

BOSQUE BEACON

*Newsletter of the Bosque Amateur Radio
Club of New Mexico*



JANUARY 2024

EDITOR, JERRY ACETO K6LIE **CLUB MEETING JANUARY 6, 10 AM**

Email: jaaceto@gmail.com

President's Corner - Jerry Aceto K6LIE



We had a successful December food drive. I delivered 306 lbs of food and Vice President Sean O'mara, AI5IZ, delivered an additional 200 lbs of food to the Road-Runner food bank. Not bad for our first attempt to support the food bank. Also, a very substantial donation of warm jackets was given by our members to the Northwest Command police station for the needy kids in the area. As a new club, this was our first endeavor at donating to these two very worthwhile organizations. I want to thank all of our members for contributing.

The title of the January program is "What is Traffic Handling All About?". This program will be presented by our secretary Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ. This topic has been part of Ham radio since the beginning of our hobby and was considered most important back in the day. It is still in wide use today. Gerry will go into some history and exactly what is considered "Traffic", the various organizations that conduct this activity and much more. I have read Gerry's presentation and found it very interesting.

Please join us. Free donuts, coffee, great social event and all topped off with a great Program. What a deal!! Looking to see all of you at the meeting!

I would like to wish all of you a very happy, healthy, prosperous and fun filled 2024.

Jerry K6LIE

Bosque Amateur Radio Club



N5BRC
bosquearc.com



Club Net

The Bosque ARC hosts a **Club Net** *Every Saturday Morning at 10:00 am local time except for the first Saturday of the month when we meet in person for our club meeting.*

146.900 (- 600 kHz) pl 67.0

442.450 (+ 5000 kHz) pl 67

449.550 (- 5000 kHz) pl 71.9

Club Meetings

- *1st Saturday of the Month, 10 AM
- *Always a program that deals with Ham Radio
- *APD NW Area Command on Ellison, across from Cibola HS

Activities

- * School Visitations to Promote S.T.E.M.
- * Field Day Activations
- * Gatherings for Breakfast,
 - * Thursday mornings at 7 AM,
 - * Flying Star, 10700 Corrales Rd

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Whether you are a new ham, a seasoned old timer, or just thinking about becoming a ham, I would like to invite you to our meetings to take in our presentations, join us for breakfast on Thursday mornings, or participate in any of our activities. If you like what you see and hear, we would love to have you join our club. If you have any questions regarding ham radio, we can answer them.

Hope to see you at our meetings!
73.

Jerry Aceto K6LIE
President, Bosque ARC

VE TESTING

If you would like to upgrade your license, or take your first amateur radio test, Mathias Gibbens, K0WBG, holds licensing exams after our regular club meeting on the first Saturday of the month. Testing starts around 12:30. If you would like to test or know anyone else that would like to test, contact Mathias at AbqRRVET@gmail.com to sign up.

CLUB MEETING ADDRESS

APD NW Command Center, 10401
Cibola Loop NW, Albuquerque,
NM 87114 (across the street from
Cibola High school)

CLUB ADDRESS

Bosque ARC
1023 Purple Aster Dr.
Bernalillo, NM 87004

CLUB REPEATER — 444.200 (+) 67 Hz PL

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CLUB REPEATER

Our new club repeater is on the air now. It is located in the north end of Enchanted Hills / Rio Rancho at an elevation of 5500 feet. The system consists of a Motorola CDR500 repeater running 20 watts to a Comet GP6, 7db gain antenna. The antenna is about 30 feet off the ground. The repeater is on 444.200 Mhz (+) with a PL of 67 Hz. If you can bring it up, try dialing 444. It will respond with "OK" in cw and allow you to record yourself. That way, you can tell how you are getting into the system. **Please send me coverage reports.**

Also, I am constantly on the lookout for a better repeater site. Any of our members live in the Northeast Heights near the County Line restaurant or near the lower tram station that would entertain the idea of placing the repeater there? Sure doesn't hurt to ask! These areas are around 6000 feet and afford a very good view of the entire valley and cover all of Albuquerque and the surrounding area very well. At it's present location, we are contending with a ridge running from the Sandia foothills west through Rio Rancho. Some areas Between the repeater and Albuquerque are at 5600 feet, according to the topo maps. So we are somewhat shaded to downtown. I can tell you that I have drive tested the system from the airport to Santa Fe on I-25 and it does well the entire way to Santa Fe. But we need a place that will give us good primary coverage to the city.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Folks, the club is in need of a social committee. I would like to see 2 members step up to plan our social activities...luncheons, dinners, holiday events, etc. This is not a hard position, but an important one. We have evolved into a social club and I need a committee to start planning our events. I have asked several times. Someone, please volunteer.

N2GJ IS THE NEW, NEW MEXICO SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

Gerry Jurrens (N2GJ), the secretary of the Bosque Amateur Radio Club (N5BRC) has accepted the appointment by the New Mexico Section Manager, Bill Mader (K8TE) as the New Mexico Section Traffic Manager (STM). An Extra-class licensee since 1975 and ARRL Life Member, Gerry was first licensed in 1965 as a Novice (WN2VTT) and has been a very active “traffic handler” since earning his General-class license (WB2VTT) in 1966. He became interested in sending, receiving and delivering amateur radio messages (radiograms) soon after he stumbled onto the New Jersey Public Operations Net on 75 meters, on AM, in New Jersey. Through the years, N2GJ was reportedly a competent net control station, who later became the manager of multiple CW and phone nets. He supported the ARRL National Traffic System as a liaison to/from local nets to the Second Region Net (2RN) and the Eastern Area Net (EAN) while growing up in NJ. Appointment to the role of District Emergency Coordinator for the combined Northern-and-Southern NJ ARRL sections was a natural offshoot, providing a liaison function between the American Red Cross (N2ARC) and the uniquely-merged Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Emergency Radio Service (RACES) organizations in the state. The STM is appointed by the Section Manager to supervise the traffic handling organization at the section level--that is, to coordinate all traffic efforts within the section, regardless of mode or National Traffic System (NTS) affiliation, so that routings within the section and connections with other networks and digital traffic nodes will result in orderly and efficient traffic flow throughout the US and Canada. A description of the STM role is at <https://www.arrl.org/section-traffic-manager>. Gerry, who moved to Albuquerque in 2017, has created a talk about traffic handling, the history and proposed future of NTS, and the role of the STM. He will present this information at the upcoming in-person meeting of the club on Saturday, January 6, 2024. Later, his slides will be posted to the club website at www.bosquearc.com.

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NEW MEXICO SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

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He says he is “Looking forward to helping grow interest in New Mexico’s public service nets, and encouraging others to join him in building (or rebuilding) a functional representation of the National Traffic System here in our state in the coming years.” Meanwhile, if you hold a General class ticket or higher, you can join Gerry, who is the net control station on the daily New Mexico Road Runner Traffic Net on 3.939 MHz (LSB) every Sunday night at 0100 UTC. That is 6:00 PM MST at this time of year. He wishes everyone a safe, healthy and happy 2024!

NEW MEXICO QSO PARTY

I received this request from Brian Mileschosky, N5ZGT, for our club to sponsor the New Mexico QSO Party coming up in April. I want to discuss our clubs participation in this event at our January meeting and give an answer to Brian.

I organize the annual New Mexico QSO Party and, since 2009, have partnered with a New Mexico ham club to serve as event sponsor each year. Club involvement in the NM QSO Party sends a great message to the ham community and gives the club a unique way to involve its members and put a feather in its cap.

I'm wondering if the Bosque Amateur Radio Club would be interested and willing to sponsor the 2024 NM QSO Party (<http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/>), which will occur on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

Bottom Line Up Front: Sponsoring involves only a little bit of time, spread thinly across several months. The sponsoring club will receive

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NEW MEXICO QSO PARTY

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a lot of good, promotional recognition around the state.

Here is what's involved:

BEFORE THE EVENT

Help promote the NM QSO Party. I typically promote via several email reflectors and other avenues. I ask the sponsoring club to help promote the event in its own ways around their local community, at its club meetings, on the air during nets, to neighboring clubs, etc.

DURING THE EVENT

- Rally your members to get on the air from their QTHs (and/or as a club using its club callsign) for some good QSO Party fun! If you have any club members who are mobile ops, encourage them to activate some counties during the event, perhaps turning that into a teaching opportunity for members interested in taking amateur radio on the road.

AFTER THE EVENT

— Allow your club's mailing address to serve as the delivery point for paper logs submitted by QSO Party participants. More than 95% of logs will actually be submitted electronically, but there are some participants who prefer paper, which is fine. Out of the 219 total logs submitted in 2023, only about a dozen were paper. An email inbox is already established for collecting electronic logs, which I maintain. I'd ask the sponsoring club to inventory all paper logs received and report them to me about once a week so we can keep the "Logs Received" page (<http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/logs.html>) up to date. I have a spreadsheet template already made up to help the club with this inventorying.

— One to two months after the QSO Party we'll need to schedule a log scoring party with at least a few volunteers from your club. Rally your members who'd be interested in meeting, perhaps at a restaurant or clubhouse, and we'll review the paper logs received for accuracy. Electronic logs will be processed via a software application that I'll bring which processes, scores, and ranks them within a few minutes. After all paper and electronic logs are scored/verified/inspected, we'd do final ranking...and that wraps up the year. The entire log checking party should only take about 90 minutes from start to finish.

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NEW MEXICO QSO PARTY

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THINGS I WILL DO

- Maintain content on the NMQP website (<http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/>)
- Manage and maintain NM QSO Party rules, find plaque award sponsors, etc.
- Receive and inventory electronic logs
- Order and ship plaque awards to their respective winners
- Attend the log scoring party in your area so I can answer questions, help with the scoring, thank your members for their help, etc.
- Be accessible to answer any questions the sponsoring club may have

BENEFITS TO YOUR CLUB FOR SPONSORING

- Your club will receive positive visibility across the New Mexico ham community. It will be recognized as 2024's NMQP sponsor on (1) the NMQP website, (2) in every promotional email sent around the state, (3) on every participation certificate, and (4) on every NMQP award plaque
- Your club will receive a plaque expressing NMQP's gratitude for its help as sponsor
- Your members will gain insight into the administration of an amateur radio contest
- Sponsoring will be a unique activity to rally your membership

That's it, in a nutshell, and I hope BARC will consider this opportunity. I'm pleased to answer any questions you, your officer team, or members may have.

Thank you and 73,
Brian N5ZGT



ARRL Straight Key Night 2024

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® Straight Key Night (SKN) is held on January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

Many hams look forward to SKN as one of the highlights of their operating year.

Operators participate using Morse code (CW). All you need is your favorite straight key or bug. Many participants dust off vintage radios and keys and put them back into service each year just for this event.

SKN is not a contest, so there's no need for quick exchanges. However, all hand keys, regardless of age, are welcome. The number of contacts you make is not important. The reward is meeting new friends as you get together on the air.

Send a list of stations contacted, SKN stories and photos, and your votes for Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO to straightkey@arrl.org by January 31, 2024.

More information is available at www.arrl.org/straight-key-night



A DXpedition in Our Own Backyard

Ed Poccia KC2LM

Perhaps not exactly in our backyard but certainly much closer than DXpeditions conducted recently. Just 1700 miles as the radio waves fly is *Clipperton Island*, # 37 on the DXCC Most Wanted list. As described in the January issue of QST, page 86 & 87, it promises to be an opportunity to add a new one to your list of DXCC entity contacts. Plans call for the group to operate on 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters on modes; CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, from **January 18 - February 2, 2024**



The QST article mentions many details of the upcoming operation including the frequencies they plan to activate while on the island. One operational note worth mentioning here is that TX5S will be working split so refraining from transmitting on their frequency. The TX5S team has an article that will help you work this rare one, entitled, “*How to Work Us*” at: www.intrepid-dx.com/temotu2023

10 Meter FM is Back, Baby

Ed Poccia KC2LM

Perhaps you have noticed that Cycle 25 has come to 10 meters. Participation in the recent ARRL 10 meter contest have offered exciting openings on 28 MHz with many contacts even new DX entities. However, you may have missed the action on 10 Meter FM. While not available to Technician class licensees, the few frequencies available on 10 meter FM allows access to repeaters enabling contacts across the continent and even beyond that.

Having been a good boy last year, Santa left me a TYT 9800 four band FM transceiver under the tree. With its 10 meter FM capability, this a small, easy to install unit allowed me operate mobil, FM and using repeaters in Montana, NY and another in Virginia make contacts with hams in England, Puerto Rico and two stations in eastern Canada on my first outing. The antenna for this operation was a ham stick on my Jeep and the location was the parking lot in back of my dentist.

I purchased this radio specifically to Operate 10 meter FM and of course for local VHF & UHF communication. My Radio Shack 10 meter transceiver decided to give up transmitting after buying it used a mere 35 years ago.

10 meter FM Repeater Frequencies, Offsets and PL Tones are plentiful and available from <https://www.qsl.net/kc4qlp/10meterrepeater.html>

RT Systems software was downloaded for \$25 and greatly eased the programming process for VHF/UHF and Ten meters FM; 29.620, 29.640. 29.260, 29.680 MHz

A YouTube video provides a glimpse into the world of the 10 meter FM mode at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbD1zxjYvPE>

Join the Fun and FM audio quality DX contacts on 10 meters.

CLUB SHIRTS

These beautiful club shirts come in ladies and men's styles and sizes. We proudly wear our shirts whenever we are doing an activity that involves the public. It is a great way of promoting the club, not to mention that they look great! They are available in polo and button down long sleeve.

Contact Turbo Threads at 505 999-1234 or on line at <https://turbothreads.com> .

BTW...That snazzy club logo on the shirt and on our club banner was designed by Art Nichols, KI5GOL, one of our founding members.



If you wish to use PayPal to pay club dues, simply go to bosquearc.com and click on the Membership and Dues tab. You will find all the info needed. When you fill out the form on line, hit Submit at the bottom of the page. This will take you to a prorated table. Since our dues are paid by the year starting in April, you will only pay a partial amount based on the month you join. Club dues are only \$20 per year.

MEET OUR TEAM



Jerry Aceto K6LIE
President



Sean O'Mara AA5IZ
Vice President



Bob Witter W5IV
Treasurer



Gerry Jurrens N2GJ
Secretary

Here are email addresses of our officers should you need to contact any of us:

President - Jerry Aceto K6LIE - jaaceto@gmail.com

Vice President - Sean O'Mara AA5IZ - sean.g.omarasr@gmail.com

Secretary - Gerry Jurrens N2GJ - n2gj@arri.net

Treasurer - Bob Witter W5IV - rwitter@hotmail.com

