



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

December 2015

Toms River, NJ

Merry Christmas And Happy Hanukkah



Here's a view of our 2012 Holiday Party. We hope to see you at this year's party December 3.

'Tis The Season To Charge Batteries

'Tis the season for charging the batteries in your cameras, camcorders, etc. Batteries can be charged relatively fast with a "smart" charger, but because each cell type has its own charging characteristics, there's at least three kinds. Such chargers use a simple computerized system to try to determine amount of charge by monitoring the apparent temperature increase that occurs when the cells reach full charge.

1. Never use a smart charger to charge a battery that's already fully charged.
2. Always let the battery temperature stabilize before starting the charger
3. Don't disturb the battery until it's finished, unless you notice it's getting hot.
4. Most important, use a charger that's designed for the battery type you have.

Lithium-ion batteries need a "smart" charger that's specially designed for them, so use what came with the appliance they're in. Because they have so much energy in such a small package, mishandling them can be hazardous, so don't attempt to use anything else.

Nickel Metal Hydride batteries can be fast-charged with a "smart" charger designed for that kind of battery. Such chargers can also charge Nickel Cadmium (NiCad) batteries, but NiCad fast chargers aren't sensitive enough for Nickel Metal Hydride batteries. Until the cells are fully charged, most of the power from the charger is stored chemically rather than becoming heat, so they're programmed to stop when the battery temperature begins to increase. Most such chargers look for a slight increase in electrolyte conductivity to indicate the cells are warming up.

There are also "smart" chargers for Lead-Acid batteries, such as car batteries and "Gel Cells", too. Walmart sells some good ones made by Black & Decker. These chargers look for various clues, such as the increase in voltage/current ratio as oxygen bubbles

begin to form. As you can see, that's a lot different from the others.

A Special "Thank You" To The Board

A note from the President:

When I think about the things our Executive Board does, I feel like Santa Claus. They do the work, and I get the credit. So let me take time to acknowledge the people who put together our meetings and keep the organization running. A special thanks to folks we rarely see, like Dave Ottenberg and Russ Young, and a special Thank You to Treasurer Larry Puccio, Program Coordinator Tony Kuzinski, and Secretary John Rogers for their outstanding efforts, keeping the club running smoothly. Thank You all.

Heavy Duty Batteries Are Back

They're still called Heavy Duty batteries, but that's just an old name for those old fashioned carbon-ammonium chloride-zinc cells which were generally replaced by the much more powerful alkaline cells.

The reason they're called Heavy Duty is because over a hundred years ago there were two kinds of "dry cells".

One was "Continuous Duty", formulated for long, continuous, low current use for alarm circuit monitors and telegraph networks. The other was "Heavy Duty", formulated for brief, higher current uses, like toys and flashlights.

Flashlights got their name because they had a push-button, so you could use short flashes of light to conserve the batteries.

Before the 1940's, batteries didn't have steel jackets as protection from the inevitable electrolyte leakage as the zinc shell was used up. "Sealed in Steel" was the only major improvement in their hundred-year history.

Although not nearly as good as alkaline cells, the Heavy Duty type does have two advantages; for one-time use the cost is low, and the chemicals are safe to handle with bare hands.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday December 3 at 7:00 PM
Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1
Holiday City South Clubhouse A
Santiago Drive at Mule Road
Toms River, NJ

Skywarn Recognition Day



From the ARRL:

The 17TH annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. SKYWARN Recognition Day, co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service, pays tribute to Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform. During the 24-hour event, Amateur Radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

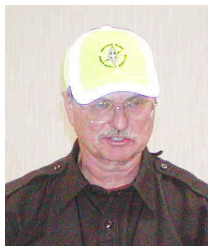
This event is also aimed at strengthening the bond between Amateur Radio operators and local NWS offices.

The volunteer SKYWARN program comprises nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters — many of them radio amateurs — who identify severe storms and provide NWS forecasters with reports of local weather conditions during severe weather events.

SKYWARN Recognition Day is not a contest. The object is for stations to exchange some basic information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80 meters through 70 centimeters (excluding 1.25 meters). Repeater contacts are permitted. Stations exchange call signs, signal reports, locations, and a one or two-word description of the weather at their respective locations.

The National Weather Service provides event information on this Web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>

Ocean County ARES® News



– December, 2015

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be the annual Holiday Party on December 16th at 7:00 PM, Ocean County

EOC, Robert J Miller Airpark, Berkeley Township. There will be a very brief meeting followed by the traditional food festival! All are welcome and make sure you bring your significant other and appetites. For those operators expecting a Fusion shirt or B2B T-shirt, we will have them at the Holiday Party.

In November, we participated in a nationwide MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) exercise of a simulated solar storm or Coronal Mass Injection (CME). A CME is the eruption of charged plasma from the Sun's corona. The CME event is usually preceded by a solar flare and solar proton events. If this plasma impacts the Earth's magnetosphere, a geomagnetic storm can occur. It is this resulting geomagnetic storm that can potentially damage radio equipment and electric power infrastructure.

All Internet connections were simulated to be lost, so any communication had to be independent of the Internet. Reports from Counties were channeled to ARRL Leadership via repeaters, APRS and HF nets. In Ocean County we demonstrated the ability to communicate with SNJ ARRL leadership via all the above modes. In turn, ARRL Leadership contacted MARS via HF nets and informed them of all the various damage reports filed by individual amateur operators.

Tony, W2WCC, reported that MARS was very happy with the amateur radio participation in the CME exercise in our region.

One problem I discovered during the exercise was a severe reduction in the sensitivity of one of my vertical HF antennas. Luckily, I was able to use an alternate NVIS dipole on 40 meters. Troubleshooting revealed that a direct burial coax had deteriorated to a point where it was barely functional. The cable had been in the ground for around 12 years and was now running through several flower gardens, under a deck and a lot of lawn. I decided the replacement coax needed to be installed in PVC conduit to avoid future deterioration and damage. This is something I probably suspected, but ignored it due to all the work and cost involved. In retrospect, I should have installed the conduit 12 years ago and completed the job correctly. One thing I discovered was that a PVC service entrance head makes a nice waterproof fixture for coax exiting conduit and it's easy to make a drip loop. One item that did survive 12 years of exterior exposure is a large, inverted, plastic Skippy peanut butter jar, makes a dry housing for a lighting arrestor at the base of an antenna.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock,

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

Minutes Of Our November Meeting



Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Minutes - November 9, 2015 Meeting

7:05 Meeting called to order

Flag Salute

Member Introductions including the two new Trustees

Minutes from the last meeting were presented and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

Old Business

A discussion was held on the upcoming Holiday Celebration. Three restaurants were identified that could meet our needs. Unfortunately, scheduling a party this close to the holidays was a problem. Follow up discussions suggested that we have the party here in the Clubhouse during the December meeting. Additionally, it was suggested that a simpler menu be presented.

New Business

A motion was made and seconded to have the Holiday Celebration here in the Clubhouse with a simplified menu. The motion passed. Paul Hansen volunteered to coordinate the preparations.

Information concerning the new International Rules and Regulations was presented.

The complete text of FCC Part 97 has been posted on our website at HCARC.US.

7:40 A break was called for refreshments and the 50-50.

8:20 The meeting was called back to order.

A detailed presentation on computer operating systems, strengths and weaknesses was given by Jason Disbrow owner of JRD tech.

An inclusion in Jason's presentation was a detailed overview of current virus, malware, and email incursion techniques. Many questions were posed, and understandably explained by Jason.

9:35 The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

John Rogers

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 Larry Puccio, K2QDY, at 732-349-2950 for information.

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.

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
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:

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Russ Young WA2VQV Worked:



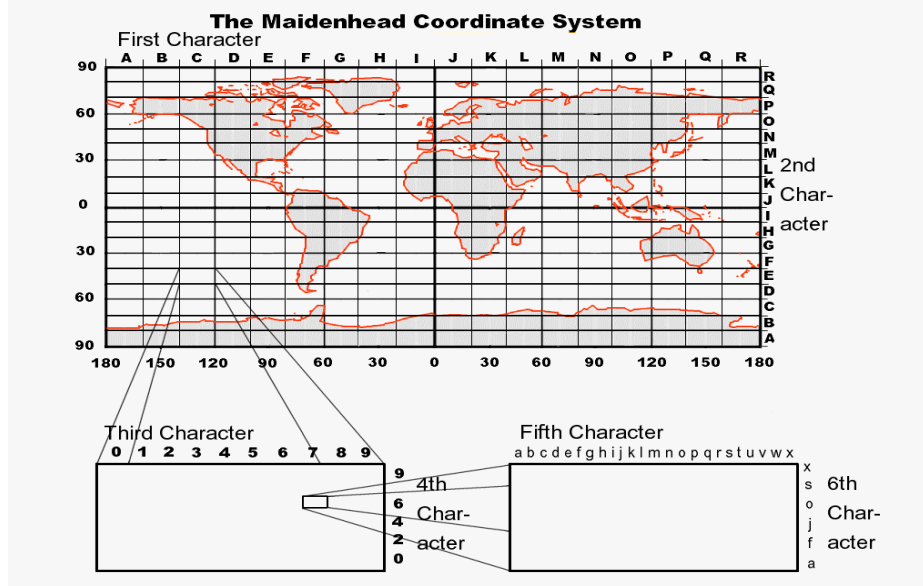
CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	MODE	BAND	ENTITY	IOTA	GRID	DIST	DIR
EA6VQ	Oct 17	1826Z	RTTY	20m	Balearic Islands	EU-004	JM19mp	4051	ENE
IK2SND	Oct 17	1839Z	RTTY	20m	Italy		JN45sp	4160	NE
S57AW *	Oct 17	1840Z	RTTY	20m	Slovenia		JN76hd	4359	NE
IK1MEG *	Oct 17	1843Z	RTTY	20m	Italy		JN34ri	4110	NE
GW0A	Oct 17	1845Z	RTTY	20m	Wales	EU-005	IO81fn	3456	NE
IK4DCX *	Oct 17	1851Z	RTTY	20m	Italy		JN64gb	4341	NE
SP3VSE	Oct 17	1854Z	RTTY	20m	Poland		JO83fa	4208	NE
SV2BFN *	Oct 17	1902Z	RTTY	20m	Greece		KN10LO	4918	NE
9A2DQ	Oct 17	1907Z	RTTY	20m	Croatia		JN85at	4443	NE
ON5GQ *	Oct 17	1914Z	RTTY	20m	Belgium		JO20gx	3803	NE
EA2KU *	Oct 17	1917Z	RTTY	20m	Spain		IN82pw	3685	ENE
EA2RCF	Oct 17	1918Z	RTTY	20m	Spain		IN82pu	3689	ENE
S58N *	Oct 17	1927Z	RTTY	20m	Slovenia		JN76fa	4358	NE
VE7CC	Oct 18	1728Z	RTTY	20m	Canada		CN89re	2403	WNW
UR7GO	Oct 18	1741Z	RTTY	20m	Ukraine		KN66iq	5051	NE
T42US	Oct 24	1430Z	SSB	20m	Cuba	NA-015	EL83tb	1169	SSW
TG9IIN *	Oct 24	1434Z	SSB	20m	Guadeloupe		EK44qo	1915	SSW
CN2AA *	Oct 24	1729Z	SSB	20m	Morocco		IM64pd	3737	ENE
ED1R	Oct 24	1905Z	SSB	20m	Spain		IN70nt	3638	ENE
SO2O *	Oct 24	1907Z	SSB	20m	Poland		KO02mh	4403	NE
SO4R	Oct 24	1908Z	SSB	20m	Poland		KO04he	4321	NE
OK7O	Oct 24	1910Z	SSB	20m	Czech Republic		JN69qr	4195	NE
S54ZZ	Oct 24	1914Z	SSB	20m	Slovenia		JN76mo	4361	NE
SN8B	Oct 24	1926Z	SSB	20m	Poland		KO10cb	4524	NE
IB2A	Oct 24	1928Z	SSB	20m	Italy		JN62ks	4401	NE
EE5M	Oct 24	1938Z	SSB	20m	Spain		IM76fc	3738	ENE
EI7M	Oct 24	1945Z	SSB	20m	Ireland		IO51uv	3255	NE
DJ8OG *	Oct 24	1950Z	SSB	20m	Germany		JO40mf	4004	NE
DJ7EO	Oct 24	1951Z	SSB	20m	Germany		JO31ar	3844	NE
OZ7X	Oct 24	1957Z	SSB	20m	Denmark		JO56gh	3900	NE
VE5ZX *	Oct 25	1358Z	SSB	20m	Canada		DO62qd	1748	NW
UZ0U	Oct 25	1822Z	SSB	20m	Ukraine		KO50gk	4815	NE
TM4L	Oct 25	1829Z	SSB	20m	France		IN94rs	3738	ENE
RU1A	Oct 25	1837Z	SSB	20m	European Russia		KO48vr	4456	NNE
OL3R	Oct 25	1844Z	SSB	20m	Czech Republic		JO70ae	4205	NE
PI4COM	Oct 25	2100Z	SSB	20m	Netherlands		JO21hu	3776	NE
S58MU	Oct 29	2340Z	CW	30m	Slovenia		JN76bc	4341	NE
S57V	Oct 29	2345Z	CW	30m	Slovenia		JN76wk	4402	NE
OM3SEM	Oct 29	2351Z	CW	30m	Slovakia		JN97cs	4451	NE
EA5JK	Oct 30	2057Z	PSK31	20m	Spain		IM99tl	3893	ENE
CO2NFR	Oct 30	2118Z	PSK31	20m	Cuba	NA-015	EL83td	1169	SSW
EA8CN	Nov 03	2155Z	CW	20m	Canary Islands	AF-004	IL18rj	3404	E
EB5DZC	Nov 03	2223Z	PSK31	20m	Spain		IM97mo	3918	ENE
HA3FOK/MM*	Nov 03	2235Z	PSK31	20m	Atlantic Ocean		HM26fp	2167	E
CT1IQI	Nov 05	2243Z	CW	30m	Portugal		IM67ff	3604	ENE
VY2TTT	Nov 06	2020Z	CW	20m	Prince Edward I., Canada	NA-029	FN86ng	815	NE

* Confirmed LoTW (on or before November 15)

December DX Opportunities

Begin	End	Entity	Callsign	QSL via	IOTA	Bands	Modes	Grid	Dir	Miles
Nov 18	Dec 11	Mauritius	3B8HB	3B8HB	AF-049			LG89sq	E	9304
Nov 18	Dec 11	Mauritius	3B8JB	3B8JB	AF-049			LG89sq	E	9304
Dec 20	Jan 15	ROTUMA	3D2AG/p	3D2AG Dir	OC-060	40-6		RH93aa	W	7898
Dec 03	Dec 10	Fiji	3D2RJ	LotW	OC-016	160-10		RH88ma	W	7740
Nov 01	Dec 12	Madagascar	5R8IC	LotW	AF-090	40-10	C, s, r, p	LH31mm	E	8678
Nov 20	Dec 03	Samoa	5W0IF	LotW	OC-097	80-10		AH47aa	W	7200
Dec 26	Jan 12	SENEGAL	6W1/WA3DX	WA3DX	AF-045?	40-10	S	IK14gq	E	3824
Dec 26	Jan 12	SENEGAL	6W7/WA3DX	WA3DX	AF-078?	40-10		IK14gs	E	3821
Dec 05	Dec 12	Barbados	8P9EZ	LotW	NA-021	40-10		GK01gm	SSE	2164
Nov 29	Dec 05	Maldives	8Q7JC	VE2FDJ	AS-013	80-10		MJ64rc	NE	8772
Nov 01	Dec 31	Malta	9H90IARU	9H1SP	EU-023			JM75fv	ENE	4632
Nov 18	Dec 02	Rwanda	9X0NH	LotW		80-10	C	KI58am	E	7042
Nov 01	Dec 31	Taiwan	BV90IARU	BV2SP	AS-020			PL04nf	NNW	7897
Nov 24	Dec 02	Easter I	CE0Y/R4WAA	R4WAA	SA-001			FG04aa	S	4573
Nov 24	Dec 02	Easter I	CE0Y/RZ3FW	RZ3FW	SA-001			FG04aa	S	4573
Dec 03	Dec 10	South Cook Is	E51XGI	LotW	OC-013	160-10	C, S, D	BG08cs	WSW	6927
Dec 09	Jan 10	Canary Is	EA8/IK1PMR	HB9FKK	AF-004	160-6		IL28ma	E	3433
Dec 09	Jan 10	Canary Is	EA8/PA3LEO	HB9FKK	AF-004	160-6		IL28ma	E	3433
Nov 08	Dec 17	Liberia	EL2DW	KD4UDU		20, 15, 10	S	IJ47ma	ESE	4503
Dec 12	Dec 17	St Barthelemy	FJ/K2HVN	K2HVN	NA-146	40-10	C, S	FK88ma	SSE	1660
Nov 27	Dec 03	Reunion	FR/DL3RKS	DL1RPL	AF-016	20-10	C, s	LG79sa	E	9227
Dec 16	Jan 08	Reunion	FR/F5UOW	LotW	AF-016	40-10	C, D	LG79sa	E	9227
Nov 22	Dec 01	Reunion	FR/OH2YL	OH2YL	AF-016	160-10	C	LG79sa	E	9227
Nov 18	Dec 10	Guinea Bissau	J52HF	I3DLP				IK21dt	ESE	4041
Nov 01	Dec 31	Mongolia	JT90IARU	JT1KAA				ON37kw	N	6367
Dec 10	Dec 13	Mariana Is	KH0/F4HEC	LotW	OC-086	80-10	S	QK36aa	NW	7786
Dec 03	Dec 09	GUAM	KH2/F4HEC	LotW	OC-026	80-10	S	QK24ma	NW	7939
Nov 29	Dec 04	Sint Maarten	PJ7/G4JEC	N0UK dir	NA-105	40-10	C	FK881b	SSE	1655
Nov 24	Dec 03	TUVALU	T2TT	K8NA	OC-015	80-10		RI91hh	W	7513
Dec 22	Dec 29	Palau	T88RY	VE2FDJ	OC-009?	80-10	R	PJ99cm	NW	8442
Nov 01	Dec 31	Benin	TY4AB	9H1SP		20	C	JJ17bs	E	5156
Nov 01	Dec 31	Kazakhstan (UN)	UP90IARU	LotW				LN13tw	NE	5474
Dec 16	Dec 23	Lord Howe I	VK2IAY/9	BV2SP	OC-004	20-10	S	PG50aa	WNW	10912
Nov 01	Dec 31	Indonesia	YB90IARU	R4WAA	OC-?		C, S, D	OI33jt	N	10108
Dec 27	Jan 13	VANUATU	YJ4AO	RZ3FW	OC-035		C, S	RH42ee	W	8444

* Modes: C=CW, D=Digital, J=JT, P=PSK, R=RTTY, S=SSB; lower case indicates less used modes.



December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 HCARC Meeting 7:00PM	4	5
6 <i>Hanukkah begins at sundown</i>	7 Get-together at H C Diner at Noon	8	9 License Exams by appointment	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Get-together at H C Diner at Noon	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26
27	28	29	30 HCARC Exec Board Mtg 10AM	31 <i>New Year's Eve - Happy New Year</i>		

Day list, because it usually gives details like categories and exchanges, and even hyperlinks to the official rules.

How To Get The SKYHOOK By E-mail

If you aren't already a SKYHOOK e-mail subscriber, and would like to be added to our list, or if you're already on the list and want to un-subscribe, just send an e-mail to the Editor.

John Roberts, KQ4WR, Editor

KQ4WR@aol.com

A DX Contests List

For a list of contests for the current week, check out the "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" website at <http://www.hornucopia.com>

It gives a lot of information about contests of the past, present, and near future. I especially like the 8

Table Scraps

If you're new at electronic kit-building, take time to read the "Kit Building Guide" at the Ramsey Electronics website before you start.

Happiness isn't about having what you love; it's about loving what you have.