

# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

September 2016

Toms River, NJ

## Our September 1 Meeting



***"I Got My License, A Transceiver, And An Antenna, Now How Do I Make A Contact?"***

Okay, now that you have your license, what next? Probably the most difficult part for a new ham is the first contact. Larry Puccio K2QDY will be giving Septembers presentation "Ham Radio Operating, How Do I Make a Contact". Larry will discuss HF as well as VHF/UHF contacts, and probably invite newcomers to ham radio to try some hands-on practice.

## Members To Vote On Proposed Change To Our Club Constitution / By-Laws

Our present club rules call for a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and four Members-At-Large. The proposal is to change the number of board Members-At-Large to two. The proposal will be presented for a vote at the September 1 meeting.

## Holiday Party

Now is the time to discuss plans for the Holiday Party. Several suggestions have been made, including holding the event at the clubhouse, at a restaurant or even having the event in January. We would like to have the input from all members, so if you can't be at the September meeting and would like to have a say about the Holiday event, please email Tony Kuzinski at [tonyk613@comcast.net](mailto:tonyk613@comcast.net)

## You Might Be An Elmer

If you ever gave someone an ARRL Handbook,

You might be an Elmer.

If you ever demonstrated ham radio at a public event,

You might be an Elmer.

If you ever gave away your old receiver,

You might be an Elmer.

If you ever helped a friend erect an antenna,

You might be an Elmer.

If you ever taught Morse Code,

You might be an Elmer.

If you ever invited a friend to your shack,

You might be an Elmer.

If you have a strong urge to say your callsign at the end of every telephone conversation,

That happens, too.

### NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday September 1 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



– September, 2016

On Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, MARS COMEX 16-3 took place and like all the SNJ ARES counties, Ocean provided info to SNJ leadership to be forwarded to MARS operators on 60 meters. The info was forwarded via the Waterford Works FM repeater, 147.345 MHz. This was the third MARS COMEX this year and they are going to get more and more frequent as the DOD is looking to get more information from the Amateur Community during simulated and actual emergencies.

On Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, there was a bi-monthly meeting of Ocean County ARES. The topic of discussion was emergency power requirements/solutions, given by WX2NJ. I would like to welcome several new Ocean County ARES members, Joe – AC2RO and Chris – K2HVE. The next meeting will be in October on the third Wednesday. One suggestion from AC2RO, was to hold 10 meter training nets after the regular Wednesday FM nets. Are you interested in being Net Control for the 10 meter net? Let me know.

The D-Rats server has a new IP address. Replace the old one with 100.1.46.97

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00 and 11:00 AM, Habitat for Humanity is hosting a fund raising walk in Lavallette and has requested communications support. The route has not yet been shared with us, but I intend on using the 449.825 MHz, WA2RES repeater in Toms River for coverage and all operators should be able to use HT's. If you are interested in providing support for this event, please email me at [WX2NJ@comcast.net](mailto:WX2NJ@comcast.net)

Starting September 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a digital training net on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at

2030 [8:30pm]. The net will be on the K2EOC, 146.895 MHz repeater. The purpose of this net is to give practical experience operating NBEMS modes. The nets will begin on voice and then switch to digital. Unfortunately, this net time is the same as our long standing Ocean County ARES nets.

There will be a beginners FLDIGI/NBEMS webinar on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1000 [10:00am], given by Gary, WA3SVW. Gary is an expert on this software and this webinar would be beneficial to anyone who wishes to use FLDIGI/NBEMS in an EMCOMM scenario, but is not familiar with the software. To sign up, please use the following link:

<https://goo.gl/j8pDkL>

On October 22, there is to be a Joint Base Marathon and SNJ ARES will be providing communications support. The SNJ SEC has no details yet, but is looking to see how many operators from various counties can participate. So far, Ocean has three volunteers. Once again, if you are interested in providing support, email me at [WX2NJ@comcast.net](mailto:WX2NJ@comcast.net) and I will forward over to the SNJ SEC.

73 de WX2NJ  
Bob Murdock  
Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## Alternative Study Strategies



### Prologue

Although this tutorial is primarily intended for use with the W1UL Ham Cram website, most of the suggested alternative study strategies are applicable to the study or any material.

Since the inception of the W1UL Ham-Cram.com website, when there was only preparation for the

Technician license, I have strongly advocated studying one sub-element at a time. I also strongly encouraged the candidate to take the sub-element's practice exam, and if the candidate didn't get at least 85% correct, I recommended repeating the process until attaining a test score of at least 85%. (Each license class has 10 sub-elements, which are basically categories.) Despite many years of college level teaching, I committed a rookie educator's mistake, which is assuming all people learn the same way I do. I like my information served in small packages, with a frequent practice test to reinforce my learning. The following is a true story, and points out the fallacy of my educational assumption.

An experience with a good friend drove home the point that different people learn in different ways. This critique reviews different study modalities when preparing for an amateur license examination.

### My Friend Jim

A good friend of mine, I'll call him Jim, passed his Advance license 34 years ago after three unsuccessful tries. He is retired military and is an avid DXer and uses CW exclusively. He takes pride in his lack of technological sophistication. He doesn't own a computer, cell phone or a GPS. I printed the entire Extra question pool for him in the format used on the ham cram website, approximately 300 questions, using the following style:

#### 1. Question number one.

The correct answer for question one.

#### 2. Question number two.

The correct answer for question two.

-and so on.

After Jim had been studying the printout for a couple of weeks I offered to bring my computer to his house so he could take a practice exam. "No way," he exclaimed, "I don't want to see an incorrect answer until I take the actual test!" I suggested he intersperse practice tests with his studying but he adamantly refused.

All's well that ends well. There were three candidates taking the Extra exam at Jim's VE session. He was the first to finish and had only one wrong answer, the best

of the three!

Is this method for everyone? I honestly don't know. You might want to try it and see if it works for you. A compromise might be to study the questions and correct answer until a day or two before the VE test. Then take a practice exam for the entire test (see below) so you get feedback on what you don't know.

### Our VE Crew

Murray [KD2IN](#), Ed [W1EAP](#), Larry [K2QDY](#),  
John [KQ4WR](#), Stan [KB2PD](#), Steve [N2WLH](#),  
Paul [N2QXB](#), Larry [WA2VLR](#), Tony [KD2GSO](#).

*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:* Paul [N2QXB](#) 732-279-3911  
*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](http://www.hcArc.us)

President	John Roberts	<a href="#">KQ4WR</a>	732-350-1162 ext 33
Vice President	open		
Secretary	John Rogers	<a href="#">KD2HWR</a>	732-269-5717
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Doug Poray	<a href="#">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
Executive Board	Tony Kuzinski	<a href="#">KD2GSO</a>	732-930-5779
Executive Board	Paul Hansen	<a href="#">N2QXB</a>	732-279-3911
Executive Board	Stan Stafiej	<a href="#">KB2PD</a>	732-270-5395
W2HC Trustee	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950

Membership is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required. Dues are \$25.00 per year; payable Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.  
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Let's take a look at some other learning methods:

### Studying Using Multiple, or all, Subelements

Several candidates have commented on their inability to use multiple sub-elements to create a study session or practice test session and have all the available questions displayed. A mistake on my part; it's possible to do but my explanation is vague.

Here is how to create a study or practice test session using multiple, or all, sub-elements.

Go to ham-cram.com and select either the Technician, General or Extra study session. We'll use the General study session for this example. Figure One shows the top of the General study session page.

This General question pool is effective on July 1, 2015 and expires on June 30, 2019			
<input type="text" value="35"/>	Number of question for this session. Enter "0" for all available subelement(s) questions. 35 is the number of questions on the VE test.		
Check to Include	Sub-element	Subelement Title	Question Count
<input type="checkbox"/>	All	All questions in the pool	203

Figure One

The text box in the upper left corner contains the number of questions on the actual test, which is 35 for Technician and General exam and 50 for the Extra exam. The first entry in the "Question Count" column is the total number of questions in the ham crams pool for that specific class of license. Select a listing for all questions in the specified ham cram pool by entering zero in the text box in the upper left corner. Next, check the first check box in the leftmost column. Lastly click on the button at the bottom of the page labeled, "Select one or more Sub-elements for Study."

This produces a listing of each question, followed by only the correct answer, for the entire question pool. Print the output so you have a complete listing of the entire question pool for your target license class. Take it with you, and you can study when you get a few spare minutes.

We learn from using our senses: What we see, hear and touch. We won't do much touching using the ham

cram site but we could use material from the Gordon West Radio School. Check it out at:

<http://www.gordonwestradioschool.com>

When you are using the ham cram study mode (Only questions likely to be on the VE test and only correct answers), read the questions and answers out loud so you are seeing the questions and answers as well as hearing them. Ideally, do the prep with a partner and have one person read the questions and the other read the answers. On the next pass have the person who previously read the questions read the answers, and the person who previously read the answers read the questions.

### Make an Audio Recording of a Study Session

When reading the questions and answers, as detailed above, record them so you can play them back when on a long drive – this is called a commute in California. If you make a recording of the entire question pool and are willing to share it with other people, email a copy and I'll put it on the ham-cram.com site with full attribution to you.

### Flash Cards

If you learn well using flash cards, you can easily make your own. Print out the full question pool for your target license as described above. Get several packs of 3 X 5 file cards and cut the printout into questions and answers. Tape or glue the question on one side of the card, and the answer on the reverse side.

When studying with flash cards, alternate between reading the questions out loud first, and then read the answers out loud. Next, read each question, and before reading the answer, try and remember the answer. Finally, read the answer and see if you can remember the question.

When you pass your target test (– notice I said when, not if –), make the cards available to other members of your club.

### Whatever Floats Your Boat

If you come up with any other creative ways of utilizing



the ham-cram.com database, please let me know.

### Anecdotes

All of the July anecdotes are based on my personal knowledge. There were likely many more I didn't know about. July was an interesting month. My nine-year grandson Charlie K3CPV passed his Technician after about a week of studying. His brother Will W3WKV aced the Technician test when 11 years old, and also aced the General when he was 12. Charlie is, to my knowledge, the youngest person to pass the Technician test using the W1UL ham cram method.

Also in July, a 78-year-old great-grandmother, I dare not use her name or call, aced the Technician. She became the oldest person, to my knowledge, to pass a test using the ham cram method.

I'm aware of three people who passed both the Technician and General exams at the same session. BTW, if you pass an exam at a VE session, you can take the next higher license with no additional fee. Again, to my knowledge, there are now 18 people who passed both the Technician and General at the same VE session, and only three who attempted both and didn't pass the General portion of the duet. All three passed the General at the next VE session. It's distinctly possible there may be many others that I don't know about.

I helped start an amateur radio club, W2SBP, at my high school Alma mater. We had nine student members who took their Technician, and seven passed. Additionally, of the seven who passed, three also passed their General. All of them had only three weeks to prep. A faculty member, Jon KD2LEN, went from no license to Extra in two weeks.

If you have some free time, consider working with a school radio club. It's very rewarding and we desperately need young people in the hobby. When you walk into the typical ham radio club meeting from the back, it looks like a box of Q-Tips.

I would truly be interested in your personal experiences with ham-cram.com.

We just recently passed 43,000 preparation sessions. Thanks to all of you who helped make that possible.

73 Urb W1UL [urb@w1ul.com](mailto:urb@w1ul.com) 609-937-5487

## Internet TV And Ham Radio

By Paul J Hansen N2QXB

Looking to learn more about Amateur Radio? Keeping up with the latest radios? Getting your Ham License. wanting to build something? Well you can do all of this and more by using the internet or by using a ROKU player or servers/ other players such as Apple TV, Amazon Fire etc. but the one that offers the most content is the ROKU Player. They range in cost from \$29.00 UP. Some of the older models will work on older TV's



### How do Roku players work?

Roku players connect directly to your TV (with HDMI® or composite cables), and to your home network to stream entertainment. You choose from a wide selection of streaming channels and put all your favorites in one place. There are hundreds of free channels, easy ways to buy or watch films from top providers, and no additional charges to watch streaming services like Netflix or Hulu if you already subscribe. And If you have cable, Roku brings new ways to watch based on your cable subscription.

### Can I watch all of my favorite TV shows and Ham Radio Programs?

Services like Hulu and Netflix® offer a variety of shows all on demand – some, as early as one day after airing. If you have cable, Roku players make it easy to catch up on past episodes or depending on your provider, to add select programming to any room without a new cable box.

How much does it cost to own a Roku player or internet TV devices?

There are no recurring fees for owning a Roku player. You choose what you want to watch and what you want to pay for. There are hundreds of free channels, subscription services like Netflix® and Hulu are under \$10 month, or you can rent or buy individual titles or series on demand. Your choice.

What kind of internet connection do I need?

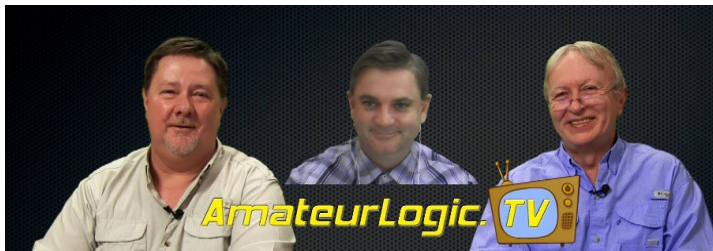
Roku players should work well with almost any broadband connection. We recommend a minimum of 3.0 Mbps for HD content (1.5Mbps for SD). But don't worry, the average speed in the US is about 10 Mbps or more.

[Click on the picture to take you to the MFG. site](#)

## TV Shows All About Ham Radio

Talk shows, mini-documentaries, forums and seminars, Hamfest coverage — programs for and about Amateur Radio. Free to watch, viewer supported.

### AmateurLogic



<http://www.amateurlogic.tv/blog/>

This site is available on Roku, UTube, Apple TV and the internet.

### HAM RADIO NOW



<http://hamradio.tv>

This program is available on U tube, internet

### HAM NATION

This program is on U tube, Twitt TV and the internet



<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>

There are many more sites that have great content so happy surfing



## Russ Young, WA2VQV DX Report



*Despite the poor band conditions and the need for indoor antennas, Russ reported that he worked EP2A, which is his 299<sup>th</sup> confirmed country. Most of them were on CW using indoor antennas!*

*Russ wrote:*

*I worked EP2A on 30M CW using the loop. No wire antennas now.*

*All of the 294 CW contacts were made with indoor antennas.*

*Of the 299 mixed all but three were worked on CW with indoor antennas. OK Czechoslovakia, DL West Germy and KZ5 Panama Canal Zone were worked in the early 1960s on 40M CW using a Gotham V-80 (23 feet of AL tubing with a big loading inductor at the base, fed with RG-59 75 OHM co-ax). It was mounted on a 25 foot abandoned telephone pole in my backyard in Brooklyn NY. I lived in a two family frame house and my landlord who lived downstairs said I looked like "a monkey on a stick" when I climbed the*

pole. My rig then was an EICO 720 kit that I built, 90W input to a 6146. All three of those entities are, of course, now deleted but still count towards the 299. The 299 also includes one PSK31 (H44 Solomon Is.) and one SSB (JX9 Jan Mayen Is.).

In Staten Island my rig (still the EICO 720) was on the top (3rd) floor and one leg of the 40M dipole went down the 3rd floor hall to a bedroom and wrapped around the bed on the floor. The other leg went down a flight of stairs into the living room below and snaked along the floor around the coffee table. When I shut the rig down every day I had to coil the dipole up and put it back in the room with the rig.

In Manahawkin NJ I had the 10, 15 & 20 M inverted Veeps in the attic and the Z shaped 40M dipole in the garage, as I think I told you.

On phone I have 194 confirmed on LoTW, all worked with the loop since 2008.

On Digital I have 192 confirmed on LoTW, all worked with indoor antennas. I think I had 96 confirmed on PSK31 when I moved here so they were done with the Manahawkin indoor dipoles, leaving 96 worked with the loop. Of the 96 worked with the loop some were with PSK31 (+ a couple with PSK63) but most using RTTY.

BTW, I never used a wire "T" antenna. When I jumped out the 40M dipole I fed one end into an MFJ 901 B Versatuner, effectively making it a 66 foot long wire for 80M. I had removed the RG-58 coax.

So that longwinded tale tells the story.

73, Russ. WA2VQV



**In August, Russ WA2VQV Worked:**

CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	MODE	BAND	ENTITY	IOTA	GRID	DIST	DIR
TF3IB	16-Aug-16	0030Z	CW	20M	ICELAND	EU-021	HG94bc	2759	NNE
CY9C	21-Aug-16	2324Z	CW	30M	ST. PAUL IS.	NA-094	FN97we	958	NE
CY9C	24-Aug-16	0127Z	RTTY	20M	ST. PAUL IS.	NA-094	FN97we	958	NE

**Some September Opportunities:**

Begin	End	Call	Entity	QSL via	Bands	Modes*	Grid	Miles	Dir	IOTA
Sep 10	Sep 17	5W0BOB	Samoa	VK2BOB Direct	40-20m	S	AH47aa	7200	W	OC-097
Sep 20	Sep 27	5W0JHQ	Samoa	LotW	160-30m	Cs	AH47aa	7200	W	OC-097
Sep 24	Oct 10	5Z4/IW5BBV	Kenya	IW5BBV	40-15m		KI88sm	7433	ENE	AF-040
Sep 28	Oct 04	A35JP/p	Tonga	JA0RQV			AG29ma	7693	W	OC-049
Sep 18	Sep 30	D66D	COMOROS	LotW			LH18ue	8219	E	AF-007
Sep 08	Sep 19	E51Q	South Cook Is.	LotW	160-10m	CSR	AH99mm	6514	W	OC-013
Sep 20	Sep 29	E6tba	Niue	LotW	160-10m	CSR	AH50bx	7348	WSW	OC-040
Sep 05	Sep 12	FK/F8FUA	NEW CALEDONIA	LotW	80-10m	CSR	RG38ma	8682	W	OC-032
Sep 24	Oct 03	H44GC	SOLOMON IS.	LotW	160-10	CSR	RI00ao	8511	WNW	OC-047
Sep 06	Sep 24	JT1XC &	Mongolia	LotW	80-10m	CSR	ON38ma	6361	N	
Aug 30	Sep 24	JTDBS	Mongolia	OK1DBS	80-10m		ON38ma	6361	N	
Sep 07	Sep 12	JW/SM7RYR	Svalbard	LotW	20m	C	JQ78wo	3526	NNE	EU-026
Sep 23	Oct 04	MD/DM2AUJ &	Isle of Man	LotW	80-10m	CSR	I074sa	3285	NE	EU-116
Sep 15	Sep 21	OY/ON4xxx	Faroe Is.	LotW	80-6m	SCPR	IP62ma	3117	NE	EU-018
Sep 24	Oct 08	S79KB	Seychelles	DL2SBY	40-10m	CSR	LI86aa	8477	ENE	AF-024
Sep 26	Oct 01	S9BT & S9WL	Sao Tome & Principe	EA3BT	40-6m	Scr	JJ30ah	5694	E	AF-023
Sep 27	Oct 04	T2R	TUVALU	LotW	80-10m	CSR	RI91hh	7513	W	OC-015
Sep 24	Oct 24	T30COW	W. KIRIBATI (GILBERT IS.)	KC0W Direct	160-6m	C	RI76ma	7491	W	OC-017
Sep 01	Sep 15	T32AZ	E. Kiribati (Line Is.)	KH6QJ	80-10m	CS	BI50aa	5925	WSW	OC-024
Aug 21	Sep 04	TK/MW1LCR/p	Corsica	eQSL	80-10m	SR	JN42ma	4164	ENE	EU-014
Sep 10	Sep 20	T05FP	St Pierre & Miquelon(FP)	LoTW			GN17sa	1014	NE	NA-032
Sep 12	Sep 29	V47JA	St.Kitts & Nevis	LotW	160-6m	S	FK87qh	1713	SSE	NA-104
Sep 25	Oct 15	VK9NZ	NORFOLK I.	LotW	160-6m	CSR	RG30xx	8893	W	OC-002
Sep 03	Nov 25	VP6AH	PITCAIRN I.	DL2AH	40-10m	SD	CG44ww	5756	SW	OC-044
Aug 25	Sep 03	VP6J	PITCAIRN I.	LotW	160-10m	CSR	CG44ww	5756	SW	OC-044
Aug 29	Sep 05	XX9TYT	MACAO	IW7EGQ	80-10m	S	OL72aa	8126	N	AS-075
Aug 20	Sep 21	YJ0COW	VANUATU	KC0W Direct	160-6m	C	RH42aa	8469	W	OC-035
"On Hold"		YX0V	AVES I.	W4DTA	40-6m	CS	FK85eq	1797	SSE	NA-020

\*Modes: C = CW, S = SSB, R = RTTY, D = Digital, P = PSK, lower case indicates less likely mode

### Decoding Canadian Call Signs

Most Canadian amateur callsigns start with VA or VE, but there are some exceptions, like those that begin with a C, and those that start VB, VC, VD, VF, or VG.

The Grid Codes shown here roughly indicate the center of the province.

First, some the less common ones:

V01	Newfoundland	G003aa	1124	NNE
V02	and Labrador	G003aa	1124	NNE
VY0	Nunavut	EQ43ma	3255	N
VY1	Yukon	CP24ma	2914	NW
VY2	Prince Edward I.	FN86mg	716	NE

VA1	Nova Scotia	FN85ma	673	NE
VA2	Quebec	F053aa	925	N
VA3	Ontario	E074ma	1093	NNW
VA4	Manitoba	E015ma	1474	NW
VA5	Saskatchewan	D075aa	1786	NW
VA6	Alberta	D025ma	2127	NW
VA7	Br. Columbia	C074ma	2517	NW
VE0	Maritime Mobile			At sea
VE1	Nova Scotia	FN85ma	673	NE
VE2	Quebec	F053aa	925	N
VE3	Ontario	E074ma	1093	NNW
VE4	Manitoba	E015ma	1474	NW
VE5	Saskatchewan	D075aa	1786	NW
VE6	Alberta	D025ma	2127	NW
VE7	Br. Columbia	C074ma	2517	NW
VE8	North West Terr	DP06ma	2494	NNW
VE9	New Brunswick	FN76aa	592	NE

## September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>HCARC Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	2	3 CW Open Contest (see cw ops.org)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 VHF Contest (see arrl.org)
11	12 Noon Get-together at the HC Diner	13	14 License Exams by our VE Team by Appointment	15	16	17 NJ QSO Party (k2td-bcrc.org/njqp)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 CQWW RTTY (cq-amateur-radio.com)
25	26 Noon Get-together at the HC Diner	27	28 Board Meeting 10:00am	29	30	