



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

March 2016

Toms River, NJ

Ham Cram On Steroids



Urb LeJeune, W1UL, created a unique ham radio test preparation website. He is presenting a demonstration of his website at the March 3rd HCARC meeting. He calls it a "ham cram on steroids." The emphasis is totally on helping you acquire a license or upgrade your existing license quickly and easily.

What is a ham cram?

Historically a ham cram is a high intensity study session used for test preparation, typically a full day class preparing for the Technician class license.

As part of his program you study and take a test of a subelement to demonstrate the effectiveness of studying only the questions in the pool and making associations with the correct answer.

What is different about the W1UL ham cram methodology? Essentially, the W1UL method is a ham cram on steroids. The W1UL system has six identifying characteristics:

1. The W1UL Ham Cram study session displays the actual pool questions and only the correct answers thus forming an association between the question and the correct answer.

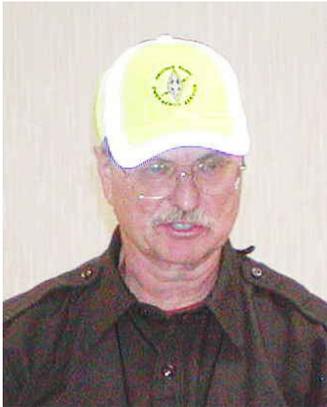
2. A user can optionally choose "Expert Mode" where a propriety software program plus a panel of experts have selected only those questions for study which are most likely to appear on the actual test.
3. Technician, General and Extra class test preparations are currently supported.
4. Users select study and test sessions for each class of license preparation selecting one or more test subelements thereby creating small and manageable chunks of test pool information.
5. Since all study material is online you can study at your own pace.
6. Best of all, all the offered material is totally FREE.

The <http://ham-cram.com> website gives you all the tools you need to pass the various FCC tests with a minimum of effort and a higher level of confidence.

Candidates using the W1UL Ham Cram method score higher on the actual VE tests than those using any other test preparation website. Pass rates are greater than 95%.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday March 3 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



On Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 PM, a meeting of Ocean County ARES was held at the Ocean County EOC. Unfortunately, only four operators plus the speaker were present so the meeting was kept very short. Since past history always shows a poor turnout for the February meeting (due to bad weather, sickness, etc.), there will be no future ARES meetings held in February. So next year in 2017, the first meeting will be in April on the third Wednesday and RERP training will be conducted at the first meeting. At the upcoming 2016 April meeting, Pete, K2PSG will hold RERP training since that is when the majority of ARES cardholders RERP training expires.

I now have T-Shirts for those operators who participated in the 2015 Bike to Build communications event and I will be contacting you individually. I still have several Yaesu Fusion Polo shirts to hand out and will probably have to visit several other Ocean County club meetings to get them distributed.

The Red Cross and the ARRL have a new MOU signed and in case you have not seen it, the requirement for radio operator background checks has been eliminated. This should make many operators happy who were displeased with the requirement to complete background checks.

On February 6th I attended a meeting with SNJ Leadership including the SNJ Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator. WX2NJ, N2XW and KC2OON attended from Ocean County. Keith, KC2OON, gave a Power Point Presentation on his new SNJ Weather Alliance and stressed that all SNJ Leadership members sign up for Twitter and Facebook

accounts in order to be up to date with Weather alliance news as it happens. As Keith pointed out, both forms of social media are free and they are a painless and inexpensive way to communicate.

Tony, W2WCC, the SNJ Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) will be working on revising the SNJ Operating Plan to include a defined protocol to follow when emergency conditions should occur. Currently, there is no defined protocol and this can add to confusion about when to activate.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Mount Holly has been relatively low key in its Skywarn program activity and is working hard to bring it back up to speed again. There are a lot of space limitations at the Mount Holly office and some things are being changed to devote more space to Skywarn. The NWS really liked the format used during the last two snowstorms for reporting total snowfall from the ham radio community and this format will continue. It involves the county coordinators providing data to a shared spreadsheet after holding FM local radio nets and this shared spreadsheet is then transmitted to the NWS. This minimizes the time spent by meteorologists to compile snowfall data and is a lot more efficient for all involved. The old method was to have county coordinators call into Mount Holly via telephone and give verbal reports. Any coordinators not able to provide data to the spreadsheet can give verbal reports on pre-defined SCERN D-Star nets.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

The NASA Phonetic Alphabet

This is the official pronunciation guide for international radio communications, including aviation and military. These are the words you should speak (and listen for) when spelling out call signs, e-mail addresses, etc.

Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliet (JEW-lee-ett), Kilo (KEE-loh), Lima (LEE-muh), Mike, November, Oscar (OSS-cah), Papa (pah-PAH), Quebec (keh-BECK), Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor (VIK-tah), Whiskey, Yankee, Zulu.

Numerals are pronounced as usual, except nine is pronounced "NINE-er", so it sounds less like "five".

Some Handy Websites

www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html

List of planned portable DX activities, especially those in which operators from one nation have applied for a special temporary permit to operate in another nation.

www.dxscape.com

Live list of many current dx contacts, by band & region

www.arcc-inc.org

Lists of repeaters in Southern NJ and Eastern PA.

www.metrocor.net

Lists of repeaters in Northern NJ and NYC area.

www.qrz.com

FCC database lookup by callsign, licensee, or address.

Also has a lot of other useful stuff.

www.arrl.org

Lists of clubs, test sessions, nets, and much more.

www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service

How to receive qsl cards from DX stations

www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service

How ARRL members can economically send qsl cards to DX stations

FCC Database Search

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

Ham radio contest calendar.

For contest information for 8 days, use:

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php

Our VE Crew

Murray [KD2IN](http://www.kd2in.com), Ed [W1EAP](http://www.w1eap.com), Larry [K2ODY](http://www.k2ody.com),
John [KQ4WR](http://www.kq4wr.com), Stan [KB2PD](http://www.kb2pd.com), Steve [N2WLH](http://www.n2wlh.com),
Kevin [W2FA](http://www.w2fa.com), Paul [N2QXB](http://www.n2qxb.com), Larry [WA2VLR](http://www.wa2vlr.com).

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, K2ODY, 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](http://www.n2wlh.com) N2WLH@yahoo.com
Publicity: Paul [N2QXB](http://www.n2qxb.com) 732-279-3911
Programs: Tony [KD2GSO](http://www.kd2gso.com) 732-930-5779
Sunshine: Dave [WA2DJN](http://www.wa2djn.com) WA2DJN3@verizon.net
Field Day: Larry [K2ODY](http://www.k2ody.com) 732-349-2950
VE Sessions: Larry [K2ODY](http://www.k2ody.com) 732-349-2950
Membership: Doug [KC2TZC](http://www.kc2tz.com) 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	open		
Secretary	John Rogers	KD2HWR	732-269-5717
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2ODY	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	Larry Puccio	K2ODY	732-349-2950

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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e-mail KQ4WR@arrrl.net 732 350-1162 ext 33

Two Very Rare DX Stations In March

- VK9CK COCOS (KEELING) Islands March 15 to March 26
- VK0EK HEARD ISLAND about March 20 to April 10
<http://vk0ek.org>

You might be able to track the eleven-day voyage to Heard Island by monitoring Maritime mobile K2ARB/MM.

To avoid interference between these Most Wanted entities, FT4JA.org suggested that VK0EK could be a little lower in the subband than FT4JA, and listening down-band, while FT4JA listens up-band.

Radio 101: Wave Length & Frequency

Confused about names like "6 meters", "17 meters", etc.? They're referring to the (approximate) wave length at the operating frequency. But what's wave length? Well, wavelength is the distance that the signal will travel, at the speed of light, during one cycle. That's important an important distance. Distance equals speed times time duration.

If the frequency is higher, there are more cycles in a second, so the duration of each cycle is less. If each cycle of the signal has less time to travel, then the distance travelled per cycle is less. So the higher the frequency, the shorter the wavelength.

In the third grade, you may have learned that a meter was about 39.37 inches. It might have been more useful to have been taught that an inch equals exactly 25.4 millimeters, and that there are exactly 1000 millimeters to a meter.

When we say "half-wave antenna", we mean one that's half a wavelength long at the intended operating frequency. Such antennas are naturally resonant at the frequency that will make a round trip end-to-end in one cycle.

It's best seen by doing an example.

The speed of light is 300 megameters per second. Actually it's a little slower than that, but 300 is plenty close enough.

Consider a frequency of 50 MHz (50 megacycles per second). The wave length is 300 meters divided by the frequency in MHz, so the answer is 6 meters.

The "megas" cancel each other because anything divided by itself is 1, so the answer is 300 meters divided by 50. Therefore, 50MHz has a wave length of 6 meters.

Let's simplify that. **Wavelength in meters equals 300 divided by the frequency in MHz.**

It works the other way around, too. **Frequency in MHz equals 300 divided by the wavelength in meters.**

Dear Elmer



Dear Elmer,

Please explain CW and SSB

Dear Friend,

That's quite a question, because there's so much to it.

CW means Continuous Wave. It's continuous like the AC power at your wall outlets, but only while you use it. When we say "CW", we are usually referring to Morse Code transmission. A simple telegraph key is like a doorbell button. A Morse Code transmitter puts out a continuous wave while the key is pressed, so the amplitude varies from zero to maximum, so it's an extreme case of Amplitude Modulation.

Your voice, on the other hand, is not a continuous wave. It's "Modulated" by variations in loudness (Amplitude Modulation or AM) and pitch (Frequency Modulation or FM).

Radio Frequencies (RF) can be modulated by the vibration of a microphone diaphragm. A continuous wave before modulation is called the Carrier.

Modulation always produces new frequencies called Sidebands. One of these is the sub-band of frequencies which equal the frequency of the carrier plus the frequencies of the modulating signal. It's called the Upper Sideband (USB).

The Lower Sideband (LSB) is the frequency of the carrier minus the frequencies of the modulating signal. The carrier itself is a continuous wave, not affected by the modulation. It doesn't communicate any useful information, other than to mark the frequency, so there's no real need to transmit it.

Because each sideband contains all the useful information, only a Single Sideband (SSB) needs to be amplified and transmitted. You can see that the USB is the same as the voice signal that created it, but shifted upward in frequency. The LSB is the mirror image of the USB, if you think of the carrier as the mirror.

[continued on next page]

Your receiver reverses the process to get back the original audio signal. It modulates the received upper sideband with a new carrier, filters out the sum frequencies, and outputs the difference frequencies.

Even "CW" Morse Code has sidebands from the "key click" whenever the key is pressed or released to start or stop the continuous wave. Modern transmitters filter those transistions, so the resulting sidebands stay very close to the carrier frequency.

I hope this helps.

Elmer

Dues Were Due January 1



If you're a member, and have already paid your dues, we thank you very much. Otherwise, please consider this important message: The HCARC needs you to help balance the budget. Personal checks made payable to "Holiday City Amateur Radio Club", or even just "HCARC" will be appreciated. Mail to:

Larry Puccio, 22 Sabinas Street, Toms River, NJ 08757-6153 .

Daylight Savings Time



For international contacts, it's convenient to have a clock set to Coordinated Universal Time (abbreviated UTC, and often called "Zulu" time, because the time is sometimes shown with the letter 'Z' after it.)

When we shift to Eastern Daylight Time, UTC time will be four hours, rather than five hours, different from local time, so the UTC date will change at 8:00 pm local time.

If you already have a 24-hour clock set to UTC time, don't change it. There's no such thing as UTC Daylight Savings Time.

If you don't have a 24-hour clock set to UTC, remember that the UTC day begins at 8:00 pm EDT with 0000 UTC.

Note that the UTC date changes at 0000, so for example, at 11PM EDT tonight, the UTC will be 0300 tomorrow morning.

To convert UTC time to EDT time, subtract 0400. If that gives you less than 1200, just insert the ":" and append "AM"; if more than 1200, subtract 1200, insert the ":" and append "PM".

Notice To All HCARC Members

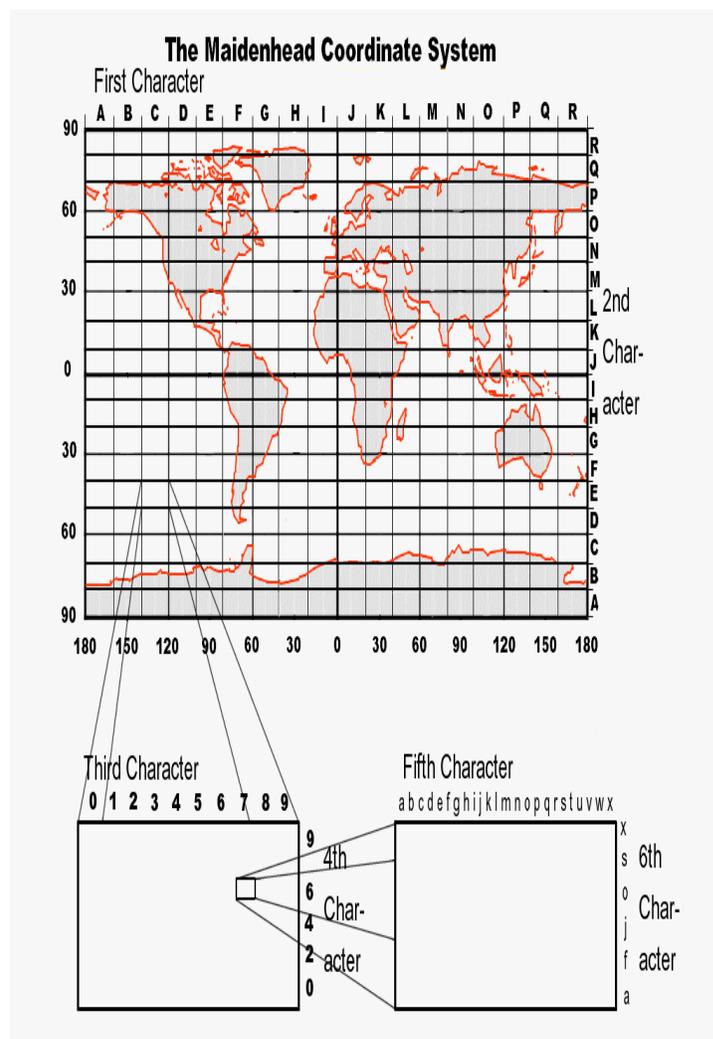
We still need a Vice President, but we have a plan that should work out nicely if someone will volunteer to be a board member. That's an easy and fun position that doesn't require a great deal of work. Be sure to be at our March 3rd meeting.

Field Day Is Coming

Yes, I know it's always the last full weekend in June, but it's not too early to make plans. Field day is a time and place to play with radio contesting without being in a real contest. It's a day to show friends, neighbors and relatives how we can get on the air "no matter what", and introduce them to our hobby. It's a chance to try out that antenna design you've been thinking about, but haven't been able (or allowed) to put up. And most important, it's an opportunity for us to get acquainted with each other by working together in various ways.

Come to the March meeting and tell us what your ideas.

The Grid Square Map



Some DX Opportunities For March

Start	Finish	Entity	Callsign	QSL via	C/IOTA	Bands	Modes	Grid	Miles	Dir
03/04/16	03/13/16	EQUA. GUINEA: Malabo I	3C7GIA	LA7GIA Direct	AF-010	40-10	C,S,R	JJ51am	5850	E
03/08/16	03/15/16	Swaziland	3DA0CC	UA4CC	AF	80-40		KG53sa	8192	ESE
03/08/16	03/15/16	Swaziland	3DA0IJ	LY2IJ	AF	80-40		KG53sa	8192	ESE
03/10/16	03/26/16	Viet Nam: Con Son I	3W2BR	DK2BR	AS-130	40-10	S,R,P	OK30it	8933	N
02/18/16	03/04/16	GUINEA: Los I	3XY1T	LotW	AF-051	160-6	C,S,R	IK51aa	4375	E
03/02/16	03/18/16	Sri Lanka	4S7GWG	DL2AWG	AS-003	40-6	C,S,R	MJ97wa	8800	NNE
03/02/16	03/18/16	Sri Lanka	4S7RTG	DL7VEE	AS-003	40-6	C,S,R	MJ97wa	8800	NNE
03/06/16	03/21/16	Colombia: San Andres I.	5J0P	LotW	NA-033	160-6	C,S,R	FJ35aa	2415	S
03/04/16	03/16/16	Uganda	5X1XA	G3SWH	AF	80-10	C	KJ61ga	7059	ENE
02/28/16	03/07/16	Mozambique	C91IJ	LY2wIJ	AF	80,40		KH80aa	8156	E
02/28/16	03/07/16	Mozambique	C92CC	UA4CC	AF	80,40		KH80aa	8156	E
03/11/16	04/07/16	Portugal	CT9/DL3KWF	DL3KWF	EU	30,17,12	C	IM58jq	3398	ENE
03/11/16	04/07/16	Portugal	CT9/DL3KWR	DL3KWR	EU	30,17,12	C	IM58jq	3398	ENE
02/14/16	03/31/16	Angola	D2/CT1ITE	CT1ITE	AF	160-10	C,S	JJ16oe	6478	E
03/04/16	03/19/16	S Cook Is: Rarotonga	E51AQA	VE7AQA	OC-013	80-10	S	AH99mm	6514	W
02/28/16	03/09/16	Guadeloupe	FG/IW5ELA	Buro Auto	NA		C	FK97aa	1748	SSE
03/18/16	03/24/16	Mayotte	FH/F2DX	F2DX	AF-027	40-6	C,R	LH27pa	8353	E
03/24/16	04/21/16	Mayotte	FH/F4FET	F4FET	AF-027	40-10	S	LH27pa	8353	E
03/18/16	03/24/16	Mayotte	FH/F6BEE	F6BEE	AF-027	40-6	C,R	LH27pa	8353	E
03/17/16	03/29/16	St. Pierre & M: Miquelon	FP/KV1J	KV1J	NA-032	160-10	S,R,C	GN17sa	1014	NE
03/31/16	04/14/16	JUAN DE NOVA I.	FT4JA		AF-012			LH12iw	8391	E
03/15/16	03/23/16	Isle Of Man	GW4SKA	M0OXO	EU-116	80-10	R,p	I074sa	3285	NE
03/25/16	03/27/16	Honduras: Tiger I	HR4/DL5YWM	DL5YWM	NA-060	80-10		EK64ma	1952	SSW
03/10/16	03/24/16	Grenada	J34G	G3PJT	NA-024	80-10	C	FK92ca	2076	SSE
03/15/16	05/15/16	MINAMI TORISHIMA	JD1/JG8NQJ	JG8NQJ	OC-073	80-10	C	QL75aa	6981	NW
03/30/16	04/04/16	Svalbard	JW/...	DL7DF	EU-026	160-10	C,S,R	JQ78wo	3526	NNE
02/19/16	03/04/16	Guantanamo Bay	KG4HF	W6HGF	NA-015	80-10	C,S,R,P	FL20ma	1379	S
02/19/16	03/04/16	Guantanamo Bay	KG4WV	W4WV	NA-015	80-10	C,S,R,P	FL20ma	1379	S
03/12/16	03/25/16	Peru	OA4/DL5YWM	DL5YWM	SA	80-10		FH18ma	3595	S
03/12/16	03/24/16	Aruba	P4/PA7DA	PA7DA buro	SA-036	80-10		FK52am	1915	S
02/28/16	03/13/16	Aruba	P4/WA2NHA	WA2NHA	SA-036	80-6	C	FK52am	1915	S
03/27/16	03/31/16	St. Maarten	PJ7/HB9EYA	HB9EYA	NA-105	40,20,15,10		FK88ma	1660	SSE
02/16/16	03/12/16	St. Maarten	PJ7AA	AA9A	NA-105	40-10	S,C	FK88ma	1660	SSE
02/25/16	03/25/16	Sao Tome & Principe	S9BK	HB9BEI	AF-023	40-10	S,D	JJ30ah	5694	E
03/01/16	03/16/16	E. Kiribati: Kiritimati	T32/...	AC8JF	OC-024	160-10	C,S,D	BI50aa	5925	WSW
03/20/16	03/25/16	Palau	T88IR	JF1DIR	OC-009	40-10		PJ99cm	8442	NW
03/17/16	03/21/16	Palau	T88KH	JP1RIW	OC-009	80-10		PJ99cm	8442	NW
03/17/16	03/21/16	Palau	T88KU	DL2KUH	OC-009	80-10		PJ99cm	8442	NW
03/09/16	03/15/16	Palau	T88XH	JA0EKI	OC-009	160-10	C,S,R,P,J	PJ99cm	8442	NW
02/26/16	03/01/16	Iceland	TF/DF8AN	DF8AN	EU-021	160-6	C,S	HP94ac	2662	NNE
02/26/16	03/14/16	Guadeloupe	T066R	F6HMQ	NA-102	80-10		FK96eg	1807	SSE
03/03/16	03/15/16	New Caledonia	TX7EU	DK2AMM	OC-027	40-10	C,S,D	RG38ma	8682	W
02/21/16	03/04/16	Antigua & Bar: St John I	V26IS	LotW	NA-100	40-10	C,s	GK07ca	1807	SSE
03/14/16	04/12/16	St.Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	W5JON	NA-104	160-6,60	S	FK87qh	1713	SSE
02/22/16	03/01/16	St.Kitts & Nevis: Nevis I	V47JR	W2APF	NA-104	80-10	C	FK87qh	1713	SSE
03/20/16	04/10/16	HEARD I.	VK0EK	M0URX	AN-003	80-10	C,S,R	MD67qa	10680	SE
03/15/16	03/26/16	COCOS (KEELING) I.	VK9CK	LA6OP	OC-003	160-10	C,S,R	NH87jt	10448	NNE
02/15/16	04/01/16	Falkland Is.	VP8DPD	G3ZQQ	SA-002	80-10		GD08aa	6414	S
03/11/16	03/15/16	Bermuda	VP9/G3VYI	G3VYI	NA-005	160-40		FM72ph	749	SE
03/29/16	04/04/16	Laos	XW7FG	JA7FGI	AS	80-6	S,R,p	OK18ga	8430	N
02/20/16	03/05/16	Nicaragua	YN5PL	AA1M	NA			EK72aa	2060	SSW
02/20/16	03/05/16	Nicaragua	YN5RN	W1USN	NA		C,S,d	EK72aa	2060	SSW
03/27/16	03/31/16	El Salvador	YS3/DL5YWM	DL5YWM	NA-190	80-10		EK54ma	2003	SSW

March 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 HCARC MEETING 7:00PM	4	5 ARRL DX Contest SSB
6	7	8	9 VE License testing (by appointment)	10	11	12
13 DST Begins; South American 10m Contest	14 Noon lunch at Holiday City Diner	15 Cocos Keeling DXpedition	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Palm Sunday; Heard Island DXpedition	21	22	23	24	25 Good Friday	26 CQWW WPX Contest SSB
27 Easter	28 Noon lunch at Holiday City Diner	29	30 Board Meeting 10AM	31		