



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

February 2021

Toms River, NJ

## President's Message For February 2021



We're about halfway between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox; each day, the sun hangs on a little longer, with the promise of warmer days to come. It is my hope that you are able to get on the air some, perhaps with the digital weak-signal modes to fight the less than stellar band conditions we're still seeing, or perhaps trying something on VHF or up locally.

Whatever your plans, we'd love to see you at the monthly Zoom meeting. If you aren't getting the announcements, please email and let me know. I'll make sure you're on the list.

We would also love to have your contributions to this newsletter, and/or to the monthly meeting presentations. The club is best driven by the member's interest, so please, if there's something you'd like to talk about, go for it!

Dreaming of Spring, 73,  
*Michael*

## Happy Birthday To:

Carl LeFevre WA2IQE

Billy Locke KD2MHA



## Happy Anniversary To:

Carl and Harriet LeFevre

Urb and Pat LeJeune

Eric and Florence Schwab



## Christmas Traditions

By Grace Puccio

As the Holiday Season comes to an end I reflected back on years ago. As the Corona Virus continues to spike throughout our county, I realized just how many events we have all missed. We all have missed family gatherings for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the celebration of birthdays. We miss time spent with friends.

These thoughts brought to mind the wonderful evening we would share as wives of the members of the Holiday City Radio Club and our lunches at the Fortune Buffet. Years ago I would get in touch with the ladies to discuss the menu for the Christmas Meeting at the Holiday City Club House. In fact there was no meeting! It was a social event. Everyone help to

### 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.

provide a display of good foods for all to enjoy. We had appetizers, main dishes and desserts! The portions were bountiful and there was always food left over for people to take home.

The XYLs always sat together catching up on each other's lives. The Hams sat together enjoying radio talk! Every year Murray and Shirley would give the women beautiful crafted jewelry that they had made. John Hann in his festive red jacket would give out lottery tickets! The evening went by very quickly, and upon leaving we would all give a hug goodbye to each other.

The last few years our venue changed to having dinner in a restaurant. Seeing each other was always a special time, the meals were delicious. But personally for me I missed being able to move around and talk with everyone. The get together was less personal. But that's only my opinion.

As soon as we can gather again, I think we should have a celebration with the Hams and XYL's in the Clubhouse. We need the socialization and begin the start of making new memories.

Happy New Year.

Grace Puccio XYL of Larry Puccio K2QDY!!

*After almost 60 years of marriage I know some Ham Lingo!!*

## Ham Radio Beacons

by Larry Puccio, K2QDY

If you are a DX advocate you are certainly interested in wanting to know if a specific part of the world is workable. Some Hams are interested in working distant stations because they are working toward ARRL Certificates such as DXCC which translates to a Ham that has worked 100 different countries. At this time there are Hams that are on the DX Honor Roll for having worked more than 300 countries. Some Hams are trying to work the different countries on the various bands.

In order to do this, there are conditions that must be taken into consideration. These include the routes of propagation for the day, the amount of sunspots, and what time of day it is in the distant country. One

method of determining who's on is to listen to the DX Packet. However it is sometimes better to see if you can hear a station in that part of the world that you are interested in contacting. You may not see spots for a specific country on the DX Packet but if you could somehow hear a transmission from that country or that part of the world then you might have a chance to call CQ for that country and someone there might hear you. An old proverb states clearly "If you don't hear them you can't work them."

So where do I listen to hear these Beacons? The first place to look for the Ham Beacons is on the North California DX Foundation web site ([www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org)). There you will find a list of all the active Beacons around the world. There are 18 Beacons throughout the world. Once you have reached the NCDXF web site click on "Beacons" then click on "Beacon Locations." This page will tell you all the Beacons and their locations. The Beacons transmit on 14.000, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 MHZ. At the bottom of this page, click "Beacon Transmission and Schedule." On this page you will find the Beacons that are active at this time and the frequencies they are transmitting on. *This is a moving table and is updated every 10 Seconds.*

Sample Table

Which beacon am I hearing right now?

Freq	Beacon	Location
4.100	4U1UN 4	New York
18.110	YV5B	Venezuela
21.150	OA4B	Peru
24.930	LU4AA	Argentina
28.200	CS3B	Madeira

Next turn on your receiver/transceiver and listen to one of the active Beacon frequencies. Most times I would be listening to the 20 Meter Beacon on 14.100 MHZ.

Have fun and see how many Beacons you can hear and what time of day they come through.

73

Larry

K2QDY

### Larry Puccio K2QDY Worked:

DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	CALL	ENTITY
12/20/2020	23:56	7.007	CW	HA5OV	Hungary
12/21/2020	01:28	7.015	CW	FY5FY	French Guiana
12/22/2020	01:05	7.013	CW	OK1XV	Czech Republic
12/22/2020	01:12	7.012	CW	EI9JF	Ireland
12/26/2020	17:42	14.019	CW	HP/W1VE	Panama
12/30/2020	22:24	7.012	CW	S57C	Slovenia
12/30/2020	22:33	7.009	CW	F6ARC	France
12/30/2020	22:41	7.003	CW	S57V	Slovenia
12/30/2020	22:52	7.010	CW	LZ5DB	Bulgaria
12/30/2020	23:47	7.006	CW	EA5IUY	Spain
12/31/2020	17:34	14.010	CW	EA2KV	Spain
01/01/2021	21:18	7.008	CW	E71A	Bosnia-Herzegovina
01/01/2021	21:21	7.008	CW	SP8HZZ	Poland
01/01/2021	21:28	7.011	CW	IZ3NYG	Italy
01/01/2021	21:32	7.008	CW	E71A	Bosnia-Herzegovina
01/01/2021	21:38	7.007	CW	RU4S0	European Russia
01/02/2021	14:43	14.029	CW	F5IN	France
01/02/2021	14:47	14.029	CW	9A2AJ	Croatia
01/02/2021	14:53	14.029	CW	9A5AX	Croatia
01/02/2021	14:55	14.012	CW	HA8UT	Hungary
01/02/2021	15:06	14.007	CW	EW7LO	Belarus
01/02/2021	15:11	14.010	CW	SQ0MORSE	Poland (Morse b'day)
01/02/2021	15:17	14.019	CW	IZ4ZZB	Italy
01/02/2021	15:19	14.028	CW	DL5YM	Germany, Fed Rep of
01/03/2021	22:44	7.018	CW	IZ8EJP	Italy
01/04/2021	22:37	7.014	CW	HA5OV	Hungary
01/12/2021	23:45	7.014	CW	CT3MD	Madeira Is.
01/18/2021	00:05	7.011	CW	DK9PY	Germany, Fed Rep of
01/18/2021	20:52	10.103	CW	S57V	Slovenia
01/18/2021	20:55	10.107	CW	VK5KI	Australia
01/20/2021	22:31	7.004	CW	YU7QF	Serbia

### Ocean County ARES® News

February 2021

On January 19th, 2021 Ocean County ARES VE Team held a session at the Ocean County EOC. We had 10 people taking exams. Six people earned their Technician license and a seventh earned a Technician and General Class license. One Technician operator upgraded to Extra class and another Technician upgraded to General Class. Lastly, one Technician operator failed to upgrade to General.

Thanks to VE examiners N2XW, KD2FFR and WB2ALJ and Lead VE, N2LD. Finally, thank you to K2PSG for securing the area of the EOC for our testing. Congratulations to all who earned a new license and supported our VE program.

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be a Zoom meeting on February 17th at 7:00 PM. Meeting info will be sent out on groups.io a day or two before the meeting. All ARES operators are urged to try and

attend.

I was recently asked about essential tools for the ARES operator and which one is most important. While all of our tools in Emcomm are important, I urge operators, especially if you are new, to learn the phonetic alphabet and use it when on the air. The alphabet is most commonly misused on HF when you hear JAPAN instead of JULIETT and many others.

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Youth/Phonetic \[no break\] %20Alphabet.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Youth/Phonetic%20Alphabet.pdf)

Another important physical tool for the ARES operator is the simple dummy load. How many times have you heard operators keying up a repeater for no other reason to test their transceiver? If you listen on HF you

*[Article continued on next page]*

#### CLUB COMMITTEES

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

#### Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey  
Web Site [www.hcarrc.us](http://www.hcarrc.us)

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike Carson</b>	<a href="#">KC2QQE</a>	917-830-4225
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Carl Lee</b>	<a href="#">W2PTZ</a>	732-575-7558
<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>	732-350-1162
<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 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.

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will hear operators calling a repeated HELLO to test their audio and ALC response. It makes Amateur Radio sound like the abused CB frequencies. A simple 50 ohm dummy load allows an operator to check his gear and also monitor their output on a nearby HT or transceiver and not cause interference on the active bands. When testing an NBEMS setup, a dummy load allows you to monitor your signal before going live on a repeater or simplex frequency. Something to consider the next time you are making a wish list.

Before the end of January, the 145.170 MHz, WA2RES/R, will be located back at a permanent home after a long displacement due to painting of the Manchester Water Tank. No promises on how well it will perform, but the duplexer has been completely reworked, new coax cables, new hardline and new antenna. The repeater will be a Yaesu Fusion DR2X operating in the AUTO mode so you can use FM or C4FM. There is no link to WIRES and never will be. If you want to work the world via ham radio and Internet, pick another club.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## Do You Need A Free Dental Mirror?

A tool your dentist uses in your mouth has a nice "first surface" mirror that is easily scratched. Most dentists will give you a damaged one just for asking.

## My Three-Tube Meissner Radio Kit

By John Roberts, KQ4WR

When I was a young teenager, my parents presented me with a Meissner radio kit which included all the parts needed to build a very simple 3-tube radio. It was supposed to keep me busy while they went out shopping. Its instruction booklet must have been good, as I had it playing when they returned. There was no cabinet, but it did have a chassis, front panel, dial, and headphones.

All three tubes were type 76 triodes, which were considered obsolete even then, but I guess the Meissner company must have bought up a lot of them cheap. One tube, wired with grid and plate tied together to act as a diode, was used as a rectifier to supply 160 volts DC for the more active stages. The other tubes were used as the regenerative detector and audio amplifier.

The kit included two plug-in coils, one for the AM broadcast band, the other for "short wave". There was about three feet of insulated wire to serve as an antenna. It had no volume control, but there was a regeneration control to adjust the amount of positive feedback. A pair of headphones served in place of a loudspeaker.

The 6.3 volt, 0.3 ampere heaters of the tubes were connected in series. Because there was no power transformer of any kind, something had to use up the remaining 100 volts (30 watts). That job was accomplished by asbestos-insulated resistance wire built into the six foot length of the line cord. The risk of fire and asbestos were not the only hazards. If you touched the chassis or antenna and anything grounded at the same time, you'd get a shock, and if you touched the headphone connector, you'd get an additional 160 volts DC.

That was many years before OSHA.

## Ham Radio's Windfall

By Stan Stafiej, KB2PD

I came to ham radio, as did many older hams before me, via short wave radio. Back a couple of solar cycles ago, before the advent of satellites, the Internet, and cellular phone, listening to Voice of America, BBC, Deutsche Welle and Radio Moscow broadcasts during the Cold War was an exciting time of wonderment.

By scanning the medium wave bands it did not take long for me to discover that there were other activities populating these radios. People were actually having conversations with other people, not just passively listening to what was being aired. By doing so, I accidentally discovered the hams (although I did not know they were called that) and amateur radio, and wanted to be part of this new marvel.

Amateur radio has always offered a wide range of involvement opportunities to its participants especially in today's high tech world. A look at the publications offered by the ARRL attests to satisfying almost any interest of the newcomer. My niche in ham radio has been DX'ing because it coincided with other interests I had.

I had studied French in high school and German in college and was brought up in a family that spoke Polish. The possibility of using these bare-boned languages with native speakers was one of the allures of dx'ing. Maybe practice would make perfect. This easy route of learning the cultures of foreign lands, their geographies, their customs was a no brainer for me. I was hooked.

In the good old days (a couple of cycles ago) the 20m band was open day and night. My custom was to operate mornings before going to work. While it was day time here it was night time somewhere else in the world. For me that "other" place was New Zealand and Australia. Over the course of several months a number of hams from these countries adopted the same pattern of operating (band, mode and time) and we conversed daily for well over a year. As a result we developed a warm Kiwi/Aussie camaraderie. Stan ZL2RK lived in Wellington, New Zealand; John VK5LV and Bill VK5ASW called Adelaide, South Australia home; Frank VK2DWE in Cootamundra, and Cal VK2ECN in Sydney, both New South Wales.

Well, what's this all leading up to ? Tune in next month.

## Southern NJ Section News

February 2021

by [Tom Preiser N2XW](#) SNJ Section Manager

As many of you may have heard the FCC has issued a statement regarding the use of Amateur Radio to commit crimes. Here is a synopsis of what they said:

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and

coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.

At the same time the ARRL has issued a statement on the purpose of Amateur Radio:

### *ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio*

*For over 100 years amateur radio and ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio® — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio's long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that "Amateur Radio saves lives."*

*Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource "when all else fails."*

*Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.*

These statements were in response to the incidents that occurred in the Capital on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### HamCation QSO Party Set

Orlando HamCation has announced it will sponsor the HamCation QSO Party over the February 13-14 weekend (UTC), "to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air." The HamCation QSO Party will be a 12-hour event on HamCation weekend. HamCation 2021 was to host the ARRL National Convention, which now will take place in 2022.

"The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio, since HamCation 2021

will not be held due to COVID-19," the HamCation QSO Party Committee said. The HamCation QSO Party will run from 1500 UTC on February 13 until 0300 UTC on February 14. It will be a CW and SSB operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station. Check <http://www.arrl.org/news/hamcation-qso-party-set> for more information.

### QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Returning in March

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return March 13 - 14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful. Check out <http://www.arrl.org/news/qso-today-virtual-ham-expo-returning-in-march> for more information.

Remember to support the SNJ Traffic Net every night at 8:00 PM on the Waterford Works Repeater 147.345 PL. 127.3. Anyone interested in helping out Steve KB2RTZ on the net please contact him during the net.

The "7235 Friendly Net" Congratulations to all the Friendlies that made this Net a success over the past 5 years. This net as a place for All Licensed Amateurs to have a place to stop by every morning grab a Cup of Coffee and QSO with their fellow Amateurs.

The Friendly Net has been a tremendous success with many Hams joining in from all over the Eastern USA and Canada. Thanks to all the Stations that keep it rolling! Please continue to enjoy this Great Net!

Congratulations to all of the award winners of the SJRA awards this year! For additional information regarding SJRA Awards please see their website [www.sjra.org](http://www.sjra.org)

Al, N3AVT—VE Team Member Appreciation Award

Frank, AA2AW—Harry W. Densham Award

Bob, KE2D—E. Miles Brown Award

Art, N2CPR—Gordon Kressel Award

Logan & Elle—SJRA Youth Award

Holden, KD2JPV—Webmaster Award

## FCC Proposes Ham License Fee

The FCC intends to charge \$35 (the original proposal was \$50) for "... a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address, are exempt." (from ARRL Letter for January 7, 2021.)

## Astronauts Chat By Ham Radio

There's a very nice, but rather long article, about ARISS on the Internet. It's at:

<https://www.phys.org/news/2020-12-earthlings-astronauts-chat-ham-radio.html>

The article is titled:

"Earthlings and astronauts chat away, via ham radio" by Samantha Masunaga, and there are copies of it on other websites as well, in case you can't find the original.

Check it out.

## Origin Of The SK Prosign (...-.)

In amateur radio Morse code, the End-Of-Message prosign is "...-." ("didlydahdidah") which is 'S' (...) and 'K' (-.-) run together as a single character.

In Western Union 92 Code, "30" meant "No more - the end" or "Finish" since 1859, so newspaper articles submitted to the editor by telegram usually ended with "30", to indicate the end of the article.

In the now-obsolete American Morse Code, a three was "...-." and a zero was a very long "-."

### Some DX Opportunities

In alphanumeric order of Callsign

*Italics if over 6000 miles*

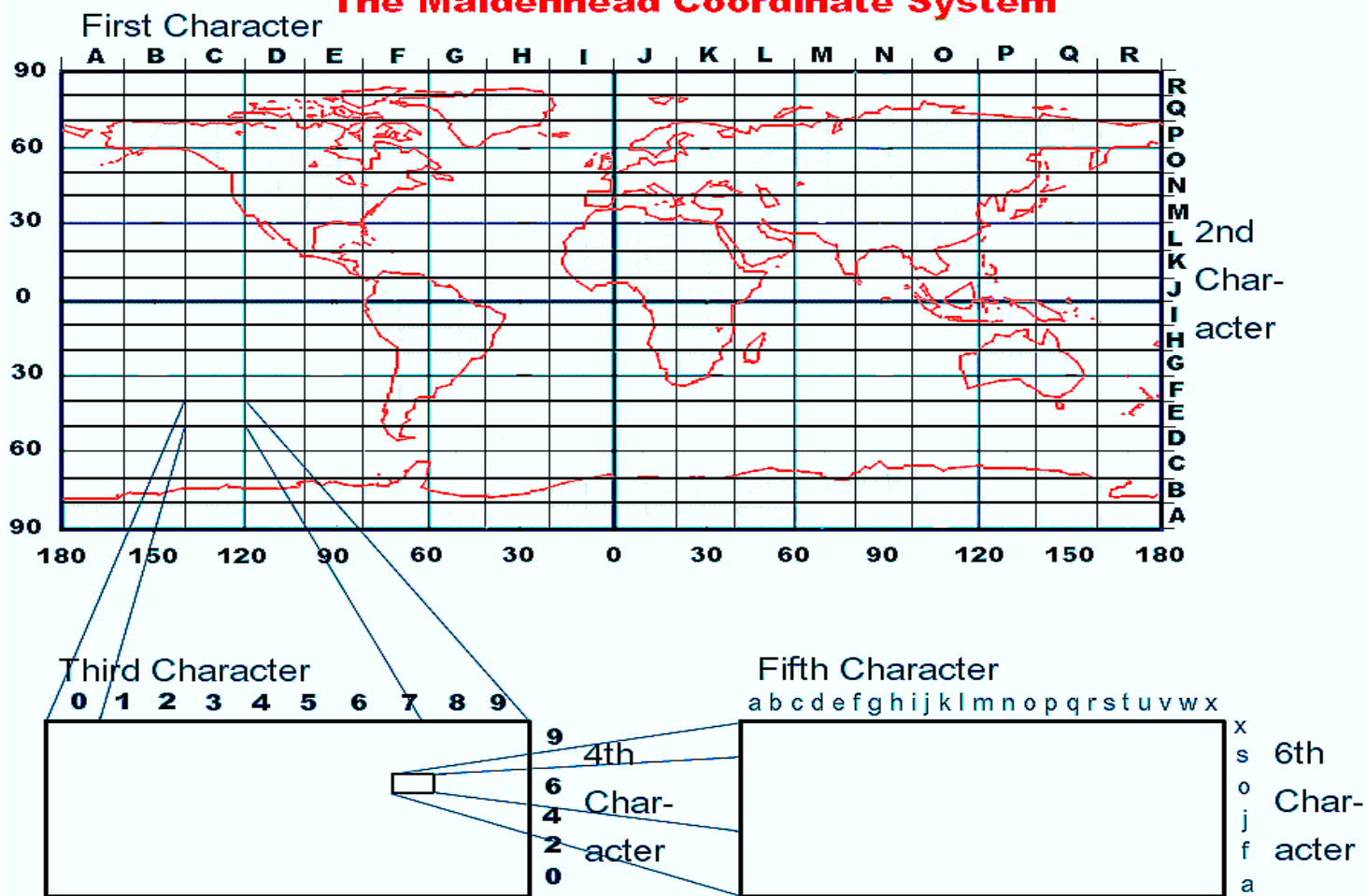
Mode codes: 8 = JT8, 9 = JT9, A = AM, C = CW, D = Digital, E = EME, J = JP4, P = PSK31, R = RTTY, S = SSB, T = SSTV.

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

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

START	FINISH	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC	Miles	Dir	Info by
Feb 24	Mar 02	Monaco	3A		40-20m	S D	LoTW	JN33qr	4036	ENE	OPDX
Jan 07	Feb 11	Niger	5UAIHM		40&20m	C	F4IHM	JK13bm	4906	E	425DXN
Feb 11	Feb 20	Togo	5VDE		40-20m	8	LoTW	RK39hh	6778	WNW	TDDX
2020	Mar 01	Jan Mayen	JX2US	EU-022	160-30m	C 8	LoTW	IQ50rx	3095	NNE	DXWorld
Feb 15	Feb 28	Wake I	KH9	OC-053	80-10mk	S	AL7JX	RK39hh	6777	WNW	TDDX
Feb 27	Mar 27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	NA-105	80-10m	C S 8	LoTW	FK881b	1655	SSE	DXW.Net
2020	2022	Corsica	TK4VQO	EU-014	160-6m	C S	DL8UW	JN411r	4168	ENE	DXNews

### The Maidenhead Coordinate System



### Two February Contests

The CQ WPX RTTY Contest is scheduled for 0000 UTC Feb 13 to 2359 UTC Feb 14. The rules can be found at:

<https://cqwxprtty.com/rules.htm>

or by entering "WPX RTTY Contest Rules:097-RTTY Rules.qxd.qxd (cq-amateur-radio.com)"

The CW portion of the ARRL International DX Contest is scheduled for 0000 UTC February 20 to 2359 UTC February 21. The rules can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

## February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 ARES Net 7:00 pm	4 HCARC ZOOM Mtg 7:00 PM	5	6
7	8 School Club Roundup Starts at 1300 UTC	9 Roundup schedule repeats daily thru Friday	10 ARES Net 7:00 PM	11	12 Last day of School Club Roundup	13 CQ WPX RTTY Contest Begins at 2000 UTC
14 CQ WPX RTTY Contest Ends at 2359 UTC	15	16	17 ARES Meeting 7:00 PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 ARES Net 7:00 PM	25	26	27 ARRL DX CW Contest Begins at 0000 UTC
28 ARRL DX CW Contest Ends at 2359 UTC						



### Urb LeJeune, W1UL, Silent Key

It is with deep sorrow that I have to announce to everyone that Urb LeJeune, W1UL became a silent key on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Urb served the club for many years and enjoyed helping anyone who needed it. Urb was also a charter member of NJDXA. He held the call sign of W2DEC for most of his life prior to W1UL.

Urb was fundamental in getting many operators licensed through his online training website and his

participation in VE testing for several organizations.

Urb's wife, Pat Vogel W2PKV, said that there would be no funeral or service at this time but the family is planning a "Celebration of Life" sometime later this year.

Urb's presence will be missed by all who knew him.

Richard E. Kennard [rick.kennard@monoc.org](mailto:rick.kennard@monoc.org)

President, OBARC

### A Thank You

A special THANK YOU goes to Mike Carson, Grace Puccio, Larry Puccio, Bob Murdock, Stan Stefiej, Tom Preiser, Rick Kennard, Steve Jackson, and Thom Roberts for their help in preparing this newsletter.