



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

January 2019

Toms River, NJ

## Happy New Year To All



Dust off that old J-38. It's Straight Key Night.

## Straight Key Night



See page 3 for details.

## Meet Anthony Manus KD2RBZ



Anthony Manus, a new member of the HCARC, passed his Tech license early in December, and his new call is KD2RBZ.

Anthony is now studying for his General class license. Welcome aboard.

## Happy Birthday To:



Murray Goldberg, KD2IN, celebrating his 98<sup>th</sup>,  
and to  
Ed Picciuti, W1EAP.

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

## Southern New Jersey ARES Team Assists In Missing-Person Search

11/14/2018

Ocean County, New Jersey, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers recently assisted search groups looking for a man with dementia who was reported missing on November 2 from a nursing home in Stafford Township.

Searches concentrating on neighborhoods around the nursing home had been unsuccessful. The missing man's family organized a search for November 10, and Ocean County ARES was invited to participate.

Ocean County ARES EC Bob Murdock, WX2NJ, had been informed that the search would focus on a wooded area. Tim Tonnesen, NJ2N, was instrumental in contacting the local authorities and working with the family and search teams to organize a search plan, while Murdock looked after the communications technical side and personnel.

Temperatures had dropped overnight to around 32° F, and it had rained considerably the night before.

ARES established a net control station at a nearby park, where power, shelter, and rest facilities were available.

The search teams were made up of volunteers from the community — more than 140 in all — and the ARES team agreed to coordinate communication among search groups. Ocean County ARES supplied nine radio operators. A VHF repeater proved unreliable for use with handheld transceivers, and communication ultimately took place using a UHF repeater in Toms River, maintained by Ocean County ARES members.

Topographical maps were used to plot out the search areas. By 1 PM, the individual had not been located. ARES members assisted in making sure all volunteers had been accounted for.

The search continued that afternoon, without success, and volunteers returned to the rallying point.

While the groups continue hoping for the man's safe recovery, volunteer Mike Daly, KC2SBR, said the ARES volunteers' efforts showed practical experience after the search "got pulled together rather quickly and somewhat ad hoc," with team members having to adjust to changing circumstances, something "no book can teach."

— Thanks to ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Preiser, N2XW

## Larry Puccio K2QDY's DX Report

DX worked in December 2018:

Callsign	Entity	Band	Grid	Miles	Dir
HB9CVQ	Switzerland	30m	JN37ma	3920	NE
E70T	Bosnia Herz.	30m	JN94aa	4485	NE
HB0/DL5YM	Switzerland	30m	JN47sa	4026	NE
S57V	Slovenia	30m	JN76hc	4269	NE
IZ20XG	Italy	20m	JN62ma	4343	ENE
VP6DI	DUCIE I	30m	CG75oh	5528	SW
9A3SMS	Croatia	20m	JN75sd	4341	NE
H7/RM0F	Nicaragua	30m	EK72aa	2060	SSW
LZ2FL	Bulgaria	40m	KN12pq	4757	NE
I1MMR	Italy	40m	JN62ma	4343	ENE
OK1CF	Czech Rep	80m	J070ec	4127	NE
HG2DX	Hungary	80m	JN97nm	4403	NE
S51IV	Slovenia	80m	JN76hc	4269	NE
LZ1ZF	Bulgaria	80m	KN12pq	4757	NE
ES3AX	Estonia	80m	KO29ma	4207	NE

All on CW.

## FCC Amateur Radio License Exams



Our VE team gives exams for Technician, General and Extra Class licenses at 7:00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, unless there are no applicants.

Call Larry Puccio at 732-349-2950 for an appointment.

## December Holiday Party



## Straight Key Night

New Years Eve from 7pm to 7am is Straight Key Night, so dust off that old J-38 and give CW a try. We'll try to send at whatever speed you send at. Just call CQ SKN DE \_\_\_\_ (whatever your callsign is).

### Our VE Crew

Larry [K2QDY](#) (Liaison) 732-349-2950,  
 Urb [W1UL](#), John [KQ4WR](#), Stan [KB2PD](#), Steve [N2WLH](#),  
 Murray [KD2IN](#), Paul [N2QXB](#), Larry [WA2VLR](#), Tony [KD2GSO](#).  
 License exams are given by appointment at 6:30pm 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 an appointment.

*Directions:* From either Route 37 W or Davenport Road, take Mule Road to Santiago Drive. Clubhouse A is the building nearest the street corner.

### CLUB COMMITTEES

*Refreshments:* Tony [KD2GSO](#) 732-930-5779  
*Webmaster:* Steve [N2WLH](#) N2WLH@yahoo.com  
*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)

<b>President</b>	<b>John Sawina</b>	<a href="#">NA2R</a>	908-625-5622
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Billy Locke</b>	<a href="#">KD2MHA</a>	732 281-0151
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John Perry</b>	<a href="#">KD2NDY</a>	732-349-2705
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Larry Puccio</b>	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>Doug Poray</b>	<a href="#">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>John Roberts</b>	<a href="#">KQ4WR</a>	732-966 4665
<b>W2HC Trustee</b>	<b>Larry Puccio</b>	<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, except December.

*Location:* Meeting Room #1 in the Holiday City South Clubhouse A.  
*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@arri.net](mailto:KQ4WR@arri.net) 732 966 4665



## Ocean County ARES® News

– January, 2019

Thanks to all that attended the 2018 Ocean County ARES Holiday Party/Meeting at the Ocean County EOC on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Tom, N2XW, surprised WX2NJ with an ARRL Elmer Award and presented it to him at the party. I'm humbled by the award and can think of many operators in Ocean County who would also deserve it.



*Photo by N2QXB*

Additionally, Tom will be our new Section Manager (SM) on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, so join me in congratulating him. Ocean County ARES is also looking for a volunteer to serve as a Public Information Officer (PIO). This position was discussed at the meeting. Position requirements can be viewed at:  
<http://www.arrl.org/public-information-officer>

I recently learned that Facebook members can designate a charity to donate money to during an event like your birthday. If you select Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service as your charity, any money raised by you is directly transferred to the charity of your choice on a quarterly time table. We received a check this month from Network for Good for donations this last quarter, all from birthday donations on Facebook.

Just a reminder that there will be no meeting during the month of February. We do this because winter weather usually causes low attendance. Instead of the meeting, and depending on the weather, we may try and have another fox hunt in February. Obviously it would be during the daylight hours in bright sunshine with no concerns for black ice. I'll keep everyone informed.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a New Year!

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC



*2018 Ocean County ARES Party*

## I Now Have A Piece Of Gear Smarter Than I Am



By Urb LeJeune W1UL, urb@ham-cram.com

### Introduction:

I'm in my 69th year as a ham and I have seen technology creep ahead. To wit, SSB took 5 year to go from the first article in QST to mainline usage. On the other hand, FT8 took only a few months to go from a Joe Taylor, K1JT, dream to become the most popular mode for ham radio communications. At the suggestion of my good friend John Sawina, NA2R I purchased a MFJ-993B automatic antenna tuner, and it's smarter than I am. However that's a fairly low IQ bar.

Currently, my primary rig is a Yaesu FTdx3000. It's a very nice rig but it shares a common deficiency; the internal antenna tuner is problematic. On 80 meters the rig would output at most 15 watts when trying to tune an optimized G5RV. At age 86, I'm too old to try and work 80 meter DX with 15, so I was ripe to get the automatic antenna tuner that John had suggested.

Arthur Clarke was a noted science fiction writer and the co-writer of "2001 A Space Odyssey." He had three adages, the third became famous, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." I played around with antenna tuners for six decades. Most had two capacitors and an inductor, and all three were variable. Not only were there three variable components, they were interactive. Change one, and the other two required tweaking. When presented with a tuner with no knobs, it was not only magic, it was smarter than me.

### MFJ-993B Features:

Automatically matches antennas with impedances of 6 to 1600 ohms or 6 to 3200 ohms

Handles 300 watts, matches 6 to 1600 ohms, or 150

watts, matches 6 to 3200 ohms.

Tunes in less than 15 seconds, typically less than 5 seconds

Over 20,000 non-volatile memories for tuner settings

Four memory banks per antenna, with over 2500 memories per bank

Highly efficient switching L-network matching circuit

1.8 to 30 MHz continuous frequency coverage

Adjustable target SWR 1.0 to 2.0; default is 1.5

Lighted cross-needle SWR/wattmeter with high, low, and auto range options

Multifunction backlit LCD display with contrast control

Numeric reading for SWR, forward and reflected power

Audio SWR meter with volume control

Built-in frequency counter for remembering frequency-specific matching values

Two SO-239 coax fed antenna connectors

Connector for random wire or single wire antenna

Built-in 4:1 current balun for balanced line antennas

Optional remote control

Optional radio interface cables for compatible radios

### Initial Start-up:

First, connect the tuner to a 12-15 VDC voltage source capable of supplying at least 1 amp.

For each band you must start at about 25 watts input. When you start your first band at 25 watts, the relay-clicking sounds like it is about to shake the unit apart. Next go to full power and tune. Repeat this process for all bands used. You can tune several frequencies in each band so the correct settings are stored in memory. From that point on, tune-up at or near the same frequency is lightning fast.

### Ongoing Operation:

The tuner lets you rapidly tune unbalanced, balanced or single wire antennas automatically. There is an antennas switch for two antennas. Search algorithms produce fast automatic tuning with more than 20,000 non-volatile memories. A maximum of 256 values of

inductance and 256 values of capacitance are available. With the capacitance switched between the input and output side, that's 131,072 L/C tuning combinations.

The tuner learns and remembers; it automatically adjusts for minimum SWR and remembers the frequency and tuner settings, which are stored in non-volatile memory. The next time operation takes place on, or close to, a previously used frequency, the tuner settings are instantly restored and you're ready to operate in milliseconds. Each of two antenna selections has four banks of memory which can learn and remember more than 2500 frequencies and tuner settings per bank.

### Epilogue:

The MFJ-993B manual is available at:

<https://www.mfjenterprises.com/support.php>

The tuner sells for \$218.95 with free shipping and no sales tax from Ham Radio Outlet in Delaware

<https://www.hamradio.com>

It will not tune a piece of string or a wet noodle, but it comes close. The internal antenna tuner on my FTdx300 would not tune a modified G5RV to 80 meters. With the MFJ-993B, it tuned the entire band with a 1.5:1 to 1.7 SWR.

It a great accessory for any ham shack. If you're running more than 300 watts get the 993B's big brother.

## Q-Signals

By John Roberts KQ4WR

Decades ago, shipboard CW operators saved considerable time and effort by using 3-letter codes to represent commonly used questions and answers. They also had the big advantage of meaning exactly the same thing in any language.

These codes all begin with a "Q", for "question", when followed by a question mark, or the answer to a question, when without the question mark. For example, to ask "What is your current latitude and longitude?", they would simply send "QTH?", and the other station might respond with something like "QTH 39 57 29 N 74 14 35 W".

They should not be used on phone, where Q-signals are rarely necessary, and often mis-understood.

Here are some question & answer examples. These are very loosely translated, and not official definitions:

QRL? = Are you busy?

QRL = We're busy, don't interrupt

QRM? = Is my signal being Messed with?

QRM 3 = Moderate interference (scale of 1 to 5; 1 = nil, 3 = moderate, 5 = extreme)

QRN? = Are you being bothered by Natural interference?

QRN 2 = Light "static" on your signal (scale of 1 to 5)

QRO? = Should I increase Output power?

QRO = Increase your Output power

QRP? = May I Reduce Power?

QRP = Reduce Power (usually means 5 watts or less)

QRS? = Should I send Slower?

QRS 13 = Slow down to 13 word per minute

QRQ? = Should I send faster (Quicker)?

QRQ 25 = Try sending 25 words a minute

QRT? = May I Quit sending?

QRT = Let's call it a day

QRV? = Are you set up and ready?

QRV = I'm set up and ready

QRX? = When will you call me again?

QRX 0045Z on 3508 = I'll call you at 0045 UTC on 3508 kHz

QRZ? = Who is calling me?

QRZ W1UL 7013 = W1UL is calling you on 7013 kHz

QSB? = Is my signal fading?

QSB = Your signal is fading

QSK? = Can your hear my signal while you're sending?

QSK = I can hear you between my words

QSL? = Can you Send a Letter as proof of this contact?

QSL = I'll verify this contact with a QSL card (or LoTW)

QSO? = Can you contact \_\_\_ ?

QSO = I can contact \_\_\_\_

QSY? = Shall I Shift frequenCY?

QSY 1 = Increase your frequency by 1kHz

QTH? = What is your location?

QTH Toms River NJ = I'm in Toms River NJ

Obviously it's not a good idea to use language that the intended listener doesn't understand.

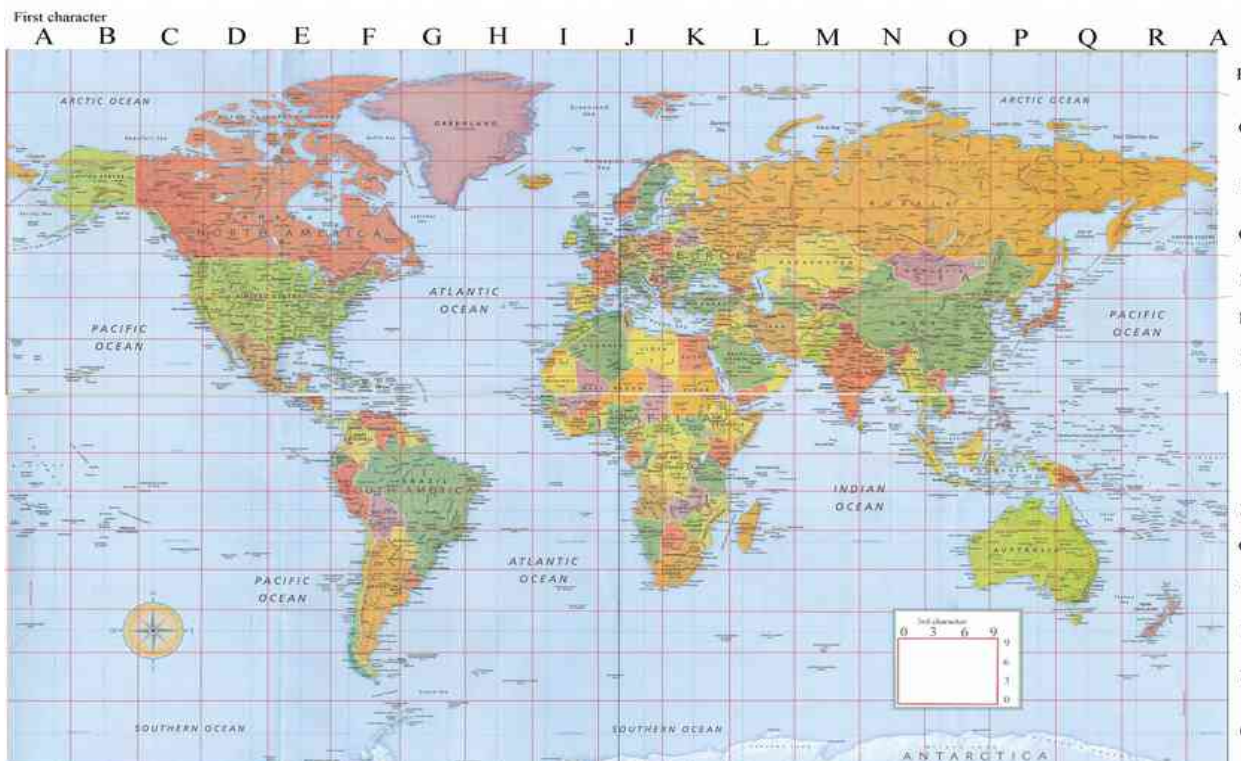


**Some DX Opportunities**

Many thanks to Bill Fiedt, NG3K, for much of the data compilation from various sources. See NG3K.com for more info.

Mode codes: 8 = JT8 C = CW, D = Digital, J = JP4, P=PSK31, R = RTTY, S = SSB, T=SSTV. Lower case = "maybe also".

Start	Finish	Call	Entity	IOTA	Bands	Modes	Grid	Miles	Dir	Source
Soon!		3Y0I	BOUVET I	AN-002	HF	C,S,8	JD15qn	7969	SE	DX news
Jan 05	Jan 12	5K6RM	Columbia		All	C,S,D	FJ25gb	2413	S	ARL DXB
Jan 09	Jan 21	9LY1JM	Sierra Le	AF-037	160-10m	C,S,R,P,8	IJ38jm	4318	ESE	DXW Net
Jan 18	Feb 14	9X2AW	Rwanda		HF	C,S,R,8	KI58ab	7064	E	TDDX
Now	Feb 28	DP1POL	ANTARCTIC	AN-016	80-10m	C,D	IB59uh	8309	SSE	ARL DXB
Now	???	E51DWC	S. Cook I	OC-013	160-10m	C,S,R	AH99mm	6514	W	ARL DXB
Jan 14	Jan 31	FG/F6ITD	Guadeloupe	NA-102	80-6m	C,S,dig	FK96eg	1807	SSE	TDDX
Dec 18	Feb 10	FK/F60BD	NEW CALEDONIA	OC-032	80-10m	D	RG28ps	8746	W	DX News
Now	Feb 27	FR/F1TCV	Reunion I		30-17m	R,P,8	LG74sa	9227	E	ARL DXB
Jan 01	Aug 15	H31A (HP)	Panama		80-10m	S,R,8	FJ09fa	2161	S	ARL DXB
Jan 13	Jan 25	HC8GET	Galapagos	SA-004	30-10m		EI47pf	3001	SSW	TDDX
Dec 31	Jan 13	HI6/DK1FY	Dominican	NA-096	40-10m	C,S,dig	FK49pa	1464	S	DK1FY
Now	Jan 10	HS0ZLS	Thailand	AS-101	80-10m	C,s	OK03gt	8711	N	ARL DXB
Now	Jan 10	HS0ZNR	Thailand	AS-101	80-10m	C,s	OK03gt	8711	N	ARL DXB
Jan 24	Jan 31	IH9/LZ1UQ	Italy	AF-018	160-10m		JM55xu	4517	ENE	TDDX
Jan 24	Jan 31	IH9/LZ1PM	Italy	AF-018	160-10m		JM55xu	4517	ENE	TDDX
Dec 17	Jan 02	JD1BMH	OGASAWARA	AS-031	160-10m	C,S,R	QL07mm	7256	NNW	DX News
Jan 01	Mar 21	KG4AY	Guantanamo Bay		80-10m	S	FK29kv	1386	S	ARL DXB
Dec 25	Feb 15	RI1ANV	ANTARCTIC	AN-016			OB31km	9781	S	ARL DXB
Now	Jan 06	S511PMC	Slovenia				JN76hc	4269	NE	ARL DXB
Jan 05	Feb 02	S79AA	Seychelles	AF-119	160-10m	C,S	LI86aa	8477	ENE	TDDX
Jan 25	Jan 28	T88PB	Palau	OC-009	160m	C	PJ77fi	8696	NW	TDDX
Now	Mar 16	TR8CR	Gabon		80-17m	C,S	JJ40mm	5843	E	TDDX
???	???	TZ4AM	Mali		160-20m		IK52xo	4420	E	ARL DXB
Now	May 15	V31AX	Belize	NA-073			EK57um	1764	SSW	ARL DXB
Jan 08	Jan 20	V47UR	St Kitts	NA-104	160-6m	C,S	FK87pf	1717	SSE	TDDX
Jan 04	Jan 14	VI25AJI	Australia				PF94rs	10581	W	ARL DXB
Now	Feb 28	VI70MDRC	Australia		160m-23cm	C,S,R,8	WF22mb	10344	W	ARL DXB
Now	Mar xx	VK0AI	MACQUARIE	AN-005	80-10m		QD95lm	9826	SW	ARL DXB
Dec 25	Jan 08	YJ0AFU	VANUATU	OC-035	160-6m	8,c,s	RH43am	8407	W	TDDX
Now	Jun 16	Z81D	SOUTH SUDAN		80-10m	S,D,8	KJ54tu	6836	ENE	425DXN
Jan 17	Jan 20	ZF2PG	Cayman I	NA-016	160-10m	S	EK99sm	1460	SSW	425DXN
Jan 17	Jan 29	ZL7/JA0JHQ	CHATHAM I	OC-038	160, 40-6m	C,8	AE16sa	8589	WSW	425DXN



January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Happy New Year 2019	2	3 HCARC Meeting See page one	4	5
6	7 Noon Lunch @ Lisa's	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Breakfast 9AM @Holiday City Diner	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Noon Lunch @Holiday City Diner	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Breakfast 9AM @Holiday City Diner	29	30	31		

## The Band Plans

### Get-Togethers News

Calendar items from Tony Kuzinski, KD2GSO

You're welcome to join us for "Get-Togethers":

1/7 Lunch at Lisa's Restaurant, Rt 37W at Mule Rd.

1/14 Breakfast at Holiday City Diner, Mule Rd.

1/21 Lunch at Holiday City Diner, Mule Rd.

1/28 Breakfast at Holiday City Diner, Mule Rd.

A handy chart is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Band%20Chart/Band%20Chart%20-%2011X17%20Color.pdf>.

Within those band limits, usage of the individual bands is detailed in the first several SKYHOOK Newsletters of 2013. Just click in the Newsletter link near the top center of our **www.hcarc.us** main page. Or, you can search the internet under "radio amateur band plans", but beware of what you might find.

A link to FCC Part 97:

<http://www.arrl.org/part-97-text>