activity
- Luncheon, Dinner Banquets, evening Hospitality Suites
- Technical and non-technical VHF+ presentations
- Technical VHF+ poster board presentations
- Rover row and Dish bowl
- VHF-101 and VHF-102 presentation series for aspiring and beginning VHF+ ops
- Noise Figure measurement
- VHF+ equipment swap fest
- Antenna range/shootout
- Family oriented activities
- Prizes
- VHF+ related Vendors

Keep an eye at <http://2017.csvhfs.org/> for more information as planning progresses.

Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon

Editors Note: Re-running an abbreviated N1RZ article regarding the Chile Harvest Triathlon

Planning already is underway for the 2017 Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon. The adult triathlon is scheduled for Saturday, 5 August, with the race starting at 7:30 a.m. The youth triathlon will be the previous day, Friday, 4 August, starting at 6:00 pm.

They need 7-8 operators on Saturday at least two on Friday.

Dave Finley, N1RZ

Free Mapping

National Geographic has built an easy to use web interface that allows anyone to quickly find any 7.5 minute topo in the contiguous U.S.A. for downloading and printing. Each topo has been pre-processed to print on a standard home, letter size printer. These are the same topos that were printed by USGS for decades on giant bus-sized presses but are now available in multi-page PDFs that can be printed just about anywhere. See: <http://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads>

ACME has also has a free mapping program. <https://mapper.acme.com/?ll=32.32191,-106.75341&z=20&t=H&marker0=32.32205%2C-106.75318%2Cn%2032.32206%20w%20106.75318>

With ACME you can move the cursor over a location and then print or e-mail it. You can also enter a GPS coordinate. You can have a map view or a satellite view. Put the cursor on your house and then email to yourself.

Join/Renew Your SARA Membership

Are you a member? When does your membership expire? A list of SARA members is available online at socorroara.org/members.html. The list is updated - usually on a monthly basis.

If you do not receive your newsletter by email you might check the membership list on the SARA web page and then contact secretary@socorroara.org.

If you are a member seeking to renew or a ham new to the Socorro area, joining SARA is easy and inexpensive. Download a membership application (from socorroara.org/SARAFrm.pdf) and send it with a check for \$10 (\$15 for family memberships) to:

Socorro Amateur Radio Association
722 N. California St.
Socorro, NM 87801



Join the 2017 New Mexico QSO Party
Saturday, April 8 – 8:00AM thru 8:00PM MDT
Sponsored by the Socorro Amateur Radio Association

Hams across the state, nation, and world are gearing up for another enjoyable New Mexico QSO Party! Whether you're brand-new to contesting, enjoy chewing the rag, chase counties, are looking for a unique club activity, or just want to have some fun, the New Mexico QSO Party is your ticket to great fun on the air.

The object is simple: Stations *inside* the Land of Enchantment contact as many New Mexico counties, states, and countries as possible on the HF bands (excluding WARC bands) and 6 meters. Stations *outside* of the Land of Enchantment make contact with as many New Mexico counties as possible.

Participate from home, while mobile, or from the field – by yourself, or with a group of friends. Special awards for amateur radio clubs, multi-operator teams, and individuals who make the most contacts and snag the most multipliers.

Many more details available on the New Mexico QSO Party website:
www.NewMexicoQSOParty.org