



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

November 2015

Toms River, NJ

Our Board Election Results

We're pleased to announce that Paul Hansen [N2QXB](#) and Stan Stafiej [KB2PD](#) were elected to the HCARC Executive Board. The existing President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and other Board members were re-elected, as there were no other volunteers for those positions. See page 3, column 2 for a full list. Congratulations to all, and many thanks.

Our Next (November 5) Meeting

Jason Disbrow, owner of JRD Tech LLC, has been invited to talk about Personal Computers. He's what you might call an expert on Windows, Macs, Androids, local networking, and stuff like that, as well as phishing and viruses, so bring him your questions. We'll try hard to keep the business part of the meeting really brief, and of course, we'll have refreshments.

As always, friends and neighbors are welcome.

Holiday Party Plans

Ideas for a wonderful Holiday Party are welcome. We have our regular meeting room reserved for early arrival December 3, but that's about all we have so far. So give us your ideas about food, decorations, music, games, whatever. It's always a good time to get to know each other better, and an outing for the XYLs.

MARS And ARES/RACES Exercise

MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service) and ARES/RACES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) will hold a joint exercise November 7-10. The drill will pretend that a CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) will hit the Earth and cause a 3-hour radio blackout (including GPS) and massive power failures, and damage any electronic equipment that's connected to long wires, including antennas or telephone or power lines.

What Is A CME?

Maybe the best way to describe a CME is to refer to the observations of R. C. Carrington in 1859, which was the last time a big one hit the earth.

He was an amateur astronomer, studying sunspots on a 11 inch diameter image of the sun when he was surprised to see two very bright spots appear on the image. The spots brightened to several times as bright as the sun, and moved across the sunspot, indicating that they were not on the sun's surface. He called on another person to come and take a look, as a witness. The event lasted about five minutes, and was also witnessed independently by another astronomer.

Hours later, the Aurora Borealis (northern lights) intensified so much that gold miners in the Rocky Mountains woke up from the light, and thinking it was morning, started breakfast. In the Northeast, it was said to be bright enough to read by.

Fires started in telegraph offices, and some telegraph operators experienced shocks, while others reported that they could send messages without batteries. Telegraph was the only thing with interconnecting wires, as this was before Bell or Edison.

For more information about that CME, look up *Carrington Event* at Wikipedia or NASA.

The last time a CME hit the earth it caused power outages in Canada and burned out a major transformer here in New Jersey. That was a mild one. In 2014, a big one would have hit the earth if it had come a week earlier. Note that we would get several hours warning to disconnect antennas, telephone lines, etc.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday November 5 at 7:00 PM
Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1
Holiday City South Clubhouse A
Santiago Drive at Mule Road
Toms River, NJ

Ocean County ARES® News



Last month I informed you about an injured cyclist, who was participating in the Bike to Build (B2B) fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. Unfortunately, one week after the event, the cyclist succumbed to his injuries. Certainly not the outcome we like to report, especially to the ARRL in an Activity Report, but Amateur Radio did succeed in getting Emergency Services to the victim in an expeditious manner.

I would like to congratulate Keith, KC2OON, for his ARRL appointment as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator (ASEC) for SNJ. Per the ARRL, some of the responsibilities of the ASEC are:

“Serve as a general assistant to the Section Emergency Coordinator or as a specialist. That is, the ASEC may assist the Section Emergency Coordinator with general leadership matters as the Section Emergency Coordinator’s alternate, or the ASEC may be assigned to handle a specific important function that does not fall within the scope of the duties of the Section Emergency Coordinator's other assistants. The ASEC

will act as the SEC in his/her absence or in emergency response operations to maintain continuity of leadership when 24 hour activity requires multiple shifts.” In Keith’s case, he will be serving as a Hazardous Weather Specialist to the SEC for all of Southern New Jersey. Please join me in wishing the best for Keith in his new position.

At the October 21st ARES meeting at the Ocean County EOC, KC2OON was also presented with an ARRL certificate officiating his appointment as Assistant Emergency Coordinator (Events) for Ocean County. Also at the meeting, WX2NJ critiqued the 2015 Bike to Build (B2B) communications support and gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the SNJ support of the Papal visit to Philadelphia. Pictures were shown of the new “POD” system purchased by Cooper Medical for SNJ ARES. SNJ ARES now has five PODS, soon to be distributed through Southern New Jersey at key locations, so that they may be placed into service quickly during emergencies. Each POD contains:

- Icom ID-5100 V/UHF D-STAR Dual Band
- Icom ID-1 1.2 GHz D-STAR DD/DV
- Yaesu FTM-400 V/UHF System Fusion Dual Band
- Alinco DR-235 222 MHz FM
- Yaesu FT-857D U/V/HF SSB
- 2 X Icom ID-31 D-STAR hand-held
- 2 X Yaesu FT-1DR System Fusion hand-held
- Kantronics KPC-3+ Packet TNC
- 2 X laptop computers

The PODS are able to be transported by a vehicle with a Class 3, two inch receiver hitch and each POD includes a transport dolly, which can move the POD into position and also raise and lower the unit to a desired height (photo of POD at end of news letter). The PODS also include built-in LED lighting and mag-mount antennas, which easily mount on the open cover.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

"Zulu" Time



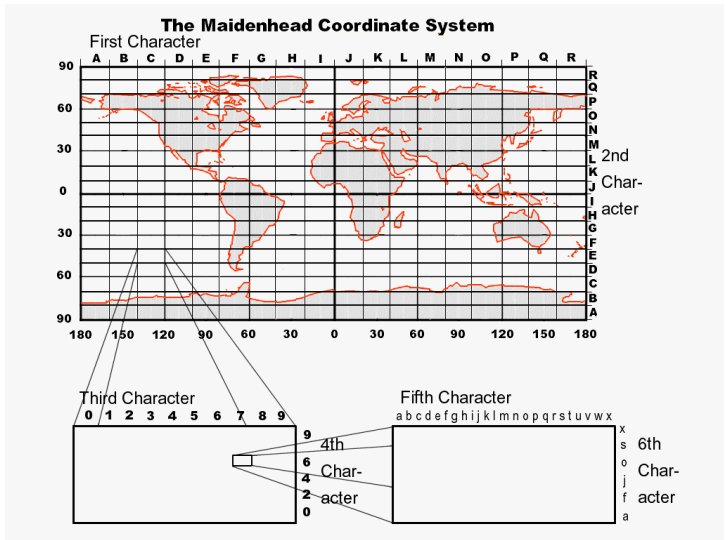
UTC (Universal Time, Coordinated) time, sometimes called Zulu Time, is substantially the same as GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). The Zulu, is because the four digits are usually followed by the letter Z for identification.

To convert EST (Eastern Standard Time) to UTC, add 5 hours because midnight in Greenwich, England starts 5 hours earlier than our time zone. Of course, you also have to add 12 hours if the EDT time is PM.

That result might be more than 24 hours (2400Z), which would start an new day. In that case, subtract 2400. It's important to note that it also changes the date. For example, the 10th of November at 10 PM EST, is the same as 11 November 0300Z.

What's Your Grid Code?

The easiest way to find your station's grid code is to look up your call in the QRZ.com website. However, there are lots of errors. For example, if QRZ couldn't find your address as given in the FCC data base "on the map", they may have used the grid code for the center of New Jersey! The grid code for the Holiday City South Clubhouse is FM29vw. To calculate your zip code, you need to



Our VE Crew

- Murray [KD2IN](#), Ed [W1EAP](#), Larry [K2QDY](#),
- John [KQ4WR](#), Stan [KB2PD](#), Steve [N2WLH](#),
- Kevin [W2FA](#), Paul [N2QXB](#), Larry [WA2VLR](#).

License exams are given by appointment at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Holiday City South Clubhouse, Bldg A, which is at the corner of Mule Rd. and Santiago Dr. Call

CLUB COMMITTEES

- Refreshments:** John Rogers & Tony Kuzinski
- Webmaster:** Steve [N2WLH](#) N2WLH@yahoo.com
- Publicity:** TBA
- Programs:** Tony [KD2GSO](#) 732-930-5779
- Sunshine:** Dave [WA2DJN](#) WA2DJN3@verizon.net
- Field Day:** Larry [K2QDY](#) 732-349-2950

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

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- VE Sessions:** Larry [K2QDY](#) 732-349-2950
- Membership:** Doug [KC2TZC](#) 732-928-2316

Holiday City Amateur Radio Club Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	John Roberts	KQ4WR	732-350-1162 ext 33
Vice President	Paul Campanella	KC2ZDM	732-255-9025
Secretary	John Rogers	KD2HWR	732-269-5717
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Doug Poray	KC2TZC	732-928-2316
Executive Board	Tony Kuzinski	KD2GSO	732-930-5779
Executive Board	Paul Hansen	N2QXB	732-279-3911
Executive Board	Stan Stafiej	KB2PD	732-270-5395
W2HC Trustee	Kevin Wagner	W2FA	732-279-0532

Membership is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required. Dues are \$25.00 per year, payable Jan 1st. Members joining during the year will have the dues prorated. Family membership \$30.00 per family.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 pm.
Location: Meeting Room #1 in the 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 and park near the pool. Enter the building nearest the street corner:-

The SKYHOOK is published monthly as the HCARC's official newsletter.
 Editor and Publisher:
 John Roberts [KQ4WR](#) 7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505
 e-mail KQ4WR@arrl.net 732 350-1162 ext 33

know your latitude and longitude in decimal degrees. Add 90 to your North Latitude and call that 'Y'. Subtract your East Longitude from 180 and divide it by 2. Call that 'X'. If you're in our area, 'X' should be around 52.8785, and 'Y' should be around 129.958. The grid code alternates XYXYXY. The first '5' of the 52.8785 becomes 'F', as it's the 5th letter after 'A'. Likewise, the '12' of the 129.958 becomes 'M', the 12th letter after 'A'. The next character's just what it is. Finally multiply the decimal part by 24 and count alphabet letters , starting with 'a' for zero. Don't round off.

How I Became A DXer

By Urb LeJeune W1UL, formerly W2DEC

I took my Class B amateur radio exam on November 25th, 1949, which was the day after Thanksgiving. In early 1950 my W2DEC license arrived in the mail; I was the happiest kid in the state of New Jersey. My pathway into operational ham radio was a home built transmitter and a purchased receiver. A generation of Novices would soon pursue the same route.

I worked the entire summer prior to getting my license saving enough money to purchase a Hallicrafter S-40A.

My first transmitter was based on a QST article and contained a crystal controlled 6AQ5 driving a 6L6 amplifier. I had no idea how much power I was running; who could afford a meter? My first antenna was a folded dipole constructed using 300 ohm twin lead commonly used to feed TV antennas. The antenna ran around the ceiling of a first floor apartment.

The performance of this antenna could charitably be described as abysmal.

With this rig my QSO rate was about one every third day. I did learn an important lesson: if you have a weak signal, don't waste your time calling CQ, because only those skilled in clairvoyance would be attracted to answer a signal that was 90% imagination. However I could, on occasion, get someone calling CQ to respond to my reply.

My home was in Hillside, NJ, which is between Newark and Elizabeth. All my contacts were with the first, second and third call areas plus a couple of VEs. My best DX was a QSO with a very patient operator in Northern Maine.

After about five months using this rig I talked two neighbors into allowing me to string my folded dipole between their clothesline poles, and things started to improve dramatically. Suddenly, stations in the fourth, eighth and ninth call area were within my grasp. My best DX was Miami, FL; I was on my way with flying colors.

My Elmer, Jim McGinty W2YYP, helped my set up a BC459 (WWII general use transmitter) with a power supply scrounged from part from a discarded (?).

The difference when using a VFO controlled transmitter was dramatic. The transition from an indoor antenna and from crystal controlled to a VFO rig had taken my QSO rate from one every second or third day to frequently five or more Qs per day.

One evening I heard KG4AN calling CQ NYC. KG4, at the time was exclusively Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Since I was close to NYC I called him, and back he came. I was so nervous I could barely send coherent code. KG4AN was a

Marine stationed on Gitmo and his wife had just given birth to a baby girl. He asked me to call his parents on Long Island to pass along the good news. I happily complied.

I was now on my way to become a DXer with three countries (W, VE, and KG4) worked and soon to be confirmed.

The KG4AN QSL hung on my wall for many years. Unfortunately the card became a victim of Hurricane Sandy.

Almost all of my operating was in the afternoon after school or the early evenings. I heard a few Europeans but didn't have enough confidence to even call them. I had yet to work anyone west of the Mississippi.

One night I woke up about 2 AM with a tooth ache and couldn't get back to sleep. I wondered if anyone was on the air at that hour and got up and turned on the rig. I didn't touch a single dial, and there was a W7 calling CQ. I called him and much to my surprise he came back.

In those days you were located in the call area where your call indicated unless you were signing /some other call area. Sure enough he was in Arizona. I was so excited I sent him an air mail QSL card. In 1950, postage to send a QSL card was a penny, and an air mail QSL cost 4 cents. I sprang for mailing my card in an envelope which set me back 6 cents. The card from W7RA hung in a place of honor on my wall for years to come.

I sometimes wonder if Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook idea of putting important things on a wall didn't originate with radio hams.

Taking one more look at the band before heading back to bed, I heard another W7 calling CQ. Can I be lucky twice in the same session? Yes sir! and Washington State was added to my growing list of states worked.

That glorious night taught me two important lessons: learn about propagation, and if you want different states, try operating at times you're usually not on the air.

The next night the toothache was gone, but I was again up at 2 AM. I worked a W6 and a couple of W0 stations.

A few nights later I was tuning the band and there was a KH6 working another W2. I waited until they were done and called the KH6. Another miracle! he came back.

A few nights later a ZL was added to my log and the DX hook had been firmly set. The rest, as they say, is history.

Although I worked my way up to being one country off the top of the honor roll in 1965, none of the contacts putting me at that lofty high equaled the thrill of working the first KG4, W7, and KH6.

Who knows, if it hadn't been for the tooth ache, I may have become a traffic handler, and never become a DXer.

DX Opportunities For November

Start	Finish	Entity	Prefix	QSL via	IOTA	Bands, Modes	Grid	Miles	Dir
Nov 12	Nov 23	Equatorial Guinea	3C7GIA	LA7GIA dir	AF-010	80-10m	JJ51at	5839	E
Nov 04	Nov 11	Vietnam	3W	Home call	AS-128	160-6m CSR	OK30it	8933	N
Oct 31	Nov 10	Vietnam	3W3MD	LotW	AS-162		OK30it	8933	N
Nov 01	Dec 12	Madagascar	5R8IC	LotW	AF-090	40-10m Csrp	LH31mm	8678	E
Nov 04	Nov 18	Kenya	5Z4HW	LotW		160-6m CSRP	KI88sm	7433	ENE
Nov 13	Nov 16	Malta	9H3YY	DL2JRM	EU-023	80-10m CSR	JM76ea	4624	ENE
Nov 18	Dec 02	Rwanda	9X0NH	LotW		80-10m C	KI58am	7042	E
Oct 30	Nov 02	Tonga	A35	LotW	OC-064	40-6m CS	AG29ma	7693	W
Oct 20	Nov 03	Mozambique	C91B	LotW		160-6m CS	KH80aa	8156	E
Nov 24	Dec 02	Easter I	CE0Y	Home call	SA-001		FG04aa	4573	S
Nov 09	Nov 15	South Cook Is	E51KIK	G0KIK	OC-013		BG08cs	6927	WSW
Nov 07	Nov 14	St Lucia	J68KF	LotW	NA-108	40-10m	FK94ma	1966	SSE
Nov 03	Nov 10	Aruba	P4	OH2BAD	SA-036	CSR	FK52am	1915	S
Oct 28	Nov 02	Curacao	PJ2	LotW	SA-099	80-10m CSD	FK52md	1958	S
Nov 02	Nov 07	Bonaire	PJ4	OE7PGI	SA-006	20-10m S	FK52ve	1955	S
Nov 10	Nov 18	Bonaire	PJ4	OH2BAD	SA-006	CSR	FK52ve	1955	S
Nov 29	Dec 04	Sint Maarten	PJ7	LotW	NA-105	40-10m Csr	FK88lb	1655	SSE
Oct 28	Nov 05	Fernando de Noronha	PY0NY	PY4NY		80-6m CSD	HI47aa	3996	SE
Nov 15	Nov 23	Seychelles	S79C	M0OXO	AF-119	40-6m CSR	LI86aa	8477	ENE
Nov 24	Dec 03	Tuvalu	T2TT	LotW	OC-015	160-10m	RI91hh	7513	W
Oct 27	Nov 03	East Kiribati	T32DX	LotW	OC-024	40-10m	BI50aa	5925	WSW
Oct 30	Nov 05	Palau	T88	Home call	OC-009	160-6m CSR	PJ99cm	8442	NW
Oct 15	Nov 15	Chad	TT8AMO	M0URX		Cs	JK72ma	5653	E
Oct 06	Nov 06	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LotW	NA-104	160-6m S	FK87pf	1717	SSE
Oct 18	Nov 10	Micronesia	V63AH	DL2AH	OC-010	40-10m S	QJ98aa	7743	WNW
Nov 14	Nov 23	Willis I	VK9WA	LotW	OC-007	80-10m CSR	QH43xs	9333	WNW
Nov 04	Nov 12	Montserrat	VP2	Home call	NA-103	80-6m	FK86vs	1758	SSE
Nov 09	Nov 18	Anguilla	VP2	Home call	NA-022	CSD	FK88lg	1642	SSE
Nov 23	Dec 05	Vietnam	XV2D	LotW		80-10m CSD	OK30it	8933	N
Nov 02	Nov 16	Vanuatu	YJ0BJ	LotW	OC-035	80-6m CS	RH42ah	8457	W

Russ Young, WA2VQV, Worked:

Callsign	Date	Time	Mode	Band	Entity	IOTA	Grid	Miles	Dir
E6GG *	Sep 19	1247Z	CW	20M	Niue	OC-040	AH50aw	7278	WSW
D44TUQ	Sep 21	2119Z	RTTY	17M	Cape Verde	AF-086	HK86ne	3523	E
LZ129WNLS *	Sep 22	2103Z	RTTY	20M	Bulgaria (All Saints Award)		KN22jn	4919	NE
LZ129WNLS *	Sep 22	2131Z	CW	20M	Bulgaria (All Saints Award)		KN22jn	4919	NE
IK2CIO	Sep 22	2136Z	CW	20M	Italy		JN45to	4167	NE
4L8A *	Sep 23	2131Z	RTTY	20M	Georgia		LN21jq	5725	NE
T48G	Sep 25	0019Z	CW	30M	Cuba	NA-015	FL10mx	1241	S
HP1IBF *	Oct 2	2058Z	CW	17M	Panama		FJ08fx	2083	S
VP2MLJ	Oct 3	1831Z	CW	17M	Montserrat	NA-103	FK86vq	1729	SSE
I4AVG *	Oct 3	1901Z	CW	17M	Italy		JN64am	4307	NE
ZD7FT	Oct 3	1921Z	SSB	12M	Saint Helena	AF-022	IH74db	5875	ESE
CT1FIU	Oct 12	2112Z	PSK31	20M	Portugal		IN50rt	3462	ENE

* Confirmed LoTW

November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Standard time begins	2	3 Election day	4	5 HCARC 7PM	6	7
8	9 Noon get-together	10	11 Veterans Day; VE by appointment	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Noon get-together	24	25 Board meeting	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 CQWW CW Contest
29 CQWW CW Contest	30					