

The SKYHOOK

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



www.hcarc.us

August 2026

Toms River, NJ

"August 2026 Message To The President"



As we get older, we at times overestimate our physical capabilities.

Sometimes this leads to common injuries. It is common to demand too much from ourselves as we get older because our ambition level remains the same. This is when we can sustain injuries. Depending on the injury, healing can take different amounts of time.

No matter the age, people benefit from physical activity throughout life. You need muscle strengthening and balance activities each week. Remember that some physical activity is better than none.

To quote Dirty Harry,
"A man's got to know his limitations"!

Doug, we wish you a speedy recovery.



OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday August 6th

at 7:00 PM

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



We Say Happy birthday To:

Larry Loscalzo WA2VLR

John Perry KD2NDY

James Punderson W2QO

Christine Jackson

And Happy Anniversary To:



James & Sarah Punderson

Stan & Marjorie Stafiej

Asphalt Challenge Submitted By Richard (aka Wolf) Wallace, KD2ZIW

In last month's issue of the SKYHOOK, there was an article borrowed from the OCARES Signal newsletter concerning "What would you do if you needed to erect an antenna for emergency purposes on an asphalt surface?" Three (3) HCARC club members, Steve Jackson, N2WLH, Steve D'Onofrio, N2YLO, and I, Richard (Wolf) Wallace, KD2ZIW, took on that challenge.

We chose Winding River Park in Toms River, New Jersey, as the location for our experimentation. I supplied a stainless-steel plate machined by my nephew as the base. Although the plate had 8 posts, it was decided that only four posts would be necessary to attach the radials. Each of these sets would contain quarter-wavelengths of wire for the 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter bands.

How many hams does it take to cut 12 radials? The answer is three (3). Once the radials were cut to length, Steve D'Onofrio, NCYLO, crimped the connectors onto each set. Each set was then placed onto four(4) of the eight(8) posts of the plate, spreading out four directions.

Once the radials were connected to the plate, the coil and a JPC-12 antenna were attached to the center bolt. Adjustments were made to the length of the Antenna for the middle of the 40-meter band to within an SWR of 1:1.25. The coax was connected to the LDG-400Z antenna tuner and then to an Alinco DX-SR8 radio.

While the band conditions were not that great at that time of day, we were still able to hear both phone and CW communications. There was some wind, and the plate with the antenna was heavy enough to stay in place.

It was a great day. Although we did not place the antenna on an asphalt parking lot, we were able to simulate the set-up of an antenna in the middle of an Asphalt surface without using stakes.

Thank you to Steve Jackson, N2WLH, and Steve D'Onofrio, N2YLO, for taking on this challenge. Also, a big shout-out to OCARES for bringing this idea to light so that all Hams can experiment.

Richard (Wolf) Wallace, KD2ZIW



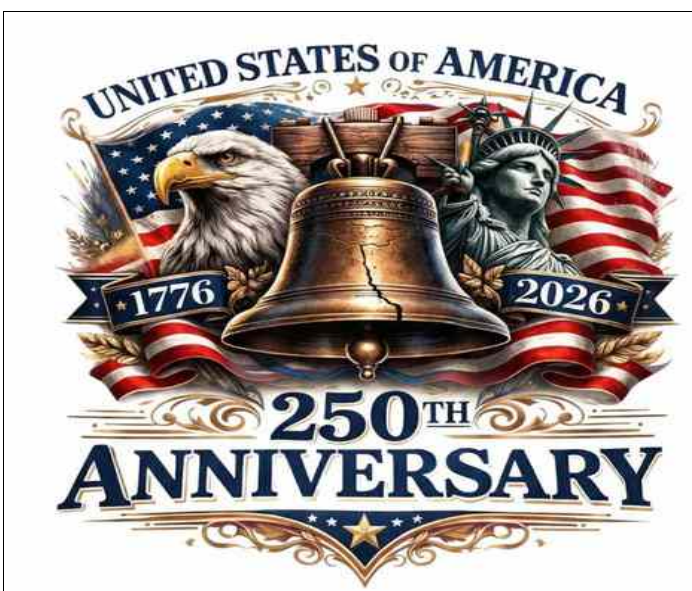
Illustration 1: Stainless Steel Plate



*Illustration 3: Radials, Coil,
Antenna attached to Stainless Steel Plate*



*Illustration 2: Coil attached to
Stainless Steel Plate*



From The OCARES Signal



Page 8

SKYWARN Summer Heat Awareness

Stay Vigilant When Temperatures Rise

Extreme heat is one of the deadliest weather hazards we face. While thunderstorms and hurricanes often dominate the news, heat claims more lives each year than any other weather-related event. For SKYWARN spotters and ARES operators, long hours outdoors, in vehicles, or setting up communications equipment increase the risk of heat-related illness. Ocean County's high humidity can push the heat index well above the actual air temperature, making conditions more dangerous than they appear.



Know the Warning Signs

- Heat Exhaustion
- Heavy sweating
- Dizziness or weakness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Intense thirst

Move to a cool location, hydrate, and rest immediately.

Heat Stroke – Call 911

- Body temperature above 103°F
- Confusion or slurred speech
- Loss of consciousness
- Hot, red skin
- Rapid pulse



Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency requiring immediate medical attention.

Stay Safe During Operations

Hydrate early and often—don't wait until you're thirsty.

Schedule outdoor work before 10 a.m. or later in the evening when possible.

Take frequent breaks in shade or air conditioning.

Use the buddy system during deployments.

Monitor National Weather Service Heat Advisories, Extreme Heat Watches, and Extreme Heat Warnings, and adjust operations as conditions warrant.

Mission Ready

Whether supporting severe weather, flooding, or other emergency operations, protecting yourself from the heat is just as important as protecting your equipment. A healthy operator is an effective operator.



Drink water. Take breaks. Watch out for one another.

Stay Safe • Stay Well • Mike, K2MDW, OCARES Skywarn Coordinator 73

From The OCARES Signal



Page 9

Should Amateur Radio Embrace the Internet?

For years, some have viewed the Internet as a threat to amateur radio. The truth is just the opposite. Rather than replacing radio, the Internet has become one of the most valuable tools available to today's amateur operator.

Think about how many parts of our hobby now benefit from an Internet connection. Internet-linked repeater systems allow a handheld radio in Ocean County to connect with operators across the country—or even around the world. Digital voice networks, remote station operation, and online logging have made amateur radio more accessible than ever while preserving the excitement of making contacts over the air.

The Internet has also changed the way we learn. New hams can study for their licenses through online courses, watch antenna-building videos, practice with sample exams, and access thousands of technical articles. Experienced operators use real-time propagation maps, DX spotting networks, and software updates to get the most from their stations.



For organizations like Skywarn, ARES®, and RACES, the combination of radio and Internet technology is especially valuable. During planned events, the Internet helps coordinate volunteers, share maps, and track resources. But when storms or disasters interrupt commercial communications, amateur radio continues to provide reliable, independent communications when they're needed most.

As software-defined radios, digital modes, APRS, and mesh networking continue to evolve, the future of amateur radio looks brighter than ever. Yet the heart of the hobby remains unchanged—experimenting, learning, serving our communities, and making contacts across the globe.

The best operators understand that the Internet is simply another tool in the toolbox. When combined with traditional RF communications, it expands our capabilities while preserving the independence and resilience that have made amateur radio an invaluable public service for more than a century.



Ray, K2RWB 73, and we'll see you on the air!

How Long is One Meter?

Submitted by John Roberts KQ4WR

The length of one meter (or metre) is internationally defined as exactly the distance light travels in vacuum in 299.792458 microseconds. For ham use, we round it to 300, but that's what it officially is. And a microsecond is exactly defined as 9192.631770 cycles of the unperturbed ground state hyperfine transition frequency of cesium 133 (using "atomic clocks"). Therefore, a meter equals exactly $9192.631770 / 299.792458$ wavelengths (nearly 30.663319 wavelengths) of an atomic clock. An inch, by definition, equals exactly 25.4mm, so each wavelength is about 1.2839 inches.

Light and radio go about 11.8 inches in a millisecond in free space. In a cable, it's slowed down by the square root of the dielectric constant of the insulation.

Organ Pipes Are Like Antennas

Sound in air travels about 1125 feet per second. The exact speed depends on the temperature, humidity, air pressure and even pollution.

Most organ pipes feature either half-wave or quarter-wave resonators, depending on whether the end is open or closed. The pitches of ranks are named by the half-wave resonant length (in feet), of the rank's lowest frequency, assuming sound travels at 1046.5 feet per second (rather than the actual velocity, which is faster).

The lowest note of an 8-foot Open Flute is 2 octaves below Middle C (1/4 the freq). So Middle C (261.6 Hz) of an 8-Foot Open Flute has a resonant length of about 2 feet (25.8 inches).

"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.

Maryland-DC 1400Z, Aug 8 to 0400Z, Aug 9, 2026

Hawaii 1600Z, Aug 22 to 0200Z, Aug 24, 2026

Ohio 1600z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23, 2026

Kansas 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 30 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.



Some DX Opportunities

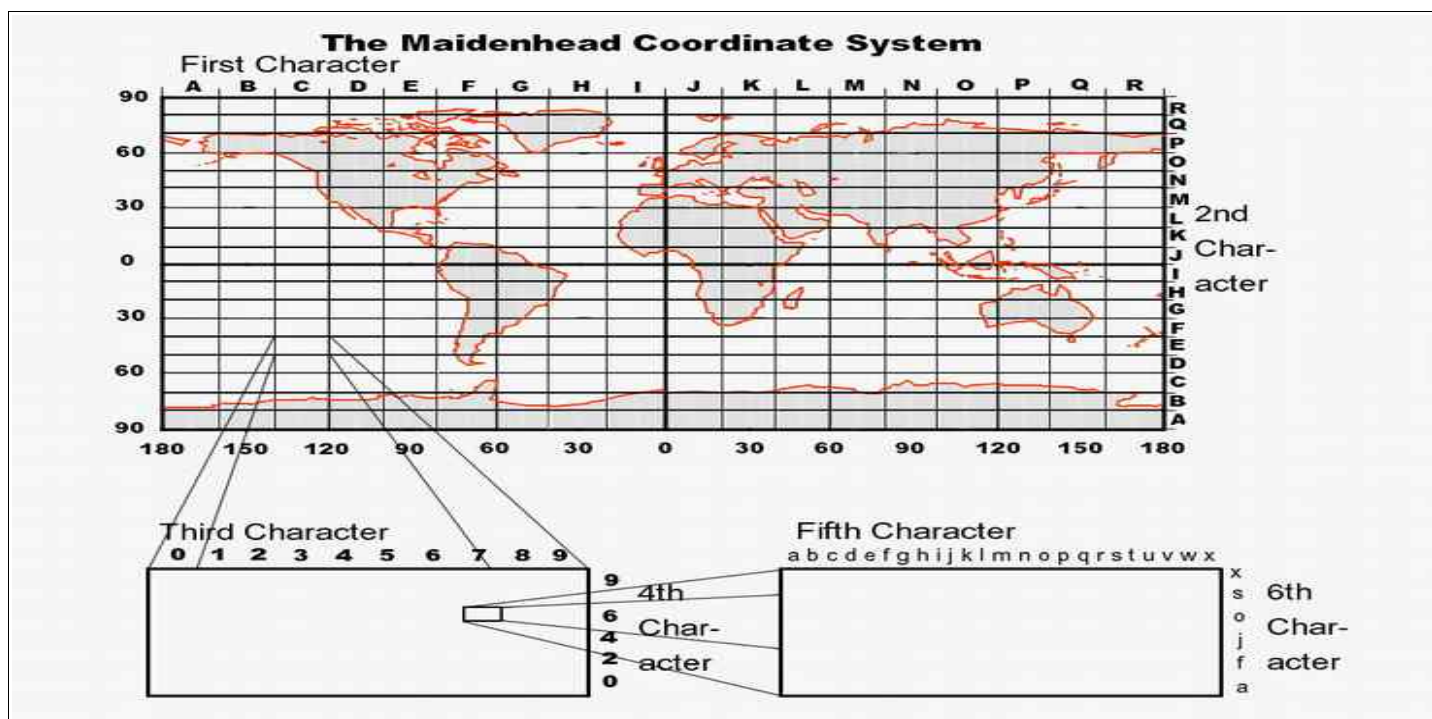
Opportunities shown in alphanumeric order of callsigns.

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 ADX0. 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 Jul23	2026 Aug08	Azerbaijan	4K	4K/DL4XT		20-10m	S C 8	LoTW	LN40vi	5866	NE	OPDX
2026 Jul26	2026 Aug09	Trinidad & Tobago	9Y4	9Y4/8P6PE	SA-011	80-10m	D S	LoTW	FK90ij	2192	SSE	OPDX
2026 Aug05	2026 Aug10	Bahamas	C6	C6AYM	NA-001	80-6m	C	LoTW	FL15ha	1048	S	K9GY
2026 Jul26	2026 Aug06	South Cook Is	E51	E51CZZ	OC-013	80-10m	S	IK2DUW	BG08ct	6921	WSW	OPDX
2026 Jul22	2026 Aug14	South Cook Is	E51	E51KEE	OC-013	80-10m	C s	LoTW	BG08ct	6921	WSW	OPDX
2026 Aug08	2026 Aug09	Tajikistan	EY	EY35S			C	W0VTT LoTW	MM48jq	6522	NNE	YL2KL
2026 Aug28	2026 Aug30	Liechtenstein	HB0	HB040A		80-10m	S 8 4	LoTW	JN47sd	4020	NE	DXW.Net
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug22	St Lucia	J6	J68TT	NA-108	80-10m	S C 8 4	LoTW	FK94mb	1962	SSE	QRZ.com
2026 Aug05	2026 Aug12	Aland Is	OH0	OH0ERF	EU-002	160-6m	C S 8	DK0ERF	JP90td	4001	NE	OPDX
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug22	Market Reef	OJ0	OJ0JR	EU-053	80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	JP90nh	3981	NE	OH6BG
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug22	Market Reef	OJ0	OJ0YL	EU-053	80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	JP90nh	3981	NE	OH6BG
2026 Aug06	2026 Aug10	Aruba	P4	P40AA	SA-036	160-6m	C S D	DL4MM	FK52al	1916	S	DL4MM
2026 Jul30	2026 Aug07	Tuvalu	T2	T2JK	OC-015	80-6m		LoTW	RI91ol	7471	W	TDDX
2026 Jul07	2026 Aug04	Benin	TY	TY5FR		160-10m	C S	LoTW	JJ16fj	5231	E	TDDX
2026 Aug25	2026 Oct10	Namibia	V5	V51WH		160-6m	R	DK2WH	JG88ap	7167	ESE	DXW.Net
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug16	Namibia	V5	V55LH		80-10m	S C 8	LoTW	JG73ni	7344	ESE	TDDX
2026 Aug25	2026 Oct10	Namibia	V5	V55Y		160-6m	R	DK2WH	JG88ap	7167	ESE	DXW.Net
2025 Apr01	2027 Apr01	Marshall Is	V7	V73HW	OC-028	80-10m	S 8	KX4QD	RJ39re	7244	WNW	ARLD

*Some LOC data shown is approximated



August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 HCARC MEETING 7:00 PM	7	8
9	10	11	12 VE Session? 6:30pm	13 China Buffet 12:00	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Holiday City Diner – Board Meeting	28	29
30	31				Updated on	7/29/2026



Thank You To All Who Contributed!

Many Thanks To :

Doug Poray KC2TZC,
 John Roberts KQ4WR,
 Steven D'Onofrio N2YLO,
 Tom Preiser N2XW
 Carl Lee W2PTZ
 Steve Jackson N2WLH.



Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site: www.hcsrc.us

President	Doug Poray	KC2TZC	732-928-2316
Vice President	Steve Jackson	N2WLH	732-255-7916
Secretary	John Perry	KD2NDY	732-349-2705
Treasurer	Mike Larkins	W2CWX	973-610-5773
Program Chair	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732-575-7558
W2HC Trustee	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950

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

Meetings are held at 7:00pm 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, KD2ZIW, 732-575-6429. kd2ziw@comcast.net