

# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

May 2026

Toms River, NJ

## “Vector Network Analyzer (VNA)”



One such tool beneficial to amateurs is the Vector Network Analyzer (VNA). Whereas the VNA used to cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars, this piece of equipment can be bought in the \$50-\$100 price range. Common uses for the VNA include measuring antenna Standing Wave Ratio (SWR), designing and testing filters, matching impedances, determining coaxial cable loss and length, and testing amplifiers.

Come join us at the May meeting for a basic understanding of this versatile piece of test equipment.

Doug Poray KC2TZC

## USS New Jersey Field Trip Is Scheduled For 9 May 2026

A popular segment of the amateur radio hobby involves the building or repairing of equipment. This can include bringing a transceiver back to life, constructing and testing a project from a magazine article, or evaluating an antenna; either home built or purchased. These activities require a certain amount of test equipment. Years ago, most of the test equipment required for this activity was expensive and out of reach for the average amateur. Fortunately, recent technology has brought the price of test equipment down to the point that is affordable to most people.

As discussed at our last meeting, the Field Trip to this historic museum is scheduled for 9 May 2026. This is being done in celebration of our country's 250th anniversary.

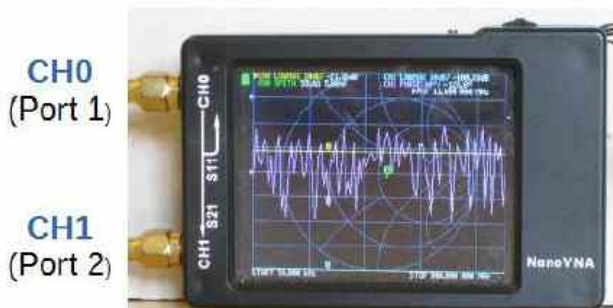


Figure 14

Illustration 1: NanoVNA Network Analyzer

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

**Thursday May 7th**

**at 7:00 PM**

**Holiday City South Clubhouse A  
Santiago Drive at Mule Road**

We need to find out who would be interested in attending this event. All members and guests are invited. The museum is located in Camden, NJ and the guided tour lasts for approximately 90 minutes. Since we are a radio club one of our main interests would be the radio room aboard the ship. Since the radio room is only manned on Saturdays, we have scheduled the trip for that day (May 9<sup>th</sup> 2026). The entrance fee for the museum is \$25 per person (this includes the senior discount). Parking is \$15 per vehicle; this cost could be reduced by using car pools.

Please let me know if you are interested in this event and how many people you would be bringing. Time of departure from the Holiday City South Parking Lot will be discussed at the next meeting on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 7:00PM.

Regards,

Doug

### HCARC's Thursday Night Net 8:00pm

Join us on the HCARC Thursday Night Net each week at 8:00pm. The exceptions are the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month.

Frequency Info:

145.170 MHz PL of 131.8, Offset -600

Also Available using your mobile phone via EchoLink App: WA2RES-R Lacey



### We Say Happy Birthday To:



Jeffrey Pennel KD2DHE

### And Happy Anniversary To:



No Anniversaries this month

### QSO Parties

An easy and friendly way to "work" a US state to achieve Worked All States is to "work" the state's QSO Party. The best guide on the internet to upcoming QSO Parties is WA7BNM Contest Calendar.

The US State QSO Parties listed for May are:

- Arizona (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Idaho (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Montana (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Nevada (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Oregon (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Utah (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Washington (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Wyoming (7th Call Area QSO Party) 1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2026
- Indiana Indiana QSO Party 1500Z, May 2 to 0300Z, May 3, 2026

Delaware (Delaware QSO Party) 1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3, 2026

Connecticut (New England QSO Party) 2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2026 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2026

Maine (New England QSO Party) 2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2026 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2026

Massachusetts (New England QSO Party) 2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2026 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2026

New Hampshire (New England QSO Party) 2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2026 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2026

Rhode Island (New England QSO Party) 2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2026 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2026

Vermont (New England QSO Party) 2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2026 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2026

At WA7BNM Contest Calendar, just "Click" on the ones that interest you to get more information.

### “Classified Section”

1. NAME: Jeff Pennel KA2DHE
  - a) Contact Info: 609-668-3070
  - b) Equipment wanted: Small vertical TV antenna rotor for small Yagi. SWR Meter.

## DVRA Fox Hunt Provided By Carl Lee W2PTX

### Join DVRA for IARU-Style Fox Hunt on 5/3

April 20, 2026



It's time to release the Foxes!

DVRA will host an IARU-Style Fox Hunting Session. IARU-Style is an on-foot fox hunt where multiple foxes are released into the woods for hunters to find – Think: orienteering with radios. Participate individually or form a team.



Join Huntmaster Glen, NK1N, for this event Sunday, May 3 at 9:00am ET.

The starting point for this hunt is the **Veterans Park**, Klockner Road Entrance, Hamilton, NJ 08690. (40° 12' 48.28"N, 74° 40' 5.1954"W or 40.21341, -74.66811) – Google Maps [Veteran's Park – Hamilton](#)  
Please contact Glen, NK1N at [foxhunts@w2zq.com](mailto:foxhunts@w2zq.com) with any questions or comments.

Reminders:

- Fox Hunting is a receive-only event – Participation **does not require** an amateur radio license
- Hunts are usually completed by 12:00 noon
- The only requirements are a working 2m FM receiver and an antenna (preferably directional)
- **NEW THIS YEAR** – We have three sets of equipment (radio, antenna, attenuator) for participants to use – Don't let the lack of equipment keep you away from this fun event.

Delaware Valley Radio Association © 2026.

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk to Build Provided by Tom Preiser N2XW

Extracted From The Ocean County ARES Newsletter



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**Look whats happening!**

**Other things to know!**

**Are you on the weekly net?**

Every Weds night we have a net call that all are invited! Watch for the email telling you times and frequency!

**Need help with your ARES Standardized Training Plan?**

Let us know!

It is important we all complete that lessons and stay certified!

**HAM FEST AT THE SHORE**  
**SATURDAY MAY 9, 2026**  
 SURF CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY  
 713 LONG BEACH BLVD SURF CITY, NJ 08008  
 8:00AM-1:00PM - VENDOR SET UP 7:00AM

Admission Fee: \$5  
 NON-HAM SPOUSES AND KIDS FREE!  
 Indoor Vendor Table - \$15 - Includes table and 1 Admission  
 Outside Vendor - \$10 - 1 Parking Space Area, No Tables Provided  
 Vendor space limited - first come, first serve.  
 Food and Drink Available \* Benefits Surf City Vol. Fire Company

WALLY'S 15% OFF WITH EVENT TICKET

TALK IN FREQUENCY  
 146.835  
 127.3 PL

QUESTIONS? Contact Ira, N2WAA  
 hamfest@obarc.org - 201.741.5330

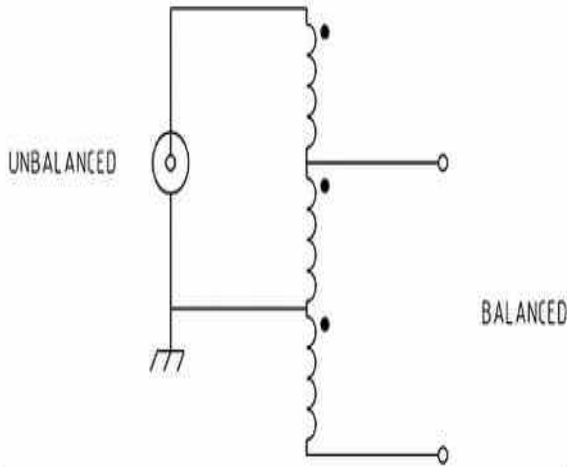
**Hook , Arrow, and Shell event  
May 16 8:30 to 5:30**

Jersey Shore Council - Scouting America of Ocean and Atlantic Counties, NJ, is hosting a Hook, Arrow, and Shell event on Saturday, May 16. Hook, Arrow, and Shell will take place at Citta Scout Reservation at 229 Brookville Road, in Barnegat, NJ. This event will give Cubmasters and parents ideas on what they can do with their Cub Scouts. The scouts range in age from 5 to 11 years old and now include both boys and girls. We believe you offer a service that would be important and potentially fun for our scouts and leaders. We find that organizations will have more luck with face-to-face meetings At this event, activities will run from 8:30 to 5:30. In the past, the event has attracted about 500 visitors.

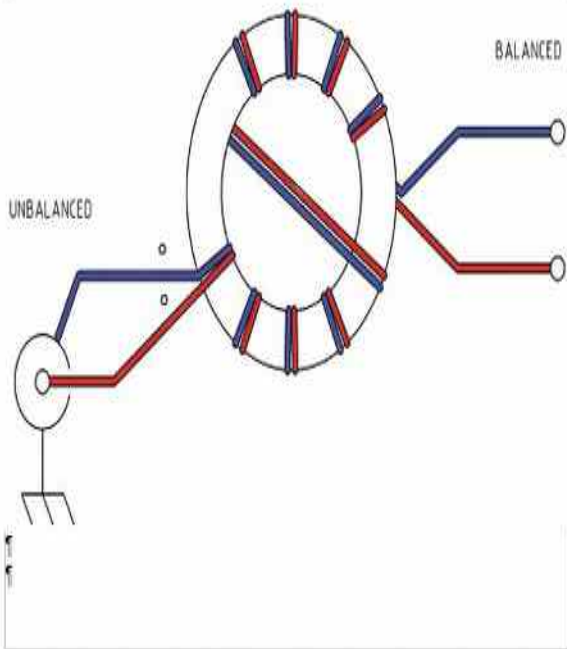
If you are interested in this event, contact Glen KD2FFR

## Baluns Ununs Submitted By Steve D'Onofrio N2YLO

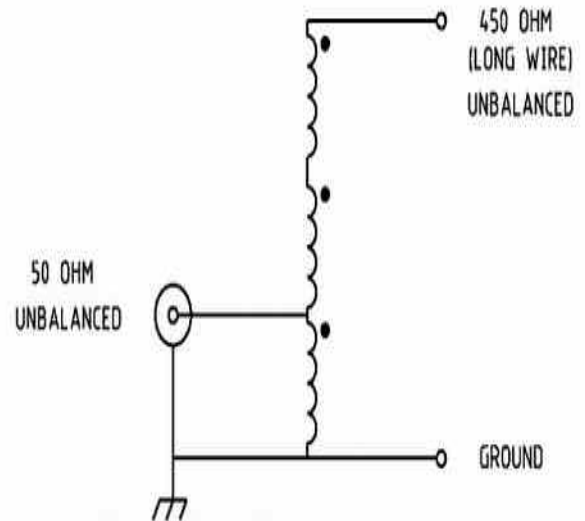
Baluns and Ununs



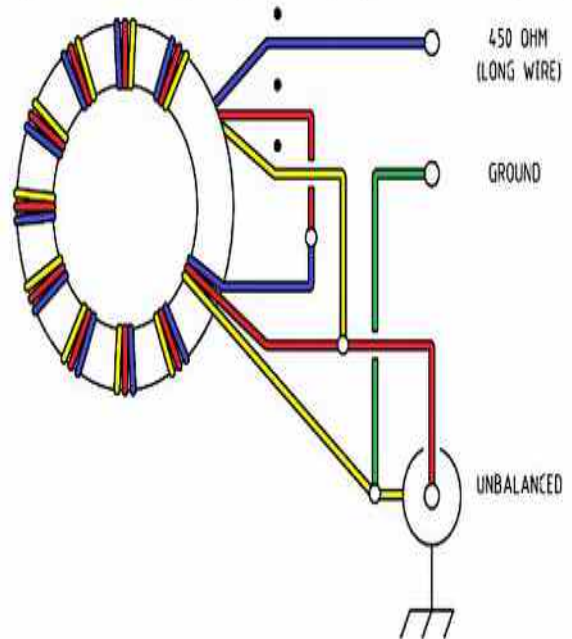
A balun (balanced-to-unbalanced) is an electrical device that converts between balanced loads (e.g., dipole antennas, which have equal, opposite signals) and unbalanced lines (e.g., coaxial cables, where one conductor is grounded). It ensures efficient power transfer, prevents cable radiation, reduces noise, and matches impedance to minimize SWR.



Baluns and Ununs



An unun (UNbalanced-to-UNbalanced) is an RF transformer that matches an unbalanced feedline (like coaxial cable) to an unbalanced antenna (like verticals, random wires, or end-feds). They transform impedance—common ratios include 4:1, 9:1, and 49:1—to reduce signal loss, lower SWR, and prevent coax radiation.



## USCG Aux Submitted By Paul Hansen N2QXB

# USCG Auxiliary Telecommunications Program: Connecting Coast Guard Missions

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary Telecommunications Program, often called AUXCOM, plays a vital role in supporting the Coast Guard's operational needs through volunteer expertise in radio communications. Established under the Auxiliary's framework, it equips non-military members—known as Auxiliarists—with the skills and equipment to provide reliable, backup communications during emergencies, training exercises, and routine missions. This program ensures mission continuity when primary systems face challenges like power outages, natural disasters, or cyber threats.

## Historical Background

The Auxiliary itself dates back to 1939, created by Congress to bolster Coast Guard capabilities with civilian volunteers. Telecommunications emerged as a key specialty post-World War II, evolving with technology from Morse code and shortwave radio to modern digital systems. Today, AUXCOM traces its formal structure to the 1970s, when the Auxiliary standardized radio operations to support Search and Rescue (SAR), Homeland Security, and public education efforts. Key milestones include integration with the Coast Guard's National Distress System and adoption of VHF marine radios compliant with FCC regulations.

## Core Objectives and Responsibilities

AUXCOM's primary goal is to deliver **auxiliary communications services** that augment active-duty Coast Guard units. Responsibilities include:

- **VHF-FM Operations:** Monitoring Channel 16 (156.8 MHz) for distress calls and relaying messages from vessels in distress.
- **High-Frequency (HF) and Digital Modes:** Providing long-range communications via HF radio, [Winlink](#) for email-over-radio, and PACTOR modems during wide-area events.
- **Support for Major Incidents:** Deploying to hurricane response, floods, or wildfires, where Auxiliarists man Remote Fixed Stations (RFS) or mobile units.
- **Training and Drills:** Conducting weekly nets, simulated emergencies, and qualification for the Coast Guard's Auxiliary Communication School.

Auxiliarists must hold an FCC General Class amateur radio license (or higher) and complete USCG-specific training, including the AUXCOM Basic Course and annual refreshers.

## Training and Qualifications

Becoming an AUXCOM operator requires a structured path:

1. **Basic Requirements:** Active Auxiliary membership, FCC amateur license, and personal radio gear (e.g., ICOM IC-705 for portable ops).
2. **AUXCOM Courses:**
  - o **AUXCOM 101:** Fundamentals of Auxiliary radio procedures.
  - o **Advanced Modules:** HF operations, digital messaging, and cybersecurity.
3. **Practical Exams:** Voice nets, message handling, and deployment simulations.
4. **Ongoing Certification:** Annual quals via district-specific programs, tracked in the Auxiliary's AUXDATA system.

Training emphasizes **NTIA-approved procedures**, phonetic alphabet, and Q-signals tailored to maritime use. Many districts host "Radio School" weekends with hands-on setups.

Qualification Level	Focus Areas	Deployment Eligibility
Qualified AUXCOM	VHF voice, basic digital	Local nets, vessel safety checks
Advanced AUXCOM	HF, <u>Winlink</u> , NTDS	Multi-district ops, disasters
Trainer/Leader	Instruction, station management	National exercises, leadership

## Equipment and Technology

AUXCOM leverages a mix of commercial and Auxiliary-owned gear:

- **VHF Radios:** Fixed and handheld units like the Standard Horizon GX series, often installed at flotilla stations.
- **HF Rigs:** Yaesu FT-891 or Icom IC-7300 for skywave propagation.
- **Digital Tools:** Soundcard interfaces for Winlink, APRS for position reporting, and FLdigi for robust data modes.
- **Infrastructure:** Over 200 Remote Fixed Stations nationwide, plus Mobile Communications Units (vans with antennas).

All equipment meets **MIL-STD** ruggedness and is interoperable with Coast Guard systems like Rescue 21.

## Real-World Impact and Notable Operations

AUXCOM shines in crises. During Hurricane Katrina (2005), Auxiliarists relayed over 1,000 messages when cell towers failed. In 2022's Hurricane Ian, they supported Florida ops with real-time vessel tracking. Routine contributions include **Vessel Safety Examinations** (over 20,000 annually) and synthetic training for active-duty units.

Stats highlight reach: In 2023, AUXCOM logged 150,000+ radio contacts, preventing dozens of SAR cases through early intervention.

## How to Get Involved

Joining starts with Auxiliary membership at [cgaux.org](http://cgaux.org). Contact your local flotilla for radio nets—many welcome "check-ins" from licensed hams. No military commitment required; it's volunteer-driven public service.

AUXCOM embodies the Auxiliary motto: "A Force Multiplier." By bridging communications gaps, it safeguards America's waterways, one transmission at a time. For latest updates, visit the official USCG Auxiliary AUXCOM page or join a district net.

We are looking for new members we do not have an age limit and will provide all training. If you want to discuss further or need information I can be contacted at [n2qxb@hotmail.com](mailto:n2qxb@hotmail.com)

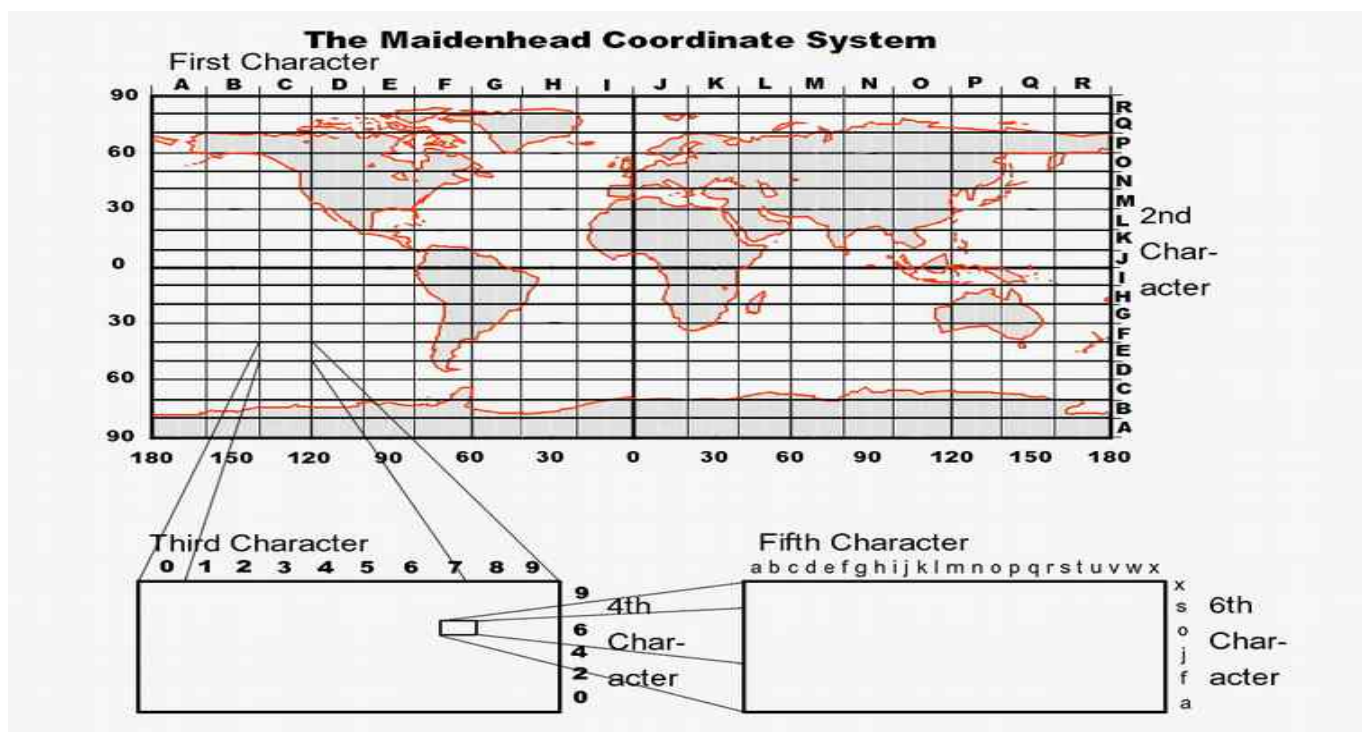
Paul J Hansen USCGAUX

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

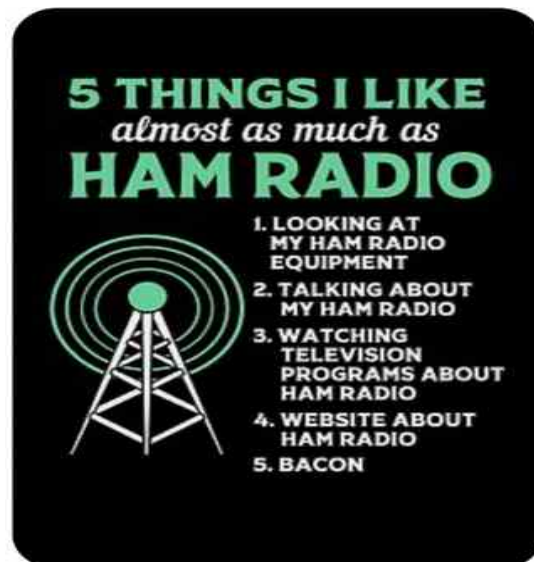
START	FINISH	ENTITY	PFX	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC*	MILES	DIR	INFO by
2026 Apr03	2026 May20	Rodrigues Island	3B9	3B9N	AF-017	20-10m	C	VU3OPT	LG89sw	9289	E	OPDX
2026 Apr19	2026 Jun16	Kenya	5Z4	5Z4/MM0ZBH		80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	KI88ks	7383	ENE	OPDX
2026 Apr23	2026 May01	Lesotho	7P	7P8WR		80-10m	S 8	LoTW	KG30no	8052	ESE	TDDX
2026 May28	2026 Jun01	Maldives	8Q	8Q7QR	AS-013	80-10m	C s	JJ1DQR	MJ64se	8765	NE	TDDX
2026 May14	2026 May22	Tonga	A3	A31AA	OC-049?	80-6m	8	LoTW	AG29ma	7689	W	TDDX
2026 Apr25	2026 May08	Gambia	C5	C5C		80-10m	S C	S5RAV	IK13uj	3939	E	OPDX
2026 Apr25	2026 May08	Gambia	C5	C5D		80-10m	R P 8	LoTW	IK13uj	3939	E	OPDX
2026 May26	2026 Jun06	Bolivia	CP	CP7DX		160-2m	C S 8	OQRS	FG78pl	4292	S	OPDX
2026 May04	2026 May09	South Cook Is	E51	E51TLM	OC-013	10m	C S	K7TLM	BG08cs	6923	WSW	TDDX
2026 Apr25	2026 May01	NIUE	E6	E6MGA	OC-040	40-10m	S D	QRZ.com	AH50bw	7345	WSW	TDDX
2026 May05	2026 Jul20	French Polynesia	F0	F0/F6BCW	OC-027	80-6m	C S	LoTW	CI001f	5370	WSW	TDDX
2026 Mar25	2026 May31	Galapagos	HD8	HD8R	SA-004	80-10m	S	M00X0	EI59gc	2982	SSW	TDDX
2026 Apr26	2026 May04	Ogasawara	JD1	JD1BMH	AS-031	40-10m	C S R	JG7PSJ	QL17cc	7244	NNW	425DXN
2026 May08	2026 May09	Jersey	MJ	MJ/K07T	EU-013	17-10m	C S 8 R	LoTW OQRS	IN89we	3470	NE	TDDX
2026 May27	2026 Jun08	Bonaire	PJ	PJ4CB	SA-006	20-10m	S C	WA7RAR Dir	FK52uf	1950	SSE	OPDX
2026 Apr17	2026 May04	Bonaire	PJ	PJ4TB	SA-006	40-6m	S 8 4	LoTW	FK52ud	1956	SSE	425DXN
2026 Mar26	2026 May31	Western Sahara	S0	S09S		80-10m	S C EME	LoTW	IL34hu	3629	E	TDDX
2026 May26	2026 Jun02	Martinique	FM	T03E	NA-107		C	LoTW	FK94mp	1924	SSE	AB2E
2026 May24	2026 Jun01	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	V4/WW6W	NA-104		C	LoTW	FK87oi	1706	SSE	OPDX
2026 Apr11	2026 May01	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	V47EM	NA-104	80-10m	C S	LoTW	FK87pg	1713	SSE	OPDX
2026 May13	2026 May21	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	V49B	NA-104	80-10m	8 4 S c	LoTW	FK87oi	1706	SSE	OPDX
2026 May20	2026 Jun19	Namibia	V5	V5/N7X0B		40&20m	S	LoTW	JG87nk	7279	ESE	TDDX
2025 Apr01	2027 Apr01	Marshall Is	V7	V73HW	OC-028	80-10m	S 8	KX4QD	RJ39re	7244	WNW	ARLD014
2026 May25	2026 Jun03	CHATHAM ISLAND	ZL7	ZL7IO	OC-038	160-10m	C S D	LoTW	AE16ra	8588	WSW	ZL3IO



# May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Luncheon Holiday City Diner	1	2
3	4	5	6 VE Session? 6:30pm	7 HCARC MEETING 7:00 pm see page 2	8	9 USS New Jersey Field Trip
10	11	12	13	14 HCARC Net 8:00 PM	15	16
17	18	19	20 Board lunch meeting	21 HCARC Net 8:00 PM	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 HCARC Net 8:00 PM	29	30
31					Updated on	4/28/2026

These instructions don't print.



## Thank You To All Who Contributed!

Many thanks to :

Doug Poray KC2TZC,  
 John Roberts KQ4WR,  
 Steve Jackson N2WLH,  
 Carl Lee W2PTZ,  
 Steven D'Onofrio N2YLO,  
 Tom Preiser N2XW  
 Paul Hansen N2QXB  
 and QRZ.com.



## Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey

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

President	Doug Poray	<a href="http://www.hcarc.us">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
Vice President	Steve Jackson	<a href="http://www.hcarc.us">N2WLH</a>	732-255-7916
Secretary	John Perry	<a href="http://www.hcarc.us">KD2NDY</a>	732-349-2705
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	<a href="http://www.hcarc.us">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
Program Chair	Carl Lee	<a href="http://www.hcarc.us">W2PTZ</a>	732-575-7558
W2HC Trustee	Larry Puccio	<a href="http://www.hcarc.us">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 Richard "Wolf" Wallace KC2ZIW

732-575-6429 [kd2ziw@comcast.net](mailto:kd2ziw@comcast.net)