



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

February 2017

Toms River, NJ

## Amateur Radio Parity Act H.R.555

The House of Representatives has re-introduced the Amateur Radio Parity Act bill, which didn't get to a vote last year. Note the new number.

“H.R.555 - To direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes.”

The ARRL suggests that you urge your Congressman to support it.

*NJ Dist 3 (incl. Berkeley, Toms River, South Toms River):*

The Honorable Mr. Thomas MacArthur

506 Cannon House Office Bldg

Washington DC 20515-3003

*NJ Dist 4 (incl. Jackson, Lakewood, Manchester):*

The Honorable Mr. Christopher Smith

2373 Rayburn House Office Bldg

Washington DC 20515-3004

## Happy Birthday To:

LeFevre, Carl WA2IQE

Locke, Billy KD2MHA



## Happy Anniversary To:

Fred & Rose Fanizzo

Murray & Shirley Goldberg

Carl & Harriet LeFevre

Urb & Pat LeJeune

John & Nancy Rogers



## President's Corner

We are now making plans for field day with the 2 choices being having a HCARC field day at Whispering Pines Park in Berkeley or partnering with the Old Barney radio club.

At the January meeting 2 people expressed interest in holding our own field day. Due to the logistics of holding a field day, it was determined that we would need at least 6-8 people to work from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Some of the activities include setting up antennas, setting up radio equipment and plans for a possible picnic as well as securing the necessary permit (\$50 fee).

All this takes a commitment from the people that volunteer to make field day a success.

For 2017, field day will be held on June 24. We would like to have 2 to 3 radios set up with myself and Larry bringing one radio each to the event. Since we would like to finalize plans at the February meeting, we need everyone's input on what direction they want the club to go.

If you are unable to attend the February meeting, please contact Larry Puccio or myself before the February meeting if you would like to hold an HCARC field day.

The facilities at Whispering Pines park include a covered pavilion, bathrooms and electrical power.

For more information on field day go to

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday February 2 at 7:00 PM**  
**Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1**  
**Holiday City South Clubhouse A**  
**Santiago Drive at Mule Road**  
**Toms River, NJ**

## Mark Your Calendar



Whether you take your XYL out to lunch, or come by yourself, we'll be happy to see you at our luncheons at the Fortune Chinese Buffet on:

**March 8**, June 14, September 13, and November 8.

The Fortune Buffet is in the Marquee Mall on Rt 37W and St. Catherine Blvd.

Please let us know at the February meeting whether you'll be planning to join us there.

## Noon Lunch Schedule

February 13 Holiday City Diner, Mule Rd.

February 27 Lisa Restaurant, Route 37 at Mule Rd.

## Try Our 2-meter Net

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. WA2JWR Repeater 146.6550 (-.6, no PL req'd), linked to 146.880 (-.6, PL 94.8) in Brick, also 445.575 (-5, PL 94.8), and Echo link 330923.

## Increasing Club Membership

At the January 5th executive board meeting, suggestions for increasing club membership were discussed.

Some of the ideas were procuring a table at the Berkeley Pride day in September.

Holding an event at the St Maximilian Kolbe church and members taking an active role in promoting our club.

We also have club business cards with all the club information that you can give out to people that are interested in ham radio.

Any other ideas you may have contact any club officer or executive board member (see page 3 column 2).

## Robots Are The Future!

*A Presentation By Mike Libonati WA2ACV At Our February Meeting*



Since retiring in 2004, I started making toys and things to amuse the grandkids. This started me looking into the "Makers Movement" I subscribe to Makers magazine and found simple stuff to make that pleased me and the grandkids.

You will notice in the picture an air compressor rocket launcher, a bubblegum machine and a useless machine which I will bring to the demo.

I attended the Makers Faire in Flushing Meadow Park at the Flushing Hall of Science and I was hooked on robotics. A lot of my inspiration on how to make simple robots came from Youtube and purchasing robot kits.

*This demonstration will not be a Power Point presentation; it will be a real live hands-on affair where you can play with the robots as I explain a little about each one.*

And we will have a few words from my "Cousin Fritz. He is the good looking chap in the picture with the Mickey Mouse hat on. I hope y-all enjoy the show.

by Mike Libonati WA2ACV

## Meet John Roberts, KQ4WR

A Meet the Members article by Doug Poray KC2TZC

This month features a dedicated and an appreciated member of our club. John Roberts served as the president of the HCARC when the position was vacant. He provided the continuity required to allow the smooth operation of the organization. John not only performed the task of presidency without any objection but also maintained the responsibility of authoring the club newsletter, the Skyhook. The newsletter always contains interesting articles and the members look forward to each issue.



John spent his career working as both an electronic technician and an electronic engineer. He was first licensed in 1951, and holds Extra Class License KQ4WR. John utilizes two mobile rigs as home base stations, one being an ICOM IC-229A and the other a Realistic HTX-100. His antennas are installed on a temporary basis and feature a 2 meter vertical and a 10 meter dipole. He also has "mag-mount" antennas for these bands for mobile operation. John enjoys listening to CW on the 40 meter and 80 meter bands to help him keep in shape for field day.

His dad encouraged him to become interested in radio and introduced John to a friend who had a son around John's age and was a amateur whose present call sign is K1GZL. K1GZL is still active as an amateur and has quite an impressive "antenna farm" which can be seen at QRZ.com.

In the early days of his amateur involvement, John prided himself by home-brewing all of his ham equipment.

John put amateur radio on the back burner for 30 years. While living in Alabama, a phone call from his son Bill, announcing that he had received his license, prompted John to become licensed once again. John was so motivated that he passed five exams in one

morning. After practicing CW until 20 wpm was reality, John passed the Extra Class License Exam. When Bill made a contact with New Zealand, John was once again hooked on ham radio. Bill's current call sign is N9PQ.

The club is fortunate to have John as a member and looks forward to his involvement in future activities.

### Our VE Crew

Larry [K2QDY](#) (Liaison) 732-349-2950,  
Urb [W1UL](#), 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 <mailto:tonyk613@comcast.net>  
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.hcsrc.us](http://www.hcsrc.us)

President	Tony Kuzinski	<a href="#">KD2GSO</a>	732-930-5779
Vice President	Paul Hansen	<a href="#">N2QXB</a>	732-279-3911
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
Secretary	John Rogers	<a href="#">KD2HWR</a>	732-269-5717
	&/or	Marge Penn	<a href="#">KD2LNT</a> 732-736-5953
Executive Board	Doug Poray	<a href="#">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
Executive Board	John Roberts	<a href="#">KQ4WR</a>	732-350-1162 ext 33
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.  
Editor and Publisher:

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e-mail [KQ4WR@arrl.net](mailto:KQ4WR@arrl.net) 732 350-1162 ext 33

## Ocean County ARES® News



February, 2017

The Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> Tech trip to the Ocean County D-Star site was unsuccessful in getting the gateway to communicate with the Internet. Jim, W2YG, has spent numerous hours troubleshooting the problem and has finally found that OpenWRT firmware has to be used in the D-Star router and not DD-WRT. It would have been nice if D-Star installation instructions made this clear, but it is never mentioned. Due to some logistics, the Ocean County D-Star gateway PC will not be revisited until spring and I'm hopeful that the next effort will be successful in connecting.

The 145.170 repeater nets in January had some technical problems. We attempted to use Echolink and due to my inexperience with the program, we encountered some problems and confusion. In the future, WX2NJ will act as net control using the same transceiver as Echolink. The number of Echolink users was also too low and has been increased to eight. Jim, W2YG, checked in from Florida and his audio was superb. This is a good example of a properly configured PC running Echolink and a good PC microphone. Once we work out the details on the 145.170 repeater, my plan is to also activate Echolink when running the 449.825 repeater net also. This will allow anyone in Ocean County to participate in the net, no matter how weak they may be into the repeater. They can use Echolink on their PC or cell phone. Once again, the node is 783879 or search for repeater WA2RES-R.

There will be no Ocean County ARES meeting in February. If you remember from last year, we had very poor attendance several years in a row due to weather and illness and it was decided not to have February meetings any longer. The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be in April and will be announced fully in the March 2017 ARES News.

Finally, there will be a Ham Cram session on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bayville First Aid Squad. If you are interested in sending someone or you are looking to upgrade, contact Holger, K2HES for details and registration.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## License Exam Session Report



Our January 11th VE Session was attended by four VEs: Tony Kuzinski, Paul Hansen, John Roberts and Larry Puccio.

This month, we had one candidate, Mark Mittleman from Freehold NJ.

Mark had called and had made an appointment to take the Tech grade test. He arrived at 6:45 PM and began filling out the required FCC 605 form, and then took the test.

By 7:05 PM, Mark had finished the written test and had successfully passed the examination. His new call is KD2MQF .

As a successful applicant, Mark was advised that he had a free one year membership in the Holiday City ARC.

We wish Mark well and hope to see him back for his General Class test soon.

## Dues Were Due January 1



Our Deussen is blushing again, because we hate to ask. Please contact our Treasurer, Larry Puccio K2QDY, 22 Sabinas St, Toms River NJ 08757-6153, 732-349-2950, if you need to "pay up".

## My “Worked All States” Love Affair - Part One

By Urb LeJeune W1UL

### Introduction

The ARRL's Worked All States (WAS) award is the most popular award among ham radio operators worldwide. The League's DX Century Club (DXCC) is the second most popular award.

The Worked All States Club was first announced in QST in January 1936, during the same period as the DXCC award was being developed. Except for not offering endorsements, the rules were substantially similar to those used today. However, an operator was required to be in the same location for all contacts. (Currently one can move up to 50 miles away.) Initially, there were only 48 states – the lower 48 – until 1959 when Alaska and Hawaii entered the Union. Unlike DXCC, WAS did not start fresh after World WW II and earlier contacts remained valid. Over time the certificate has undergone changes to make it more colorful. The WAS award is an especially attractive certificate.

If you could use some focus in your ham radio activities consider a quest for both WAS and DXCC. For the sake of this article, we'll concentrate on the WAS award. I have found from my personal experience that when I have a goal, my ham radio activity increases. For me, the more difficult the goal, the greater the satisfaction when the quest is completed.

### My First WAS Journey

My first year and a half as a ham consisted of getting on the air when I got home from high school, and “hamming” until dinner time. My first rig was a home-brew crystal controlled transmitter operating exclusively on 40 meters. During my first year and a half on the air, I never worked a station west of the Mississippi River from my QTH in northern New Jersey.

One night in mid-1951 I woke up about 2 AM with a toothache and couldn't get back to sleep. I turned on my rig, fully expecting no one to be on at such an ungodly hour, and low and behold, I worked Montana, Washington state, and California in fairly rapid succession. I was elated and suddenly a WAS appeared very difficult but possible. The year was 1950 and Alaska and Hawaii were not yet states. WAS, then as now, required confirmation of communications with all states. Six years after the eventful “toothache night”, I finally worked Utah to complete my WAS.

There were two years away from my home rig during active duty military service.

### Who can Work All States?

Almost anyone. Many operators have achieved WAS with 5 watts and an indoor antenna. One caveat; a Technician Class license holder can only operate HF phone on 10 meters. Unfortunately, we are approaching a minimum in the current sunspot cycle, during which years 10 meters is virtually useless.

From a practical standpoint, if you hold a Technician license and want to pursue a WAS you will have to do one or two things:

1. Learn Morse Code.
2. Upgrade to General.

If you learn Morse code you can operate CW in the old Novice portions of 80, 40, and 15 meter bands.

If you choose to learn Morse Code there are two really good, and free, programs:

1. *Just Learn Morse Code* at <http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com>
2. The G4FON Koch Trainer at <http://www.g4fon.net/CW%20Trainer.htm>

The G4FON is more versatile and my personal favorite.

If you choose to upgrade to General please check out my Ham Cram website, which has three distinguishing characteristics:

1. Don't study incorrect answers.
2. Only study the questions most likely to be on the VE test.
3. It's totally FREE

Study smarter, not harder is my mantra.

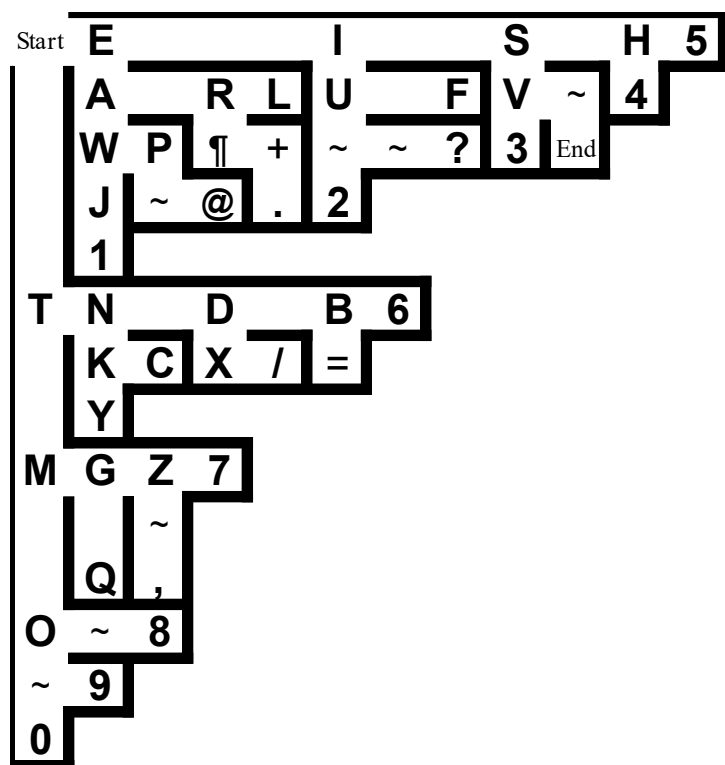
The quickest path to upgrading your license is at

<http://ham-cram.com> .

## Some Rare DX Coming

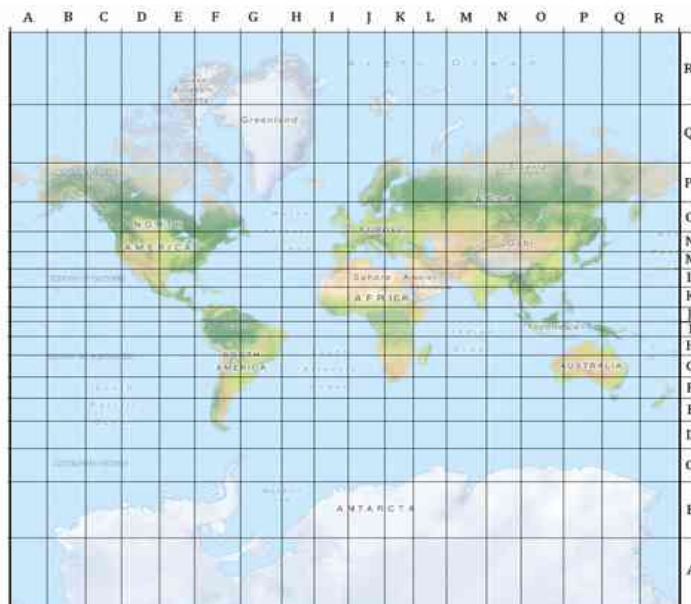
CALL	ENTITY	C	ITU	CQ	GRID	MILES	DIR
9N7EI	NEPAL	AS	42	22	NL27mm	7592	NNE
CE0Y	EASTER I.	SA	63	12	DG52hv	5158	SSW
CE0Z	JUAN F. IS.	SA	14	12	FF06oi	5097	S
FO/a	AUSTRAL IS.	OC	63	32	BG66dd	6462	WSW
TL8TT	CTRL AFRICA	AF	47	36	JJ94am	6142	E
XX9D	MACAO	AS	44	24	OL72aa	8126	N
YJ	VANUATU	OC	56	32	RH42aa	8469	W

## A Morse Decoder Chart



This chart is not practical for Morse Code, which you have to learn by hearing. But to use the chart, begin each character with your stylus or cursor at "Start". For each **dot**, move to the **right** to the next item, and for each **dash**, move **down** to the next item below. For example, to decode "...-" ('V'), move (from "Start") to the right to the 'E' (for the first dot). Then right to the 'I' for the next, right again to the 'S', then down to the 'V', and you're done. The '~' items aren't Morse characters, but are needed in the chart, so you will count them as items. The '+' and '=' are not used as math, but have other purposes.

## DX Advice



The most important rule is Listen, Listen, Listen. You can learn a lot just by listening.

Most DX stations don't still need to work New Jersey, so don't waste time calling "CQ DX". Your chances of working DX are much better by answering a CQ from a DX station.

Although most DX stations speak English, their accent may be different from yours, so speak clearly and slowly, avoid uncommon words, and always use the standard NATO phonetic alphabet for your call sign.

Remember that the DX station may not be listening on his own frequency, but rather 1 to 5 kHz higher or lower (usually higher), where you will find stations giving just their call signs, over and over again. That's called a *Pileup*. You need to transmit on the pileup frequency, but receive on the DX station's frequency, so learn to use the A/B switch of your transceiver.

Use the least receiving bandwidth necessary. It's time to read the instruction manual that came with your radio.

If the station you're trying to hear sounds chopped up or garbled, try reducing the sensitivity by using the receiver's input attenuator. The distortion may be being caused by overload from a stronger signal.

A copy of *THE ARRL OPERATING MANUAL* is well worth the investment.

## The Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net

"Great News....The Saint Maximilian Kolbe Net has expanded to 20 meters in order to make contacts in Europe. [The] new net meets every Sunday on 14.341 kHz at 2100Z. Net Control is K3QNT and N6CMY as alternate. Below is [the] updated web site with the new information both nets:

75 Meter Net on 3814 kHz at 2400Z Sundays

20 Meter Net on 14.341 at 2100Z Sundays

<http://www.saintmaxnet.org/>

From: [http://yo4px.blogspot.ro/2013/08/maximilian-kolbe-sfantul-patron-al\\_20.html](http://yo4px.blogspot.ro/2013/08/maximilian-kolbe-sfantul-patron-al_20.html) (via Internet)

## Do You Have Suggestions?

The Executive Board is always looking for ways to improve the Club. If you have an idea that might help, tell us about it. We're all listed on page 3, column 2.

## The International Phonetic Alphabet

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Gulf, Hotel, India, Juliet ("JEW-lee-et"), Kilo, Lima ("LEE-mah"), Mike, November, Oscar, Papa ("pa-PAH"), Quebec ("keh-BEK"), Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor, Whiskey, Xray, Yankee, Zulu. (Normal American English pronunciation, except as noted, will do nicely.)

Zero, One, Two, Three, Four ("FOE-wer"), Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Niner ("NINE-er").

## February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 HCARC Meeting 7pm *	3	4
5	6	7 HCARC Net at 7pm 146.655	8 License Exams (by Appointment)	9	10	11
12	13	14 HCARC Net at 7pm 146.655	15 (No OC ARES meeting)	16	17	18 ARRL IDX Contest (CW)
19 ARRL IDX Contest (CW)	20	21 HCARC Net at 7pm 146.655	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 HCARC Net at 7pm 146.655		*Exec Board meets Feb 2 at 5:30pm		