



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

January 2021

Toms River, NJ

President's Report

January, 2021

Happy New Year! May this year bring us an end to this COVID pandemic, a resurgence in sunspot activity, and perhaps some new radio gadgets to play with.

There was a discussion at the December meeting on having a Foxhunt, and there certainly appears to be interest. The fox will likely be on 2m FM so garden-variety HTs can pick up the signal. Due to pandemic restrictions, and the chill in the air, the consensus is to hold off on doing it for now, but it is definitely in the pipeline. Take this as an opportunity to look into directional antennas for 2m and perhaps try out finding transmission sources with it.

The Holiday City clubhouse remains closed, due to COVID. We will therefore continue with Zoom meetings. I will be sending out reminders via email, and the Zoom link we have now will remain the same from month to month, so if you save it from any announcement from here on out, it will not require changes. If any member didn't receive an invitation this month, please reach out to me and I will ensure the address you send from is on the list for the future. For those that don't want to Zoom, the invite also has phone numbers and a passcode you can use to dial in and join that way, no computer required.

At this month's meeting, we viewed a short video on basic operation of the nanoVNA. While the video worked well it would be even better to have programs that showcase your diverse knowledge and interests. Please consider giving a short talk (15-30 min is great)

on a radio topic you're interested in. Being optimistic, if you have a larger topic you'd like to speak on, it could be presented as a series.

May your propagation be strong, and your antenna restrictions be weak.

73,

Mike

K2OQF

Dues For 2021

Discussed at our last zoom meeting, the dues for 2021 will be waved. As we had only three meetings in 2020 and no expenses, the executive board has decided to waive dues for 2021. We thank all the members for their continuing support and wish all a very happy, healthy and safe holiday.

Larry Puccio

K2QDY

Treasurer

VE News

As the winter progresses we are unable to continue to provide VE Testing at the Whispering Pines Park. This year we have provided testing at the park since April. However, cold and unpredictable weather makes that very difficult. I have approached the Berkeley Library, Police, Town Hall and Jakes Branch Park. Each

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Meetings are held on Zoom the first Thursday of each month. Mike will send an e-mail with the Zoom address before the meeting.

indicated that due to the virus they are not opening their conference rooms to any organization. I am hopeful that with the availability of the vaccine we may be able to get back into the Holiday City South club house early spring 2021. If anyone knows of a location that would let us use a conference room for one to two hours a month for the testing please let me know.

Thank you

Larry

[K2QDY](#)

VE Liaison

Antenna Tuner For Sale



I would like to sell an MFJ Antenna Tuner Model 949E.

Power rating is 300W.

Tunes 160 to 10 meters.

Has built-in SWR / forward and reverse power meter.

Also has a dummy load.

Manual included.

Asking \$75.00.

Thanks,

Doug Poray [KC2TZC](#)

dporay@optimum.net

732-928-2316

(A pdf copy of ten-page manual is also available free at MFJ's website.)

My Interest In Ham Radio

By Carl Lefevre, [WA2IQE](#)

My interest in ham radio really began in 1963. I was 16 years old, a Junior at Charles Steinmetz High School in Chicago, Illinois. A classmate in my Science class was a licensed ham operator. I don't remember his call sign. He invited me to his house to see his "shack." He had a Hammerlund Receiver and a Viking transmitter. His antenna was a three-element beam up 30 feet.

My friend was interested in a group of "skeds" or pre-arranged radio contacts with U.S. Navy ships at sea for the purpose of relaying phone calls from sailors on the ships to their homes in Chicago. Most of the skeds took place between 1am and 3am, Chicago time. I was fascinated at the possibility of doing this. I sat in several nights with my friend as he ran through his schedule. This experience really made ham radio real. It was such a comfort to both the families in Chicago and the sailors at sea to hear each other.

I decided to study for the Novice Class ham radio license. In 1963 there were no study guides that I was aware of. I went to the Federal Communications Commission in the federal building downtown and picked up a license application. It was an intimidating experience for a 16 year old to go into a federal building. It was so large and had many floors of offices. I thought of the might of the federal government.

When I was ready to take the license exam I had to make an appointment at the FCC office. I remember being very intimidated when I met the examiner. He was wearing a suit and tie and had great authority and demeanor. He met me in the outer office. We went into a large conference room.

On the table at one end were some telegraph keys and earphones. We sat across from each other. At first the examiner sent a Morse Code message to me at five words per minute. I was nervous but thought I had copied the code he sent me OK. Then it was my turn. I sent a message to the examiner. It seemed like I was sending code forever, although it was probably a couple of minutes. The Examiner told me the exam was over and I would be notified of my results by mail in a

couple of weeks.

Several weeks later I got a letter from the FCC. I had passed the exam. I was signed an odd call sign: WN9FCK. Even at 16 years of age the call sign was embarrassing. I had a small shack in our basement. I had a Viking Adventurer and a Radio Shack general coverage receiver. The transmitter was crystal controlled. I had two crystals, so I transmitted on two forty meter frequencies. I was impressed with my modest setup and started making 40 meter contacts.

In 1963 the Novice Class License was only valid for one year. So there was tremendous motivation to study for and pass the General Class License. Sending and receiving Morse code was never a problem for me. It was the theory material that was harder for me. Still, I passed my General Class License in 1964 at age 17. I was a Senior in high school.

My parents told me that upon graduation I'd have to either get a job or pay rent, or consider enlisting in the armed forces. I chose to enlist in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was assigned to a unit in Chicago. I took some naval vocational tests and scored very well in the area of radio operations. Because I was a ham radio operator I jumped rank from the lowest – E1 – to an E-3 Seaman rating. I was assigned to the Naval Security Group and went to radio school from January, 1965 to June 1965 in Napa, California.

We had a very nice ham radio station on our base and there was a small group of hams who operated there. I vaguely recall we had Collins equipment. Top of the line. After radio school I was stationed at the U.S. Naval Security Group Activity I Edzell, Scotland. The base was actually a closed British airfield. We lived in Quonset huts on the base and took a shuttle bus to the operations building about half a mile away. The operations building had no windows. It was surrounded by a huge Wullenweber circular antenna which was used for direction finding. We worked a six-day rotating shift and then had three days off.

I left the Navy in September, 1967 and enrolled at

Temple University. I was 20 years old. This was the height of the anti-Viet Nam war protests. I graduated in 1970 and eventually went to graduate school.

Once I had enrolled at Temple University I contacted the FCC and was assigned the call sign WA3IQE. Through college my ham radio activity was much less. In later years I picked up the hobby again. Being an "old timer" I remembered when call signs actually designated different areas of the country. I had the opportunity to apply for the vanity call of WA2IQE since I lived in New Jersey.

To this day 40 meters is my favorite band.

CLUB COMMITTEES

<i>Refreshments:</i>	Marge KD2LNT	pearl1122@comcast.net
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Steve N2WLH	N2WLH@yahoo.com
<i>Programs:</i>	(open)	
<i>Sunshine:</i>	(open)	
<i>Field Day:</i>	Larry K2QDY	732-349-2950
<i>VE Sessions:</i>	Larry K2QDY	732-349-2950
<i>Membership:</i>	Doug KC2TZC	732-928-2316

Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Mike Carson	KC2QQE	917-830-4225
Vice President	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732-575-7558
Secretary	John Perry	KD2NDY	732-349-2705
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Doug Poray	KC2TZC	732-928-2316
Executive Board	John Roberts	KQ4WR	732-350-1162
W2HC Trustee	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	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 normally held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 pm, except in 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:

John Roberts [KQ4WR](#) 7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505
e-mail KQ4WR@arrl.net 732 350-1162

Larry Puccio And Ham Radio

By Larry Puccio [K2QDY](#)

I was 13 or 14 when I noticed this big long wire on the roof of the last house on my street. We lived in New York City where there were about 40 houses on a street. One day my friend and I decided to go and ring the bell to ask about the big antenna. The lady answered the door and we said that we had noticed the big antenna and was wondering what it was all about. Well she asked us in and called her husband who came to talk to us. He told us the antenna was for his radio in the cellar and he used it to talk to people all over the world. We were amazed.

Then he took us down into the basement where he showed us his equipment. Again we were amazed. There was a huge six foot black rack with multiple panels, meters, switches and dials all over. That was next to his desk where there was a radio that looked immense. It also had meters, dials, switches and various knob controls on it.

The radio was called Hallicraft. There was a large speaker on top of the desk that had an "H" on it. Then he turned it on and after a minute or so the speaker came alive with sounds and when he operated the big switch on the big black rack we started to hear humming. Lamps lit on the different panels and the dials on the radio was also lit. He started turning the dial on the radio and we began hearing voices. Some were talking and it sounded like they were just talking to nobody. Then there were others that were saying strange things like CQ.

The man turned on a big switch on the bottom of the black rack and answered the first man. A contact was made and he allowed us to say hello to the person on the other end. My friend and I were hooked. This was amazing.

The man was Ed O'Brien and we became good friends. His call letters were W2LJF and he said the call as "Whiskey 2 Leaping Jumping Frogs." Boy that sounded funny. We became very good friends.

Ed taught me about ham radio and after I studied for the novice test he gave me the test. In those days you needed to pass five words per minute of Morse Code

and a 25 question test to get a novice license. I passed the test and I received the call KN2QDY the "N" meant it was a Novice call. That was in 1954. The novice license was only good for one year and only good for CW contacts.

Before the year was over you needed to pass a 13 word per minute code test and a theory test but this time you had to go down to New York City to the FCC building in lower Manhattan to take it. When I did take the test my new call was issued as K2QDY and now I had voice privileges as well as CW and all the frequencies hams could use.

In those days you usually built your own equipment and there was a street called Cortland Street in lower Manhattan where you could buy all kinds of parts and war surplus equipment that could be modified for use on the ham bands. I bought all the necessary parts, chassis, tube sockets, nuts and bolts, wire, solder, capacitors and I built my first transmitter. It was an oscillator and power amplifier tube circuit and needed a crystal to generate the frequency you were going to operate on. The transmitter worked just fine and put out about 65 watts on 40 meters. The first receiver I had was loaned to me by Ed O'Brien and it was a tube superhet that could receive CW on the 40 meter band. I was on the air and making contacts.

In high school, myself and another student who also had a license, as well as one of the faculty members, formed the school radio club. When the Extra Class license was introduced I began to study for that grade and passed it on the first try. That test included a 20 WPM CW test and again you had to take it at the FCC office in Manhattan.

Throughout the years I had built many transmitters, one was in the big black rack, and receivers, as well as yagi antennas. At one point in time I had a 50 foot tower that supported a two element Quad I had built.

That was some system, and I was working all around the world with no difficulty. I still work mostly CW but do operate some SSB. I encourage everyone to join in Ham radio as it is a very educational and interesting hobby and it can lead a young person to interesting work.

Serendipity ?

Dr. Uwe Jeager, DJ9HX, a German national also holds an American extra class license, K2HX. Prior to taking the tests in Germany (including 20 wpm cw, at the time), he asked, during a casual 20 M ssb QSO we were having, if he could use my address for the issuance of his American license by the FCC. The answer was "yes". This was the only time we ever communicated via radio, although we have exchanged e-mail over these 10 or more years.

Recently, Uwe was a member of a 7 man DX'pedition team that activated Manihiki Island in the North Cook Island Group. Their call sign was E51M. I made contacts with them on 12 M and 40 M phone. I received an e-mail from Uwe acknowledging that both contacts were in their log. Both times it was he who was on the microphone on the other end.

What are the odds for such a happening ? I should start playing the lottery.

Hi !!

Stan [KB2PD](#)

Ocean County ARES® News

January 2021

Let me thank the twelve operators who attended the December 16th Ocean County ARES Zoom Meeting on High Reliability Soldering. I opted to conduct the meeting versus celebrate my 71'st birthday with my family on Zoom. Hopefully all those who attended left with some valuable information that they may use in the future.

There is a video of the presentation and the link was sent out via Groups.io for Ocean County ARES.

The next scheduled VE Test Session is January 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM. As always, the VE Sessions are by

appointment only. If you are interested in taking an exam contact John, N2LD, Lead VE.

Tim, NJ2N, has been conducting Winlink Wednesday training for the last few weeks. Every week Tim will let operators know via Groups.io when to include in each Winlink message. The messages are sent to SNJWW between 0000L and 2359L each Wednesday using Telnet or any other RF Winlink mode obtainable to an operator. Winlink Wednesday is an exercise to allow operators to establish proficiency in using Winlink and its various modes.

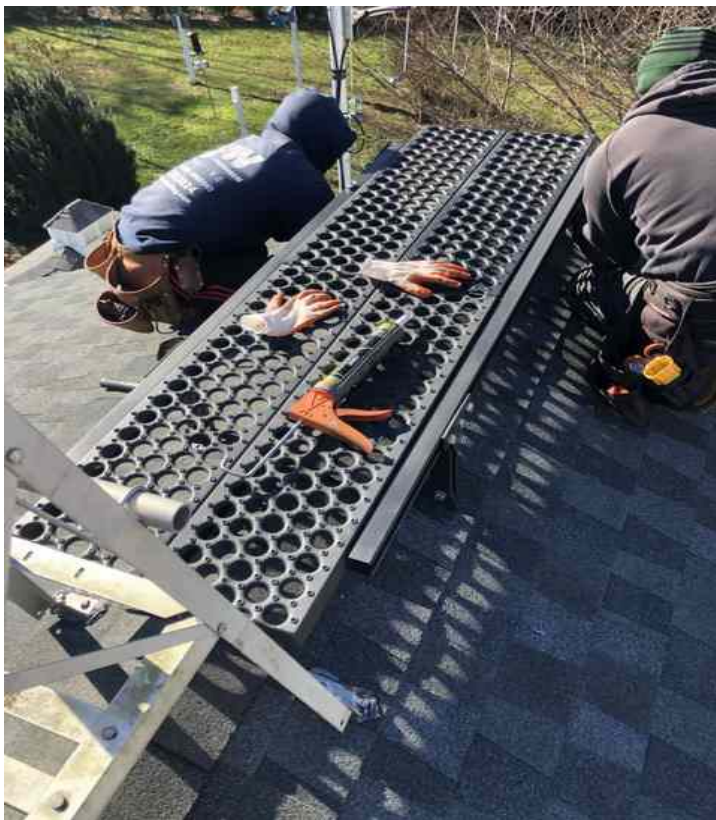
Last month I listed an article on a rooftop platform for my garage ham shack. It was successfully installed by the roofing contractor and provided an outstanding surface for me to install my antenna components without have to step a single foot on the garage roof. The picture below shows the contractor installing the unit and the completed platform from the side.



Completed Rooftop Platform; Photo by WX2NJ

Thanks to K2MDW, who powdercoated the assembly to match the roof shingles and provide years of corrosion protection. I did add an owl to the platform and he has been doing a great job of scaring away the birds from roosting and making a mess.

A very big Thank You to Silke, KC2ENS, for submitting me to the ARRL for a Mentor Award. I walked Silke and KD2FFR through the steps for building a 1:1 Balun to use on their HF NVIS antennas.



Contractor installing rooftop platform; Photo by Proven Contracting

73 de [WX2NJ](#) Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

DMR ID Registrars Have Merged

Organizations

As those of you with an interest in Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) know, you need a free DMR ID, in addition to your call sign, to use the system. There were two organizations: ham-digital.net, which serviced Europe and Africa, and RadiolD.net.

Effective 19 December, these two organizations have merged, and will now be known as RadiolD.net, serving the world with a unified structure.

Data Availability

One of the functions of the ID registrar is to provide a mapping of radio IDs to callsigns. Hams use that mapping to display the call sign of the other party on their radio. While a full tutorial is beyond the scope of this article, it's safe to say this is a handy feature to have.

Because of this merger, the database of IDs and callsigns was unavailable for a few hours on 19 December. It is back up now, and serving the joint data from both organizations. The data is no longer available from ham-digital.net.

Instead, all of the data is available from RadiolD.net, which also has a functional Application Program Interface (API) for those who would like to try their hand at programming - have no fear though, non-coders can safely ignore that entirely. For those that would, this is probably a good introduction to API programming.

Another feature of the merged site of more general use is the contact generator. You can specify what to include in a small database that is downloaded to you to put on your radio. You use this filtered database instead of the whole thing so that it fits within the space on the radio - many only have room for 100,000 entries, for example. You can save these parameters and get an alert when that data set grows, and many other useful features.

Data Integrity

The organization running the system encourages users to update the data, as this improves the usefulness of the data for everyone. Some things to send updates for include:

- Your personal information
- Silent Keys
- Orphaned Callsigns

Repeater Maps

The site now has a functional repeater map! It includes all the repeaters in the DMR system, with Talk Group (TG) and other information required for setting up your radio. Personally, I like using a hot spot in my home just as well, since then I can select any TG I like, but using DMR through a public repeater will make DMR more "real" ham radio for some, and simply be more enjoyable for others. This repeater map is a handy feature for initial setup, and a lifesaver for travel. I had wanted to include a link to a map of area DMR repeaters as an example but the site does not include the ability to share maps, sadly.

Updated Policies, Terms and Conditions, Usage Agreement

Of course, a merged organization required merged policies, which say slightly different things. The updated Privacy Policy, Terms and Conditions, Cookie Policy, and Acceptable Use Policy are available from the RadiolD.net site. The admin team encourages users to reach out in the event of questions.

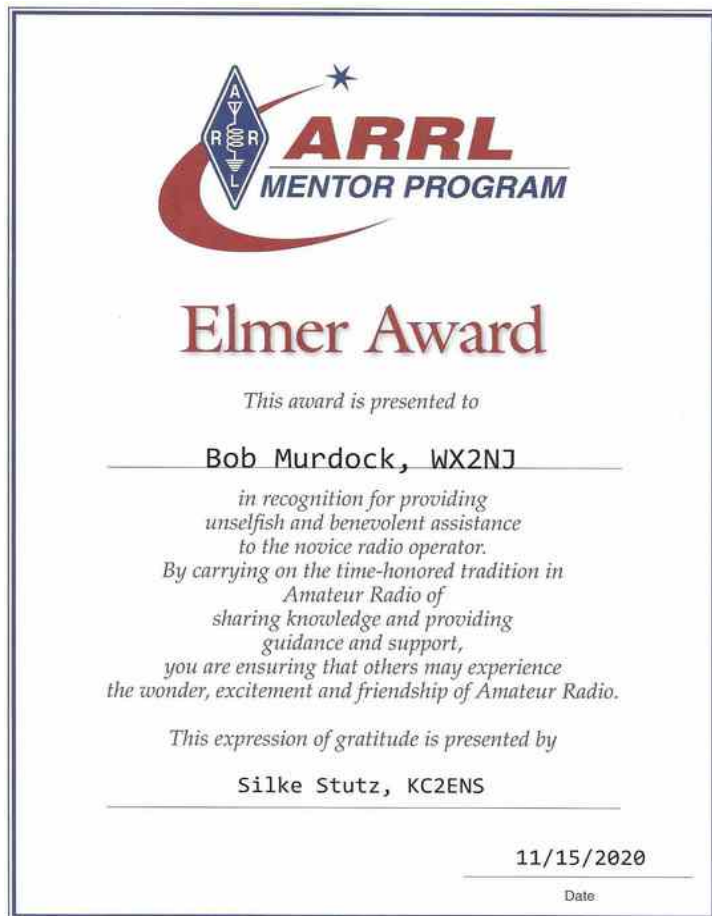
Conclusion

Overall, this is a useful addition and stream lining of DMR ID services. The joint organization should reduce confusion and be easier for users. Their site looks fairly slick, and I'm sure will continue to serve the community for years to come.

We thank Pres. Carson for submitting this news item.

Bob Murdock, WX2NJ Receives Award

The ARRL celebrates another of his many activities:



Anthony Lipetri, KD2HIT, SK

Folks

It has come to my attention that our club member Anthony Lipetri has passed away. Anthony's call was KD2HIT and before the virus shut us down he would come to the club meetings regularly at the club house. He lost his battle with cancer this past week. There was no viewing, however, sympathy cards may be sent to his wife Ruth Ann at:

7 Maison Way

Toms River, NJ 08757

Sincerely

Larry Puccio [K2QDY](#)

The 60 Meter Band

A recent article in QST arose my interest in the 60 meter band. The band has a few unique features amateur radio operators should know.

The 60 meter band has been available to US amateurs since 2012. The band differs from other amateur bands whereby operation is only permitted in 5 discrete channels within the band. The suppressed carrier frequencies for the 5 voice channels follows:

Channel 1	5330.5 kHz.
Channel 2	5346.5 kHz.
Channel 3	5357.0 kHz.
Channel 4	5371.5 kHz.
Channel 5	5403.5 kHz.

It should be noted that voice communication is conducted via USB (upper sideband) and the

bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz. Using USB for this band is unusual for amateurs, as all other ham bands below 10 MHz. normally use LSB (lower sideband).

The 60 meter band may only be operated on a secondary basis with a maximum of an ERP (Effective Radiated Power) of 100W.

Contacts made on the 60 meter band cannot be used for any awards sponsored by the ARRL since the stated purpose for the usage of this band was for Emergency Communications.

Even though the 60 meter band was proposed for Emergency Communications, there is no ruling preventing the usage of the band for general amateur radio contacts.

-Doug Poray [KC2TZC](#)

Happy And Healthy New Year

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy new year from Holiday City Amateur Radio Club's official newsletter, TheSKYHOOK.

Larry Puccio K2QDY Worked:

DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	CALL	ENTITY
11/20/2020	20:53	7.017	CW	OL725PLZ	Czech Rep
11/24/2020	22:30	14.006	CW	ZF2MJ	Cayman Is.
12/05/2020	22:18	1.820	CW	N4BA	VA
12/05/2020	22:21	1.821	CW	K1A	Maine
12/05/2020	22:25	1.824	CW	NN3Q	PA
12/06/2020	21:06	14.013	CW	OA1F	Peru
12/06/2020	22:54	7.004	CW	SX2500S	Greece
12/06/2020	22:58	7.006	CW	M0UNN	England
12/06/2020	23:39	7.006	CW	DK4SG	Germany
12/12/2020	17:30	28.430	SSB	LU3DPM	Argentina
12/12/2020	17:32	28.447	SSB	LU1DX	Argentina
12/12/2020	17:39	28.499	SSB	ZW5B	Brazil
12/12/2020	17:41	28.495	SSB	LU5FC	Argentina
12/12/2020	18:57	28.418	SSB	N3SIQ	NJ
12/12/2020	22:19	7.009	CW	HA3NU	Hungary
12/12/2020	22:26	7.012	CW	EF42C	Spain
12/12/2020	23:12	7.007	CW	GW3YDX	Wales
12/13/2020	18:27	28.031	CW	KU2M	NJ
12/14/2020	23:52	7.004	CW	EA5C	Spain
12/14/2020	23:58	7.004	CW	EA5IUY	Spain
12/15/2020	17:09	14.012	CW	F8DGY	France
12/15/2020	21:38	7.018	CW	JH1HDT	Japan
12/15/2020	22:16	7.009	CW	R3GG	Eur Russia
12/16/2020	00:15	7.004	CW	FS5GL	Saint Martin
12/17/2020	01:31	7.034	CW	KP4/N2GK	Puerto Rico
12/17/2020	19:57	14.005	CW	PY4HGM	Brazil
12/17/2020	20:05	14.006	CW	9Z4Y	Trinidad &T
12/18/2020	23:51	7.027	CW	9A0YOTA	Croatia
12/19/2020	00:05	7.016	CW	LZ1SA	Bulgaria
12/19/2020	17:13	14.010	CW	M7DX	England

January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						