

# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

January 2020

Toms River, NJ

## The President's Message



I hope everyone is staying warm during this cold spell.



I want to thank all the members and spouses who came to the Holiday Party. A good time was had by all.

**At the next club meeting we will be talking about SDR radio and web sdr's.**

I want to thank Matt, K3MR for his talk on programming DMR radios.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Joyous holiday season and a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

73,

Carl

w2ptz

## Holiday Luncheon

Our annual holiday luncheon was held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Italy's Best restaurant located in Lakehurst, NJ. The luncheon was attended by 20 club members and wives. The lunch started at 2:00 PM, and people were still socializing at 5:00 PM. The menu consisted of Veal, Chicken and Eggplant. We were also served sliced pizza, bread, salad, coffee or tea and Tiramisu. For the bulk of the lunch we had a private lunch room, but it was a long table and people could only speak to others near them. Round tables would have been better.

Everyone said it was a great time and enjoyed the meal and social interaction.

## VE Session



Our monthly VE session was held on Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00 P.M. The VE members were Steve Jackson, Tony Kuzinski, John Roberts and Larry Puccio. We had one applicant, club member Anthony Nardini (now KD2TEG), who took the Tech grade test and passed. Anthony is now going to study for the General class license.

If you feel the need to upgrade, or know someone who would like to become a "ham", see page 3 column 2 for details, and contact Larry Puccio.

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

## Ocean County ARES® News

-January 2020

Thanks to all who attended the 2019 Ocean County ARES Holiday Party and Meeting on December 18 at the Ocean County EOC. We had a total of 23 people show up for the party and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Tom, N2XW, gave away several ARRL 2020 calendars as door prizes and he also provided enough ARES Field Resources Manuals (Blue Cover) for everyone who wanted one.



*2019 Ocean County ARES Holiday Party*

Since the last Wednesday in December is Christmas and the First Wednesday in January is New Year Day, all ARES training nets will be suspended until the Second week of January 2020. On January 8 the Skywarn Training Net will be at 8:00 PM with the regular ARES Training Net at 8:30 PM. There will be no NBEMS training net until January 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, January 21<sup>st</sup> is the first VE Session for Ocean County ARES and those interested in taking an exam are reminded to make an appointment with N2LD. Contact him via VE at WA2RES dot com.

The next Southern New Jersey Section offering of the "Introduction to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications" will be held in Atlantic County starting January 7<sup>th</sup> 2020. The course will consist of four instructional sessions on January 7, 14, 21, 28 and final assessment administered on February 4. Instructional sessions are scheduled to start at 6 pm and end by 9 pm. The final assessment is scheduled to

start at 6 pm and end when you have completed the exam, grading and receive completion certificate.

The location will be the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center, 5033 English Creek Ave., Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234.

Registration should be completed as soon as possible, so that course participant guides can be sent prior to the start of the course.

Anyone interested in attending should send their name, call, and email address to WB2ALJ at arrl dot net.

*Photo by WB2ALJ*

Please Note: This is the only ARRL/ARES course required for Level II and ICS course. Prerequisites are not required to take the classroom offering of the course.

Any questions should be addressed to WB2ALJ.

WX2NJ and N2LD are actively working on restoration of the 145.170 repeater following painting of the Manchester Water Tank. We are looking at having the repeater back to normal condition early 2020.

Thank you for your service to amateur radio emergency communications and Happy Holidays.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## BaoFeng Handhelds



*A Hand-held Transceiver*

If you bought (or were given) a BaoFeng handheld transceiver, you probably already know that they do not meet the FCC requirements for spectral purity when transmitting on the 144-148 MHz (2-meter) amateur band.

At the BaoFeng website, Amcrest, formerly known as Foscam, warns that there are also counterfeits.

If you have one, or are still interested in getting one, be sure to read the article on page 60 of January QST.

I believe you would be better off with one from a company with an established reputation like Yaesu, Wouxun, Kenwood, Icom or Alinco.

-John Roberts, KQ4WR

## Straight Key Night



For many amateur radio operators, it's a tradition to get down to basics.

That means putting aside the computer, the microphone, and even the iambic paddle and Vibroflex bug.

While many people are busy celebrating the last day of the year at parties, many amateur radio operators prefer to get on the air using devices which are electronically equal to a door bell button.

So get out your old J-38, it's brass pounding time.

Dahdahdidlit Didlydahdahdah.

### Our VE Crew

Larry [K2QDY](#) (Liaison) 732-349-2950,  
 Urb [W1UL](#), John [KQ4WR](#), Stan [KB2P](#), Steve [N2WLH](#),  
 Larry [WA2VLR](#), Tony [KD2GSO](#), Matt [K3MR](#)

*License exams are given by appointment at 7:00pm 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:* Marge [KD2LNT](#) pearl1122@comcast.net  
*Webmaster:* Steve [N2WLH](#) N2WLH@yahoo.com  
*Programs:* (open)  
*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>Carl Lee</b>	<a href="#">W2PTZ</a>	732 575-7558
<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 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:

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 e-mail [KQ4WR@arrl.net](mailto:KQ4WR@arrl.net) 732 966 4665

## Wall Warts

What's a Wall Wart, and might it be your problem?

Wall Wart is slang for an AC Adapter that is intended to plug directly onto an electrical outlet, to supply low voltage DC power to a household item. I'm sure you have several taking residence on your electrical outlets. You may even find them on a power strip you had to buy because they took up so much space on your outlets.

They supply power to your telephone, TV cable box, computer printer, computer, kitchen gadget, etc. They are inexpensive, and usually come as accessory parts.

The FCC used to require such gadgets to meet FCC regulations, but it's been decades since they actually enforced those regulations.

I was reminded of the problem when Larry Puccio found one to be a major source of HF interference at his home. So even strong signals were getting the same bad signal-to-noise ratio he used to get from weak ones. He located the main troublemaker by using a battery-operated radio and shutting off the power one breaker at a time.

Replacing the small modern "chopper" type wall warts with older but larger simpler ones can help a lot, as it's the harmonics of the chopper frequency that cause the problem.

## Get-Togethers

The schedule for our Get-Together group is:

Jan. 6 Noon Lunch at Lisa's Pizza Restaurant  
 Jan. 13 9:00 Breakfast at Holiday City Diner  
 Jan. 20 Noon Lunch at Holiday City Diner  
 Jan. 27 9:00 Breakfast at Holiday CityC Diner

This is a group of friends who meet each week. You're welcome to join in. Lisa's is in the strip mall near the Mule Road jughandle, and the Diner is on Mule Rd.

## The Magic Band (6 Meters)

The six-meter band certainly isn't HF, but sometimes there's a little DX. I guess that's why it's called the Magic Band.

50.000 to 50.100 CW only

50.090 is the CW & digital modes calling frequency. Once contact is established, agree to QSY to another frequency.

50.100 to 50.125 is the DX window. Please don't use this sub-band for local QSO's.

50.200 is the calling frequency for voice modes.

Another surprise is that it has a sub-band for model control. It can be used to control model cars, boats, airplanes, rockets, etc. There are model control sub-bands outside the ham bands, but at model control contests, this band may have quite an advantage. As a courtesy, we should keep all other activity well away from this sub-band, as model control receivers are easily overloaded.

50.790 to 50.990 is for model control only, 1 watt max:

Ch 00 = 50.800

Ch 01 = 50.820

Ch 02 = 50.840

etc.

Ch 09 = 50.980

## DC Power Shut Off

The last Edison style (DC) power plant in New York City was at 10 East 40th Street.

It was finally shut down on Nov 16, 2007, when the only remaining customer, a library, converted to AC.

## 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 advantage of meaning 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".

Many are still in use by radio amateurs, very roughly translated, with memory aids.

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

Here are some question & answer examples:

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 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

QSA? = What is my Signal Amplitude?

QSA 2 = Your signal is very weak on a scale of 1 to 9 (or S-meter reading)

QSB? = Is my signal fading?

QSB = Your signal is fading

QSK? = Can you 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

## Some DX Opportunities

Callsigns shown in alphanumeric order

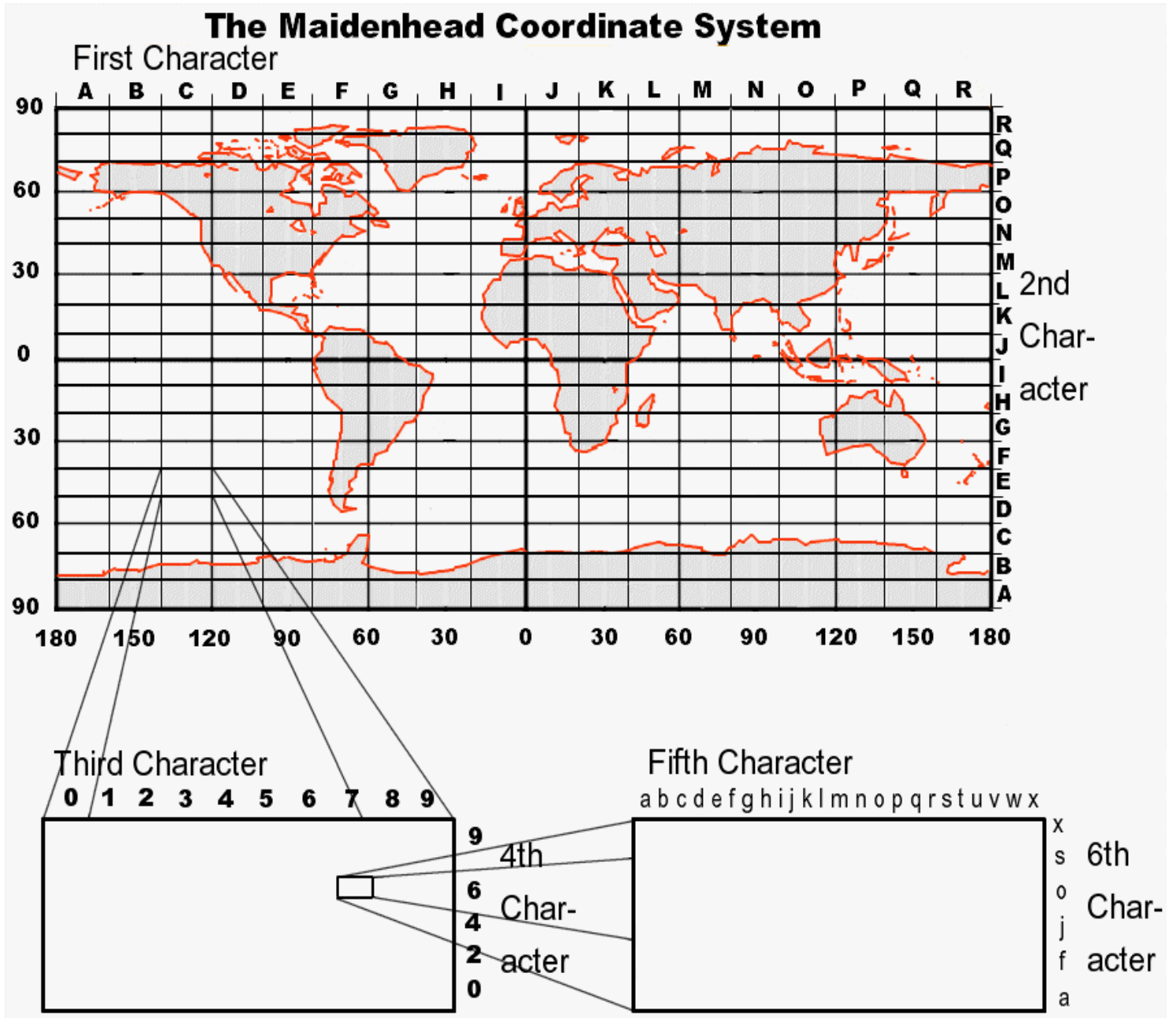
*Italics if DX > 6000mi*

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

Bands: "Low" usually means 160, 80 & 40m.

Many thanks to NG3K, Wikipedia, Google Maps, the ARRL, the RSGB, DXW, TDDX & QRZ.com for the data.

START	FINISH	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC	Miles	Dir	Info by
Dec 28	Jan 20	Algeria	7X7T		80-10m	C S 8	7X2R0	JM26ks	4146	ENE	ARLD051
Dec 28	Jan 02	Algeria	7X7X		160,80m	C S 8	7X2R0,LoTW	JM16mq	4061	ENE	KF5EYY
Jan 03	Jan 23	Maldives	8Q7BS	AS-013			RX3AMY	MJ63xs	8811	NE	OPDX
Nov 24	Nov 15	Tonga	A35JP	OC-049	160-10m	C S 8	LoTW	AG29ma	7693	W	JA0RQV
Dec 27	Jan 17	Gambia	C5SP		40,20m	S 8 4	SP3PS,LoTW	IK13ma	3923	ESE	DXW.Net
Jan 28	Feb 07	Gambia	C5XW		40-17m	C	G5XW	IK13ma	3923	ESE	DXW.Net
Dec 15	Feb 29	Antarctica	DP0GVN	AN-xxx	160-10m		DL5EBE	IB59uh	8308	SSE	ARLD049
Jan 06	Jan 12	Palestine	E44RU		160-10m	C S 8	LoTW	KM71fm	5720	NE	DXW.Net
	Mar 31	Canary Is	EA8/HB9FIH	AF-004	80-10m	C S D	HB9FIH	IL18rj	3337	E	ARLD049
Jan 23	Feb 18	Reunion	FR/F8EN	AF-016	80-10m	C	F6AJA	LG79sa	9227	E	425DXN
Dec 02	Jan 05	Ecuador	HC5AGT		40-10m	S D	EA5RM	FI19at	2785	S	TDDX
Jan 01	Jan 31	Switzerland	HE2JOJ				HB9HI	JN36il	3922	NE	ARLD051
Dec 12	Apr 04	Honduras	HR5/F2JD		160-6m	C S D	F6AJA	EK54ju	1957	SSW	TDDX
Nov 12	Apr 01	Thailand	HS0ZME		40-10m	C	SM6NT Bur	NK92xm	8797	N	TDDX
Dec 14	Jan 08	Thailand	HS0ZNR	AS-053	80-10m	S 8	LoTW	NJ98gl	9064	N	TDDX
Jan 30	Feb 13	El Salvador	HU1DL		160-17m	C S D	LoTW	EK54ma	2003	SSW	DXW.Net
Jan 05	Jan 11	St Lucia	J6/AI6LY	NA-108	80-10m	S D	AI6LY	FK93mu	1976	SSE	DXNews
Dec 22	Jan 03	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	AS-031	80-10m	C S R	JD1BMH Bur	QL07mm	7256	NNW	DXW.Net
	Jan 21	Antarctica	KC4/W2RTO	AN-011	80-10m	S 8 d	K7MT	RB33sa	9335	SSW	ARLD051
	Jan 21	Antarctica	KC4USV	AN-011	80-10m	S 8 d	K7MT	RB33sa	9335	SSW	ARLD051
	Jan 07	Suriname	PZ/PA4ARI		80-20m	S 8 4	PA4ARI	GJ25ju	2638	SSE	ARLD050
Jan 07	Jan 13	Palau	T88AQ	OC-009	160-10m	C S 8	JH6WDG	PJ77fi	8695	NW	TDDX
Jan 15	Jan 23	Palau	T88CZ	OC-009	160-10m	"All"	JI3DNN	PJ77fi	8695	NW	DXW.Net
Jan 15	Jan 23	Palau	T88DK	OC-009	160-10m	"All"	JH3LSS	PJ77fi	8695	NW	DXW.Net
Jan 15	Jan 23	Palau	T88DN	OC-009	160-10m	"All"	JA3HJI	PJ77fi	8695	NW	DXW.Net
Jan 15	Jan 23	Palau	T88ED	OC-009	160-10m	"All"	JA3IVU	PJ77fi	8695	NW	DXW.Net
Jan 15	Jan 23	Palau	T88EF	OC-009	160-10m	"All"	JA3ARJ	PJ77fi	8695	NW	DXW.Net
Jan 15	Jan 23	Palau	T88MB	OC-009	160-10m	"All"	JA3AVO	PJ77fi	8695	NW	DXW.Net
Dec 31	Jan 02	Iceland	TF/MM0OKG	EU-021	80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	IP15mm	2826	NNE	DXW.Net
Dec 31	Jan 02	Iceland	TF/OJ0Y	EU-021	80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	IP15mm	2826	NNE	DXW.Net
Jan 20	Feb 09	Cocos I	TI9	NA-012	160-6m	S	ClubLog	EJ65mm	2509	SSW	TDDX
	Dec 31	Chad	TT8SN		80-6m		DL9USA	JK72mc	5649	E	ARLD050
Jan 05	Jan 11	StKitts&Nev	V4/WB4m	NA-104	80-10m	"All"	WB4M,LoTW	FK87qh	1713	SSE	TDDX
	Feb 08	Antarctica	VP9HAL	AN-005	40,20m	J 8	EB7DX	KB34hk	9067	SSE	ARLD049
Jan 12	Jan 31	2020 Jan31	Norfolk I	OC-005	160-10m	C S R	SP9FIH	RG30xx	8892	W	SP9FIH
Jan 09	Jan 15	2020 Jan15	Montserrat	NA-103		S C	WV2B	FK86vs	1758	SSE	WV2B
Jan 09	Jan 14	2020 Jan14	Bermuda	NA-005	160-10m	C S	WB9EAO,LoTW	FM72ph	749	SE	TDDX
	Jun 15	South Sudan	Z81D		80-10m	S 8 4	OM3JW	KJ54tu	6835	ENE	ARLD050
Jan 02	Jan 07	Cyprus SBA	ZC4UW	AS-004	160-10m	C S	ClubLog	KM65ma	5497	NE	DXW.Net
Jan 11	Jan 19	Cayman Is	ZF2PG	NA-016	160-40m	S	ZF2PG,LoTW	EK99jm	1472	SSW	TDDX



### Metric Prefix Chart

Each prefix in the chart is 1000 times the one below it.

yotta	Y	10 <sup>24</sup>		milli	m	10 <sup>-3</sup>	thousandths
zetta	Z	10 <sup>21</sup>		micro	μ	10 <sup>-6</sup>	millionths
exa	E	10 <sup>18</sup>		nano	n	10 <sup>-9</sup>	billionths
peta	P	10 <sup>15</sup>		pico	p	10 <sup>-12</sup>	trillionths
tera	T	10 <sup>12</sup>	trillion	femto	f	10 <sup>-15</sup>	
giga	G	10 <sup>9</sup>	billion	atto	a	10 <sup>-18</sup>	
mega	M	10 <sup>6</sup>	million	zepto	z	10 <sup>-21</sup>	
kilo	k	10 <sup>3</sup>	thousand	yocto	y	10 <sup>-24</sup>	
(blank)		10 <sup>0</sup>	(times 1)				

## January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 <b>HCARC MEETING</b> See page 1	3	4 Kids Day & RTTY Roundup
5 RTTY Roundup continues	6 Noon Lunch at Lisa's	7	8 <b>VE Session</b> See page 3 column 2	9 JSARS Meeting	10	11 NA QSO Party CW
12 NA QSO Party CW continues	13 9:00 Brunch at HC Diner	14	15 Ocean County ARES Net See page 2	16 JSARS VE Session	17	18 NA QSO Party SSB Contest & VHF Contest
19 NA QSO Party SSB Continues	20 Noon Lunch at HC Diner	21 ARES VE Session see page 2	22	23	24 160 meter CW Contest begins	25 160 meter CW Contest continues
26 160 meter CW Contest continues	27 9:00 Brunch at HC Diner	28	29	30	31	