

# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

[www.hcarc.us](http://www.hcarc.us)

February 2025

Toms River, NJ

## Our President's Message



and radio/TV newsfeeds about the efforts put forth by the amateur radio community? This would certainly make our organization visible and most importantly draw people, especially the younger generation, to our ranks.

As mentioned in the President's Message for January, the February meeting will feature a speaker who has worked in a circus. Not a radio topic but an interesting presentation, I'm sure.

Doug Poray KC2TZC

A major portion of amateur radio activities are devoted to Emergency Services. Groups such as ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and RACES (Amateur Radio Civil Emergency Service) provide extensive training and readiness for emergency situations. It is not uncommon for members of ARES to meet frequently, usually monthly, to obtain training and practice skills required for national disasters. ARES also conducts simulated emergency situations to prepare their members for these emergencies.

Amateur radio operators have assisted in catastrophes such as Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Helene, complete power outages in Puerto Rico, and the wildfires in California to name just a few. The radio operator's role is to assist the Red Cross and other related emergency management services. Their representation becomes of major importance when local infrastructures such as power outages and cell phone services are disabled.

I have never read about any credit given to these amateur radio activities in the media. Should a public relation individual be appointed to inform newspapers

## Chinese Buffet



We're having a buffet lunch at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Fortune Buffet, 1311 NJ Route 37W. As always, your family and friends are also invited. Y'All come.

## February Birthdays

Carl LeFevre WA2IQE

## February Anniversaries

Carl & Harriette LeFevre

**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**  
**Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 7:00 PM**  
**Holiday City South Clubhouse A**  
**Santiago Drive at Mule Road**

## Ocean County ARES® News

February 2025

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 PM. The meeting place is the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airport, Berkeley Township. All are invited.

We have new SNJ ARRL leadership as of the first of the year. The SNJ Section Manager (SM) is Ron Fish – KX1W and the SNJ Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) is Rick Kennard – N2RPQ.

On Saturday, January 11th, Monmouth County held another Go-Box Expo at the Red Cross Headquarters in Tinton Falls. Tables were setup around the large meeting room and at least 200 operators dropped by to view the various designs by clubs and individuals. Ocean County ARES was present with WX2NJ, KD2FFR and K2MDW explaining the gear to various observers. Both Ocean County VARA FM boxes were on display along with a custom box built by Mike, K2MDW.



*K2MDW displays Go-To Box he designed. Photo by WX2NJ*



*WX2NJ displays VARA FM kits. Photo by KE2EHF*



*WX2NJ explaining layout of VARA FM kits. Photo by KE2EHF*

On January 15th, KD2FFR gave a presentation to Toms River CERT regarding the capabilities of Ocean County ARES and how they could assist CERT Teams. WX2NJ was also present to answer any questions and also demonstrated VARA FM by sending a message to KD2FFR via the WA2RES-15 digi at Berkeley Police Headquarters to RSM Node WX2NJ-10 in Bayville. KD2FFR then retrieved the message in Winlink RMS Express via the Internet by a cell phone hotspot and showed how a message with complex language and numbers could be sent in less than a minute with

*[Continued on page 3]*



[Continued from page 2]

100% accuracy. The antenna at Toms River Police was just a simple floor mounted J-Pole inside the presentation room.

I would like to congratulate several new members of Ocean County ARES:

N2AWW – Richard, N0YHH – Stanley, KC2CXZ – Anthony and WA2SEM – Chris.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## Ocean County ARES Training Nets And Meetings

**Training Nets are suspended during emergencies and disaster relief efforts**

**Net Schedule A:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> (if needed) Wednesday every month except during meetings (see “Meetings”, below):

7:30pm 145.170 MHz, 8:30pm 449.825MHz

**Net Schedule B:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month:

7:30pm 449.825 MHz, 8:30pm 145.170 MHz

**Meetings:**

7:00 am on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of even-numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, & Dec).

### Our Volunteer Examiner Crew

Larry [K2QDY](#) (Liaison) 732-349-2950,  
John [KQ4WR](#), Steve [N2WLH](#), Michael [WA2CWX](#),  
Larry [WA2VLR](#), Ed [WB2QWC](#)

License exams are given by appointment at 6:45pm on the first Wednesday after each HCARC meeting at Holiday City South Clubhouse Bldg A, which is at the corner of Mule Rd. and Santiago Dr. **Call Larry Puccio, [K2QDY](#), at 732-349-2950 for an appointment.**

**Directions:** From either Route 37 W or Davenport Road, take Mule Road to Santiago Drive. Clubhouse A is the building nearest the street corner.

### Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site [www.hcarc.us](http://www.hcarc.us)

President	Doug Poray	<a href="#">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
Vice President	Steve Jackson	<a href="#">N2WLH</a>	732-255-7916
Secretary	John Perry	<a href="#">KD2NDY</a>	732-349-2705
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
Program Chair	Carl Lee	<a href="#">W2PTZ</a>	732-575-7558
W2HC Trustee	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950

**Membership** is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required. Dues are \$40.00 per year, payable Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Members joining during the year will have the dues prorated. Family membership \$50.00 per family.

**Meetings** are held at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of every month except December.

**Location:** Meeting Room #1 in Holiday City South Clubhouse.

**Directions:** From either Route 37 W or Davenport Road, take Mule Road to Santiago Drive. Turn into the parking lot from Santiago Drive, park near the pool. Enter Building A (the building nearest the street intersection).

**Newsletter:** The SKYHOOK is the HCARC's official newsletter, circulation about 75. Original articles and photos are appreciated. Editor is John Roberts

<mailto:iohnkn4wr@gmail.com>

## HCARC Dues Are Due



Our HCARC dues are now \$40, or \$50 for a family membership, due January. See Larry Puccio [K2QDY](#), 732 349 2950.

### Our Holiday Party

Here are a couple of photos from the Holiday City ARC Holiday Party.



*Wolf Wallace, Mike Bauer, Robin Bauer, Doug Poray, Mike Larkins, John Roberts, Carl Lee, Jeff Pennell, Kieron Pillion, John Perry, Ray Kozakiewicz.*



*Christine Jackson, Donna Perry, Jeanne Poray, Candi Larkins, Joanne Wallace, Kathy Kozakiewicz, Pam Pillion, Rose LaLuna, Vickie Freidman Pennell. Photos by Thom Roberts.*



### HCARC Dues Are Due



Our HCARC dues are now \$40, or \$50 for a family membership, due January. See Larry Puccio [K2QDY](#).

### DVRA HamClock DIY Workshop

By Rich Freedman on January 16, 2025

On Saturday morning, February 22nd, at 10:00am, the Delaware Valley Radio Association will present a "HamClock DIY" workshop at the club shack. This is a repeat of the workshop that we had in September of 2024.

HamClock is free software that displays a world map, gray line, propagation, and other info of interest to hams, all on one Monitor. You may have seen it on the large monitor at the W2ZQ shack.

Each attendee will be able to construct their own HamClock for \$30 (about half the cost of buying one retail).

Participants will learn about and assemble a Raspberry Pi single-board computer, and will install and configure the HamClock software and customize it for use in their own shack.

Due to space and time constraints, the workshop will be limited to 5 participants. You will need to bring a laptop, keyboard, mouse, monitor, and HDMI cable. All other parts will be supplied and included in the \$30 fee.

Contact Rich Freedman, N2EHL at [n2ehl@arrl.net](mailto:n2ehl@arrl.net) if you are interested in attending.

If you want to participate, but cannot bring one of the required items, let me know - some loaner equipment may be available.

Delaware Valley Radio Association © 2025.

### The "Georgetown Hamfest"

Sussex Amateur Radio Association  
- APRIL 26, 2025 -  
**Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO**

Centrally and conveniently located...within 2 to 3 hours of major cities:  
Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington DC, and Virginia Beach as well as Eastern PA and Southern NJ  
**NO SALES TAX - MORE VALUE FOR VENDORS AND GUESTS - FREE PARKING**  
Bring The Family And Enjoy A Weekend At The Beach!

**Past Vendors & Exhibitors**  
ARRL  
Beebe Hospital  
Fisher Cable  
Call Stuff  
Direct Tools  
GnG Electronics  
Satellite Sam  
Hamsource.com  
HRO (Ham Radio Outlet)  
Magnum Electronics  
Quicksilver Radio  
Redical! Communication  
The RF Connection  
Towaco Imaging  
Verizon

**Events & Attractions**  
ARRL State Convention  
Tail Gating  
Great Food  
Blood Pressure Testing  
Chinese Auction  
Raffle...Big Prizes!  
License Testing  
Guest Speakers/Forums  
QSL Card Bureau/Card Checking  
Door Prizes!

**Guests Pay \$8 To Enter!**  
(Under 18 FREE!)  
**Inside spaces \$15.00 - 1st Table**  
**Tailgaters : \$10.00 - First Space**

For Information Contact Jamie, W3UC  
**(410) 202-7690**  
[hamfestdelaware@gmail.com](mailto:hamfestdelaware@gmail.com)

**HAMFEST LOCATION:**



Cheer Community Center  
20520 Sand Hill Rd.  
Georgetown, DE 19947

**HOST HOTEL:**  
Tru Hotel by Hilton  
301 College Park Drive  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
(302) 515-2100  
[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

**JOIN US IN TAX FREE DELAWARE!**

**Gates open at 6:00 A.M.**  
**Expo begins at 8:00 A.M.**

Schedule	
6:00 AM	Gates Open
7:30 AM	Tailgating
8:00 AM	Indoor expo venue opens Restaurant available
12:00 PM	FCC testing -No test fee, pre-registration required Last test seating at 12:30 PM

**Speakers Forums**

ARRL Update  
Others

**TALK-IN: SARA Repeater**  
147.090 MHz PL 156.7  
Schedule subject to change

The Delmarva Amateur Radio Electronics EXPO is sponsored by Sussex Amateur Radio Association

[www.radioelectronicsexpo.com](http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com)  
Follow us on Facebook at Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics

## The KOCH METHOD

The Koch method of teaching International Morse Code is the result of scientific experimental study to determine the fastest way to teach a group to copy 20wpm Morse code. (The requirement was 20 wpm in 30 days)

The system that worked best for Dr. Koch:

1. 60 sessions of around **40 minutes each, 2 sessions every day** for a month.
2. Speed is always at **15wpm** until all characters are learned.
3. Thoughts of dots and dashes are forbidden, as they are counterproductive. The characters are heard like **spoken words, not seen as dots and dashes on paper.**
4. The **first session** is to practice determining when a character ends. Five-character random code groups are sent, and the student is to place a “floating” dot (not a period) on the paper to represent each character.
5. In all later sessions, the floating dot is to be used to represent any unrecognized character, so that the student will not **dwelt on it and miss the next few characters.**
6. **The second session** introduces two less-common characters, such as C and Q, or 7 and 3.
7. Less-used characters are to be learned first, so that they will be well learned.
8. After those first two sessions, **each session will review all learned characters plus only one new one**, which the student is to identify as the new one and mark the unknown one with a floating dot. Then the new one is revealed and practiced, along with the learned ones.
9. When all characters are sufficiently learned, the speed is increased to 20 wpm. The only limit will be the speed at which the student can write.
10. Students can be encouraged to practice sending with whatever equipment they may have, but only at useful speed.

### Some DX Opportunities

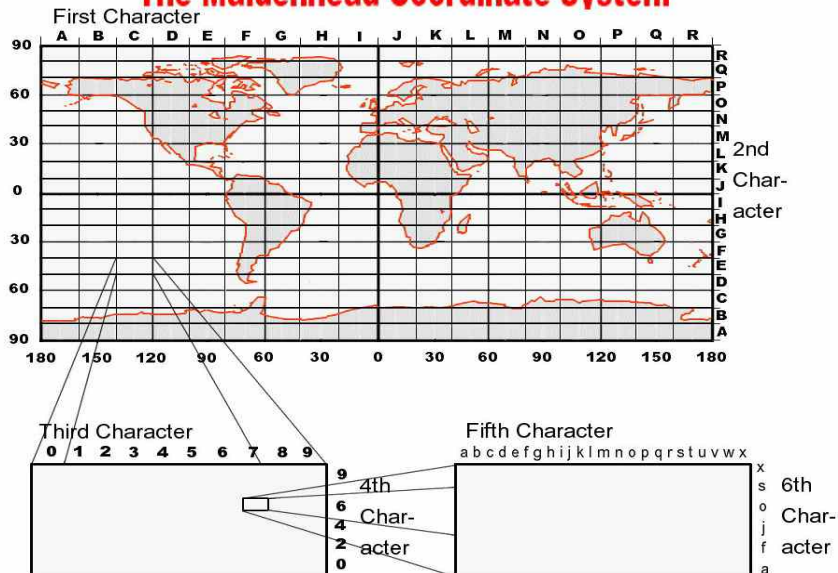
Opportunities shown in alphanumeric order of callsigns.

Mode codes: 3 = PSK31, 4 = JP4, 8 = JT8, C = CW, D = "digital", F = FM, O = Olivia, R = RTTY, S = SSB, T = Image (SSTV)

Many thanks to Bill Feidt NG3K for ADXO. Also to Wikipedia, the ARRL, the RSGB, DX World, The Daily DX & QRZ.com.

START	FINISH	ENTITY	PFX	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC	MILES	DIR	INFO by
2025 Feb20	2025 Mar06	Tanzania	5H3	5H3DX		80-10m		LoTW	KI931l	7726	E	TDDX
2025 Jan25	2025 Feb08	Nigeria	5N	5N9DTG		160-6m	C S 8 4	LoTW	JJ39pd	4918	E	TDDX
2025 Feb06	2025 Feb14	Togo	5V	5V0DX		10m	S	LoTW I8KHC	JJ06mx	5127	E	DXW.Net
2025 Feb02	2025 Apr10	Senegal	6W7	6W7/ON4AVT		80-10m	S D	ON4AVT	IK14mi	3860	E	DXW.Net
2025 Feb26	2025 Mar06	Maldives	8Q	8Q7FL	AS-013	40-6m	8	LoTW JH3QFL	MJ63oe	8807	NE	DXW.Net
2025 Jan01	2025 Feb08	<b>Guyana</b>	<b>8R</b>	<b>8R1TM</b>		80-6m	C S D	LoTW	GJ06vs	2497	SSE	DXW.Net
2025 Feb01	2025 Feb06	Senegal	9G	9G5IK		10m	S	OQRS I8KHZ LoTW	IJ96kx	5013	E	DXW.Net
2025 Jan27	2025 Feb15	Rwanda	9X	9X2AW		160-10m	C 4 S	LoTW OQRS	KI58aa	7056	E	DXW.Net
2025 Feb01	2025 Feb06	Gambia	C5	C5PL		80-6m	C S 8	LoTW OQRS	IK13oj	3911	E	DXW.Net
2025 Feb12	2025 Feb16	Bahamas	C6	C6ADA		80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	FL15ha	3860	E	425DXN
2025 Jan17	2025 Feb02	Mozambique	C8	C8K		160-6m	ALL	OK6DJ LoTW	KG65ji	8159	E	425DXN
2025 Feb05	2025 Feb18	Cape Verde Is	D44	D440A	AF-086	40-10m	C S 8	LoTW	HK86no	383	NW	OPDX
2025 Feb16	2025 Feb25	St Pierre & Miqu	FP	FP/F4HEC	NA-032	80-6m	S C	F4HEC	GN16tw	1014	NE	DXW.Net
2025 Feb19	2025 Feb27	St Martin	FS	FS/DF8AN	NA-105	80-6m	C D s	DF8AN	FK881b	1654	SSE	TDDX
2025 Feb16	2025 Mar04	St Martin	FS	FS/VA3QSL	NA-105	40-6M	S C D	LoTW	FK881b	1654	SSE	DXW.Net
2025 Feb09	2025 May07	<b>Solomon Is</b>	<b>H4</b>	<b>H44MS</b>		80-6m	S 8	DL2GAC	RI01hp	7834	NW	DXW.Net
2025 Jan26	2025 Mar01	Guinea Bissau	J5	J52EC	AF-093?	20-10m	S D	IZ3BUR Dir	IK21dt	4036	ESE	TDDX
2025 Feb07	2025 Mar11	Aruba	P4	P4/KE4TT	SA-036	80-10m	8 R C S	KE4TT LoTW	FK42xn	1909	S	KE4TT
2025 Feb16	2025 Mar04	Sint Martin	PJ7	PJ7/VA3QSL	NA-105	40-6m	S C D	LoTW	FK881b	1654	SSE	DXW.Net
2025 Feb04	2025 Feb20	Seychelles	S79	S79/VE3BRU	AF-024	40-10m	S C	LoTW VE3BRU	LI75ri	8471	ENE	DXW.Net
2025 Jan26	2025 Feb03	<b>Mt Athos</b>	<b>SV1/A</b>	<b>SV1GA/A</b>		80-10m		OQRS	KN20dd	4896	NE	DXW.Net
2025 Jan10	2025 Oct16	Palau	T8	T88SM	OC-109	160-6m	C S D	JA6EGL	PJ77fi	8684	NW	OPDX
2025 Jan10	2025 Oct16	Palau	T8	T88XK	OC-109	160-6m	C S D	JE6KFN	PJ77gl	8674	NW	OPDX
2025 Jan28	2025 Feb20	Mali	TZ	TZ1CE		160-6m	S 8	LoTW DK1CE	IK87nv	4454	E	OPDX
2025 Feb11	2025 Feb23	Marshall Is	V7	V73WW	OC-029	160-6m	C S R 8	LoTW DJ4MX	RJ57qb	7153	WNW	DJ4MX
2025 Feb11	2025 Feb18	<b>Cocos Keeling</b>	<b>VK9</b>	<b>VK9/W5EIT</b>	OC-003	80-10m	C 8 r s	LoTW	NH87kv	10436	NNE	DXW.Net
2025 Feb18	2025 Mar04	<b>Christmas I</b>	<b>VK9X</b>	<b>VK9XU</b>	OC-002	80-10m	C S 8 R	LoTW DL4AWG	OH29tm	2989	SSW	DL2AWG
2025 Feb04	2025 Feb18	Anguilla	VP2	VP2ECV	NA-022	80-10m		KG9N	FK881f	1642	SSE	OPDX
2025 Jan28	2025 Feb02	Turks & Caicos	VP5	VP5/KD8RTT	NA-002	80-10m		LoTW KD8RTT	FL41ct	1261	S	TDDX
2025 Jan23	2025 Feb28	Turks & Caicos	VP5	VP5/K2NV	NA-002	40-10m	C	LoTW	FL41ct	1261	S	TDDX
2025 Jan21	2025 Feb03	St Helena	ZD7	ZD7DPX	AF-022	160-6m	S 8 4	IK2DUW	IH74da	5846	ESE	DXW.Net
2025 Feb08	2025 Feb15	St Helena	ZD7	ZD7KYD	AF-022	17-10m	C	KY8D	IH74db	2989	SSW	TDDX

### The Maidenhead Coordinate System



## February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> VT, MN & BC QSO Parties
<b>2</b> VT & BC QSO Parties continue	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> ARES A nets	<b>6</b> <b>HCARC</b> <b>MEETING 7 PM</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Chinese Lunch</b> <b>12:00 Noon </b> <b>ARES B nets</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> ARRL CW Contest
<b>16</b> CW Contest continues	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> ARES A nets	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> DVRA 10am; SC QSO Party
<b>23</b> SC & NC QSO Parties	<b>24</b> NC QSO Party continues	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ARES B nets	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
					Updated on	1/21/2025

### QSO Parties

Vermont

<https://ranv.org>vtqso.html>

0000Z, Feb 1 to 2400Z, Feb 2, 2025

Minnesota

<https://www.m0aa.org>mn-qso-party>

1400Z-2400Z, Feb 1, 2025

British Columbia

<https://www.orcadxcc.org>bcqp.html>

1600Z, Feb 1 to 0359Z, Feb 2, 2025 and

1600Z-2359Z, Feb 2, 2025

South Carolina

<https://scqso.com>

1500Z, Feb 22 to 0159Z, Feb 23, 2025

North Carolina

<https://ncqsoparty.org>

1500Z, Feb 23 to 0100Z, Feb 24, 2025

### Thank You All

Many thanks to:

Doug Poray KC2TZC, Larry Puccio K2QDY, Bob  
Murdock WX2NJ, Mike Larkins WA2CWX, Carl Lee  
W2PTZ, Bill Feidt NG3K, QRZ.com, and the ARRL.