

# NM SECTION



Serving Ham Radio Operators throughout New Mexico

Volume I - Issue 4

## Section Manager's Note

Ed James, KA8JMW - ARRL NM Section Manager

This month's newsletter highlights the June VHF contest. I spent the second weekend of June about 20 miles southeast of Pueblo Colorado operating with Brian N5ZGT, Rick AE5JI and around a dozen other members of Rocky Mountain Ham Radio, N0SZ from a former AT&T microwave site in grid DM78sa. VHF is different from most contests in that their often long periods of inactivity punctuated by the feeding frenzy of a band opening or trying to work a rover in a rare grid. Be sure to check out Jim KK6MC's article on this year's June VHF contest.

Two weeks later and it was Field Day and we were operating as NM5EM, class 2F, from the state Emergency Operations Center just south of Santa Fe. Our host Wynn KE5HVQ of the NM Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management was kind enough to allow us to operate from one of the state's air conditioned mobile command posts. Hams from several clubs came together for the operation.



N0SZ, Former AT&T microwave Site SE of Pueblo Colorado

My thanks to Bill K8TE, Scott N5SQR, Alan N5BGC, Chris W5CBP, Rick AE5JI, Ollie AJ1O, Bob N5YYF, Seth N3MRA, Romy KD5PQU, Jim KC5RUO, Scott N5SQR, Chris K5KKW, Eric KF5DTR and our hosts Wynn KE5HVQ and Mark KE5ZGR for all working together to pull this off.

I hope your June was as "radio active" as mine.

## Upcoming Events

08/12/2016 |

[New Mexico State Convention \(Duke City Hamfest\)](#)

Albuquerque, NM,  
ARRL Convention  
Website: <http://dukecityhamfest.org>

09/03/2016 |

[Alamogordo ARC's 32nd Annual Hamfest](#)

Location:  
Alamogordo, NM,  
ARRL Hamfest  
Website: <http://www.qsl.net/k5lrw/hamfest.htm>

10/15/2016 |

[Socorro Hamfest](#)

Socorro, NM,  
ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Socorro ARA, Tech ARA, & City of Socorro  
Website: <http://socorroara.org/hamfest.html>

# 2016 National Parks ON THE AIR

www.arrl.org/NPOTA

Throughout 2016 Amateur Radio is helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country are activating NPS units, promoting the National Park Service and showcasing Amateur Radio to the public. This month's top 15 leaders in NM are:

## Activator Leader Board

Call Sign	Score
W5IL	28
AI5P	25
KC5RUO	19
KE5AKL	19
NM5RC	15
NM5AE	12
AE5VM	9
N5FO	8
NM5DX/M	4
AL7L/5	2
K5GLT	2
KM5XK	2
NM5HD	2
WA6BJH	2
W5IL	28

## Chaser Leader Board

Call Sign	Score
K5TA	361
WB2RIS	313
W5IL	235
AI5P	223
W5PDO	108
W5RDL	102
NM5WB	87
NI5W	86
K8TE	84
KC7QY	73
N9KW	72
N5WMQ	68
K5TEE	39
KM5XK	35
N9WL	31

The Manhattan National Historic Park has recently opened a visitor's center in Los Alamos and the site can now be activated for credit from the parking lot. You can find out more about this fun operating activity at [www.arrl.org/NPOTA](http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA) and the NM NPOTA Challenge at [www.arrl-nm.org/wp/section-awards/new-](http://www.arrl-nm.org/wp/section-awards/new-)

## June 2016 VHF

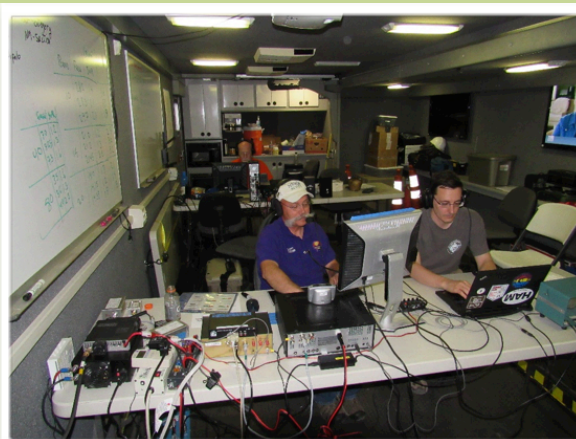


Brian N5ZGT and Rick AE5JI working 6M during the June VHF contest

## Field Day 2016 Photographs



NM5EM 2F NM



Bill K8TE working CW, Scott N5SQR & Rick AE5JI on Phone.

## New Ham Report

The following have recently become licensed amateur radio operators, please reach out to them and invite them to your next club meeting.

Call	Name	City
KG5OAL	Sarah Larson	Jemez Springs
KG5OAO	Tamara Weary	Jemez Springs
KG5OAN	Shawn Weary	Jemez Springs
KG5OAK	John Fredlund	Jemez Springs
KG5OAM	Helen Fredlund	Jemez Springs
KG5OCW	Gregory Mershon	Los Lunas
KG5NXR	Roger Selva	Albuquerque
KG5OEC	Christopher Leach	Albuquerque
KG5NXX	Ryan Slota	Albuquerque
KG5OAJ	Patricia Jones	Albuquerque
KG5OAI	Harrison Jones	Albuquerque
AG5FQ	Raymond Wolfgang	Albuquerque
KG5OGA	Austin Vaughn	Albuquerque
KG5OCY	Paul Spray	Albuquerque
KG5OCV	Travis Jenkins	Albuquerque
KG5OCU	Elizabeth Adams	Albuquerque
KG5OFH	Joshua Wiles	Albuquerque
KG5NXP	Benjamin Brennan	Rio Rancho
KG5NXQ	Sheila Malmo	Rio Rancho
KG5NXW	David Patterson	Rio Rancho
KG5NXV	David Lane	Rio Rancho
KG5NXS	Sean Wehrmeister	Rio Rancho
KG5NXT	Gayle Wilkinson	Rio Rancho
KG5OCT	Julia Alzofon	Santa Fe
KG5OCX	Adrian Haws	Canones
KG5ODF	Stephen Jensen	Las Cruces
KG5NYP	Tyler Crow	Hobbs
KG5ODD	John Dickey	Alamogordo

## May Net Report

To ensure inclusion in this monthly report, please forward all net reports to Don Grab  
K5BIS@ARRL.net and Alden Oyer  
AG5S@ARRL.net - thank you!

Net	Check-ins	QSTs
NM Roadrunner Traffic Net	1057	41
NM Breakfast Club	852	56
Caravan Club Net	72	5
Yucca Net	363	67
Four Corners Net	597	32
SCAT Net	1004	188
Rusty's Raiders Net:	495	39
Valencia County ARA Net	59	24
Tri-County ARES Net	9	17
Tri-County ARES Simplex Net	3	3/0
KC5JBO Memorial Simplex Net:	50	50/0
144 Mhz. SSB Net:	30	30/0
432 Mhz. SSB Net:	30	30/0
NM D-Star Voice Nets	65	17
NM Department of Health Net	160	9
NM ARES/RACES Statewide Net	19	5

## New Ham Report

	Novice	Tech	General	Advanced	Extra	Total
<b>NM</b>	49	3539	1367	375	1239	6569
<b>USA</b>	10434	367703	172023	49356	142857	738373



## Silent Key Report

We regret to report that the following keys are now silent.

Paul Thomson, K5TCU.

Albuquerque, NM.

Passed 6/30/16, Age 90.

Obituary, ABQ Journal, 7/7/16.

Jim Gary, KB5CIJ.

Albuquerque, NM.

Passed 6/10/16. Age 90.

Obituary, ABQ Journal, 6/14/16.

Tim Shy, KM4KS.

Formally Albuquerque, NM.

Passed 3/14/16. Age 60.

Obituary, Ann Arbor, MI. News, 3/20/16.

Jim Mangham, AC5MO

Albuquerque, NM.

Passed 5/27/16, Age 89

Obituary ABQ Journal, 6/5/16

## Tech Trek

Jim KC7QY@arrl.net

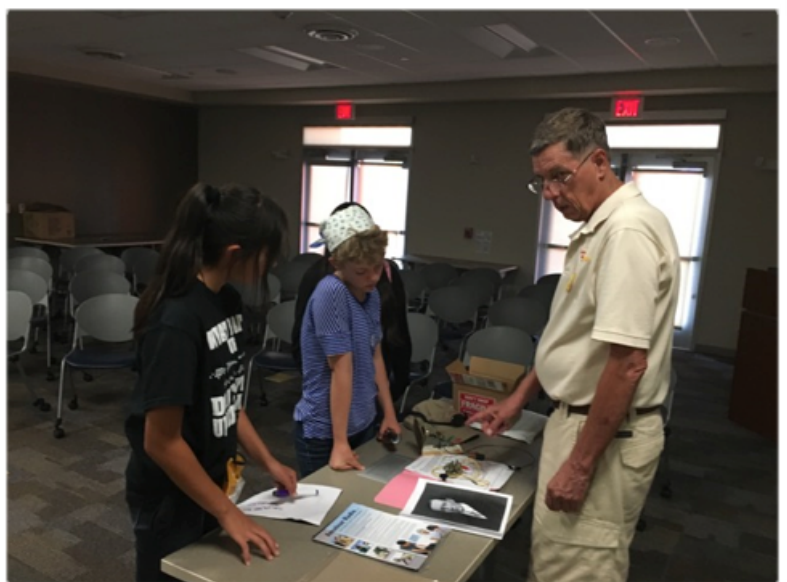
New Mexico Tech Trek was held on the NM Tech campus July 19-25 this year. Tech Trek is sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to encourage girls to follow STEM studies and potentially into careers in science and engineering. This is the third year that AAUW-NM has hosted Tech Trek in New Mexico and the first year at NM Tech. The camp hosted 60 girls from all over New Mexico who will be entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade this Fall. The girls attend core classes during the morning, attend workshops in smaller groups in the afternoon and participate in other activities in the evening.

## Getting Started, VHF and Above in NM

James Duffey KK6MC@ARRL.NET

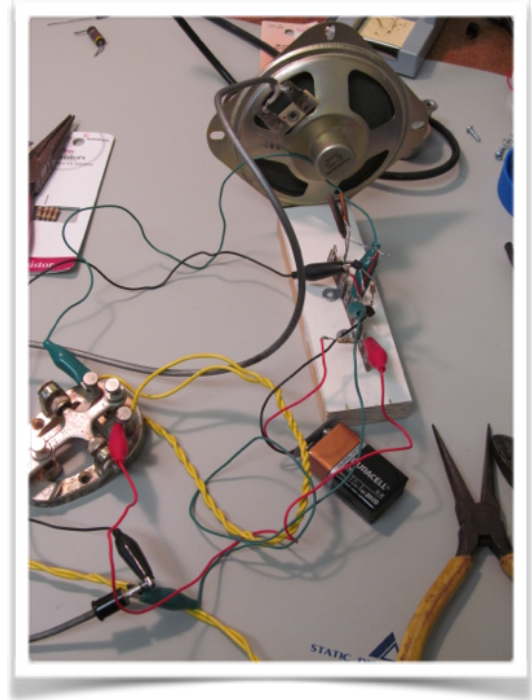
On May 11, KK6MC presented a talk at the Socorro Amateur Radio Association on how to get started operating weak signal VHF. He was accompanied by Arne, N7KA, Bill, W7QQ, Mike, WB2FKO, and KG5FHU. For those who missed the meeting, a PDF of the talk is available at <[NMVHF.org](http://NMVHF.org)>. Feel free to use these slides as a basis of your own talk. The [NMVHF.org](http://NMVHF.org) web site has lots of useful information on VHF operating slanted towards NM, so feel free not only to visit the site, which contains a forum and chat room, but also to contribute photos of your station, articles or other information on weak signal VHF operating in NM.

Photo: Cedar Crest NM; From R to L, KK6MC, N7KA, W7QQ, and WB2FKO. Photo by KG5FHU



There were also off-campus tours, one to the VLA as an example. The announcement in the El Defensor Chieftain about the program asked for support and volunteers from the community. It seemed like a natural for a presentation about ham radio, thus a plan was hatched.

The coordinators set aside an hour on Tuesday and Thursday evening. Half of the campers would attend the ham radio presentation while the other half visited the mineral museum on one evening and the groups switched the other evening. Keeping the attention of 30 eighth graders for an hour seemed a daunting task however. To make the group size more manageable we split the group in half with half going to the demonstration station set up outside and the other half inside with a discussion of ham radio. Dave Johnson, KB5YIW, set up the portable, battery powered station both evenings and led a discussion on ham radio. I did a presentation that started with photos of Morse and Marconi discussing how code evolved and how it was used by early radio pioneers to develop the art and science of radio. The discussion then followed the ARRL handout titled "22 Things You Can do With Ham Radio". Handouts of "The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio" and "Amateur Radio....Serving Your Community" also made a big hit. The discussion was followed by THE EXAM..... We have a simple puzzle that introduces Morse code with a question answered in Morse. The Morse characters are included at the top of the page and a space is left to write in the answer below. I also told the girls that not only was the answer on the quiz but that I would also tell them the answer! Of course the answer was provided by sending it in Morse from a code practice oscillator. As usually happens when code starts, pandemonium erupted. It wasn't long before one of the brave souls asked if she could come up and try sending. One stepped up and the others followed in short order. The camp director reported that there were reports of girls sending Morse by flashlight between the two wings of the dorm the night following the presentation.



The CPO project was a fun build for me. I found the ARRL simple CPO schematic on-line. It looked simple enough, a couple of common transistors, resistors and capacitors; should be do-able with parts out of the junk-box. Never quite as easy as planned. I picked up the parts that I didn't have from our local Radio Shack (fortunately we still have one in Socorro) and set to work Monday evening. Alas, I was missing the PNP transistor I needed. Tuesday morning back to RS. Finished assembly Tuesday afternoon, just in time for the 6:30 presentation. It was a real hit - might have had something to do with the MacGyver factor of the build.

Overall, the girls showed a lot of interest with several asking where they could learn more and connect with a ham or club in their area. They have the ARRL web address and were told to go there to look for clubs in their area so be on the lookout for inquiring minds in your area.

**Ed James  
KA8JMW**

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Section Manager  
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**Assistant Section  
Managers**

Southern NM -  
Robert Truitt  
KE5OFK

Northern NM - Bill  
Boedeker NM5BB

Don Grab N5BIS

**Section Youth  
Coordinators**

Bob Longoria N5JH

Phil Darling KF5LEF

Sue Darling KF5LEG

**Affiliated Club  
Coordinator**

Art Priebe N5ART

**Official Observer  
Coordinator**

Jerry Boyd WB8WFK

**Section  
Emergency  
Coordinator**

Bill Mader K8TE

If you are interested in  
an open leadership  
position, please  
contact Ed James.

**June VHF Contest**

N5SJ and I violated two of my roving prime directives this year; 1) Start near a large VHF/UHF population center, and 2) Travel your route before you rove. Despite these two divergences from normative behavior, it was an epic rove! I started with a goal to emphasize QSOes on 2M to 70cm at long distances from rare grids with both W9RM and W7QQ and others if available. We accomplished that goal.

I picked up N5SJ in Gallup, NM in DM55 and after working W9RM in DM58 and W7QQ in DM65 and a few local FM ops on 2M and 70cm, we headed north through DM56. 6M was open off and on, most off, but we did make some 200mi+ QSOes on 2M and up, which was one of our main purposes for roving this year.

Near Shiprock, N5SJ had arranged to work a couple of guys on FM in Farmington, and so we had 4 mults from DM55 and DM56, which is rare. With the exception of N5SJ recent migration to DM55, I almost never work those grids in a VHF contest.

Heading north to DM57 in southern CO, we stopped and worked several stations on the higher bands, including K0YW, who answered our CQ on 6M. after working him there and on 2M, I asked the usual question if he had any more bands, and he replied that he had 432, but no antenna. I persuaded him to try his 2M antenna on 70cm, which he did and we completed there as well.

We headed W to Utah and then north with a quick stop in Moab. To my surprise continuing CQs on 144.2 lead to two answers from northern UT and two new grids. We stopped for a quick coffee and carb break in Moab and then proceed through DM58 to Green River, just inside DM48. Upon stopping in Green River, I noticed that the side element of the Moxon had become disconnected and was dangling free. Too tired to think straight to fix it, I went to sleep thinking of ways to fix it without lowering the stack and disconnecting antennas. We did not travel with a tall step ladder, but I now understand those who do.



In the morning, after one look at the motel breakfast we decided to hit a local restaurant for breakfast and went to the Tamarisk, and had a great breakfast with great views of the Green River, which was flowing fast and full with Mesas in the background.

We went to a truck stop, found a right height bollard to stand on and repaired the Moxon. On the road, we quickly entered DM49, made a few QSOes and headed south through DM48. This part of Utah is desolate and beautiful country. Six opened and although slow going at first, I soon had runs going on and could not look at much of the scenery. Entering DM47, we lost cell coverage, means for assistance, and were on kurt own. We pulled in to Hite Overlook, overlooking the Glen Canyon Dam reservoir and a great spot to work VHF. The only problem was that I had no means to reach W9RM to tell him to look down this way. Fortunately 6 was open and K2DRH was booming in. After working Bob, I asked him if he could reach Jay to tell him we were on, which he did through ping jockey, and in less than a minute I was working Jay! A nice mixture of old and new technology.

The side element of the Moxon had become detached again and we needed to fix it. Fortunately, there was a right sized rock that Mike backed up to, I climbed up on and reached the Moxon to fix it. One really needs to be prepared to make innovative repairs on the fly when a rover. I really need to



shorten up that reflector wire on the Moxon before the July contest. Heading south through DM47, 6 was still open and we made a turn off to Utah Highway 261. There was a warning sign that some 21 miles ahead lay a 10% grade, narrow gravel road, and switchbacks. With 6 being open, we decided not to worry. When we reached the 21 miles. we were greeted with a sign that this was the infamous Moki Dugway (Google it) and promptly started our 10%

grade descent to switchbacks, narrow gravel road, just like the sign said and no guard rails and washboard, which he sign omitted. I told Mike not to worry, there was only a 1000ft drop off the side. My side. We stopped halfway down for Mike to take pictures. I hung on for dear life. With the cliff to the north, 6M was effectively shut down. We made it to the bottom safely though.

A bit further on was Monument Valley and 6 opened a bit, but not as good as earlier. A few more 2M + QSOes were made and we entered AZ and DM46. South through DM46 to DM45, I managed to work a couple of Phoenix area stations. We entered DM44 just north of Knife City on I-40, with a half-hour left in the contest. There was a long drive back to Gallup to drop Mike off, and a longer drive home to Cedar Crest for me. - KK6MC



## Community Contributions

Please submit your club or event's flyer to [ka8jmw@arrl.net](mailto:ka8jmw@arrl.net) to be included in the Section Newsletter.



### Hall of Fame Awards

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors individuals, licensed or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, and radio amateurs who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, to their

professions, or to some other aspect of life.

Among the Amateurs who were selected for this year's award was:

Keith Lamonica, W7DXX: Co-developer (with the late Bob Arnold, N2JEU) of the first Amateur Radio remote base controlled over the Internet. <http://w7dxx.com/> Congratulations Keith!



### The Clock is Ticking

Time is running out to register on-line for the 2016 Duke City Hamfest in Albuquerque on Friday, August 12, through Sunday, August 14. If you register online, you get a \$2 discount on the admission fee, a free raffle ticket, and an early bird prize ticket. You must register on-line if you want to attend any of the meal events including the Saturday Banquet with guest speaker Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, the new CEO of the ARRL. We will also have our Saturday DX/Contesting Breakfast and our Sunday Young/New Ham Breakfast as well.

### Special Auction Friday Night

We will have a super auction for a special 'R390A Receiver during our Friday night mixer. This unit is in "out-of-the-box-new" condition with a full set of spare tubes. Our auctioneer will be Chip Margelli, K7JA. On Ebay the R390A was listed recently from \$406.99 (for an old and beat-up unit) and \$1500.00 to \$3,500.00 for good units. This is a chance of a lifetime to get the best bargain on the most coveted receiver ever built. See you at the Hamfest August 12 to 14. Register now on our website at [www.dukecityhamfest.org](http://www.dukecityhamfest.org) to attend.

### Forget Something?

If you've already registered on-line you still have time. it's not too late add some things that must be purchased before 23:59:59 on July 31. Go to this link on the web site, [dukecityhamfest.org/registration/](http://dukecityhamfest.org/registration/), and click the button for "Registration Additions". This will allow you to add things to your previous order such as the Saturday Banquet, the Saturday DX/Contesting breakfast, and the Sunday Young/New Ham Breakfast. You can also buy additional raffle tickets on-line or purchase them at the Hamfest.