

# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

November 2023

Toms River, NJ

## Our President's Message



As the warm weather leaves and the cooler temperatures arrive, our activities shift from the outdoors to projects and activities in our shack. These activities can range from electrical projects to woodworking projects or even to complete remodeling ventures. We as radio amateurs are sometime called "jack of all trades" because of all the activities we pursue. This leads us to become involved in other interests besides amateur radio. Our November meeting will feature various hobbies, besides amateur radio, where our members participate.

The holiday season is approaching, and I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

*Doug Poray, President, HCARC*

## October Fox Hunt Results



The Fox was back again with another hidden radio transmitter. This time Carl Lee W2PTZ was the fox.

We'll do another hunt soon. Maybe you'd like to join the next hunt. Check with us at the Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to find out more.

## Happy Birthday To:

Robin Bauer KC2KSW

Doug Poray KC2TZC

Paul Dobrolovich KD2ARV



## Happy Anniversary To:

Mike & Robin Bauer



**OUR NEXT "REGULAR" MEETING:**  
Thursday November 2nd at 7:00 PM  
Holiday City South Clubhouse A  
Santiago Drive at Mule Road  
Toms River, NJ

## Ocean County ARES® News



November 2023

I would like to thank the following Ocean County ARES operators for participating in the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) that was held October 14<sup>th</sup>;

WX2NJ, N2XW, K2MDW, KD2FFR and NC1A.



GEORGE -NC1A AND GLEN – KD2FFR

Glen – KD2FFR and George – NC1A, were the simulated Red Cross Shelter operators for Ocean County. They represented a shelter at Central Regional High School in Berkeley Township due to a simulated severe tropical storm. Because of actual pending rain, they moved from the school parking lot to a sheltered gazebo and established digital communications with Tinton Falls using our local VARA FM network. Voice communications was via the Toms River UHF repeater using the digital C4FM mode.

Ocean County was not alone. Counties from Southern and Northern New Jersey also participated with their own simulated Red Cross shelters. Hundreds of digital messages were successfully passed through the Winlink system without a single error and at high speed.

Tom – N2XW was the liaison for the Red Cross repeater

in Asbury Park and Mike – K2MDW was the Skywarn Coordinator representing the National Weather Service (NWS) for the drill.

Red Cross messages were prepared ahead of time by WB2ALJ, SNJ SEC, who wrote the scenario for the drill. The messages were handed off to the shelter ARES operators on a thumb drive, just as they would from an actual Shelter Manager in a real activation. The shelter messages were then attached to a Winlink message and transmitted to the Red Cross via the Ocean County VARA FM digital network.

Various “Injects” were introduced at various stages of the drill and were relayed to operators via the liaison operator.

WX2NJ documented the method of file transfer for the Red Cross and other agencies that use ICS forms in two, new procedures in PDF format. They can be found on the OCARES Groups.io website under files and all operators will be trained in the near future how to perform the transfers. Additionally, the Operating Plan for Ocean County ARES will be revised to reflect the new procedures.

Initial comments from Red Cross observers indicated a successful and impressive display of Amateur Radio capabilities.

The 2023 Great Shakeout exercise took place on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:19 AM. Ocean County ARES was registered in the event. I would like to thank everyone that participated and sent reports to the USGS via Winlink.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## Ocean County ARES® Net Schedule

Here's the regular net schedule for Ocean County ARES:

**The 1st, 3rd\* & 5th (if exists) Wednesdays of the month:**

**\* There are no training nets on the third Wednesdays of even-numbered months, because of the ARES in-person or Zoom meetings.**

7:30 PM Digital Training Net, 145.170 MHz  
WA2RES/R, No Echolink.

8:30 PM ARES Voice Training Net, 449.825 MHz  
WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

**The 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month:**

7:30 PM Digital Training Net, 449.825 MHz  
WA2RES/R, Echolink WA2RES-R Toms River.

8:00 PM Second Wednesday of the month only, Ocean County Skywarn Training Net, 145.170 MHz,  
WA2RES/R, No Echolink.

8:30 PM ARES Voice Training Net, 145.170 MHz  
WA2RES/R, No Echolink.

**The Repeaters:**

The 449.825 MHz repeater has a PL of 131.8 Hz, -5 MHz shift (444.825 MHz).

The 145.170 MHz repeater has a PL of 131.8 Hz, -600 kHz shift (144.570 MHz).

Digital nets use FLDIGI/FLMSG(MT63-2KL) over the repeater or a designated simplex frequency and/or VARA FM Winlink on 145.010 MHz.

## HCARC License Exam Sessions



If you know someone who wants to be a "ham", or you want to upgrade your ham license, we can help.

See "Our Volunteer Examiner Crew" (below) for information.

### Our Volunteer Examiner Crew

Larry [K2QDY](#) (Liaison) 732-349-2950,  
John [KQ4WR](#), Larry [WA2VLR](#),  
Steve [N2WLH](#), Michael [WA2CWX](#)

*License exams are given by appointment at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday after each HCARC meeting 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.*

### Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site [www.hcadc.us](http://www.hcadc.us)

President	Doug Poray	<a href="#">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
Vice President	Steve Jackson	<a href="#">N2WLH</a>	732-255-7916
Secretary	John Perry	<a href="#">KD2NDY</a>	732-349-2705
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Carl Lee	<a href="#">W2PTZ</a>	732-575-7558
Executive Board	John Roberts	<a href="#">KQ4WR</a>	732-350-1162
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 at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of every month except December.

Location: Meeting Room #1 in 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 Building A (the building nearest the street intersection).

Newsletter: The SKYHOOK is the HCARC's official newsletter, circulation about 75. Original articles and photos are appreciated. Editor is John Roberts, [KQ4WR](#), 732-350-1162.

## My Other Hobby Is Astronomy



By Ray Kozakiewicz

Radio Amateurs seldom have just one hobby. My Elmer built some homebrew electronics, but also built and flew fabric-covered model airplanes.

At JSARS, I met a Radio Amateur who actually flew inside some fabric covered airplanes.

My wife was active with casual birdwatching. She drifted into volunteer work for the Long Island Audubon Society, eventually becoming the Steward for a County Park, which was rechristened the "Brook Street Preserve."

Part of the deal to enjoy being stewards of the land was to share the joys of the trails and wildlife with the public. (More on this later)

The waterside views of birds in New Jersey led to our buying a lightweight Spotting Scope.

The Spotting Scope beats the binoculars because of the more stable view, higher magnification, and when one person found a good view, the tripod mounting held the view for others to enjoy.

That little spotting scope gave my wife her first view of the Rings of Saturn (okay - a ring of Saturn), and she demanded we buy a "real" astronomic telescope.

I'll try to show some of the actual views easily possible with modest equipment, and bring some of the more portable equipment for us to view and play with.

That may include Image-Stabilized Binoculars, the Spotting Scope, and a light-weight astronomic telescope.

I'll also talk a little about the joys of Star Parties hosted by ASTRA, the local Astronomy Club.

Several County Parks will keep the grounds open at night if we share the views through our telescopes

with the public.

Several of the club members are very skilled with their high-powered telescopes, and offer astounding views of "deep sky" objects like galaxies and star clusters.

But often enough, it will be the first live view of the rings of Saturn - or the moons of Jupiter - taken by some modest equipment, that gives the thrill of a "first experience" and starts a new hobby. Like - do you remember when you were first handed the mike to speak live on the air?

*Ray* NE2RD

## Improving My Vertical Antenna

by John Perry

A while back I wrote an article about my wanting to leave my basement shack and transmit using a vertical antenna out in the field. Well, since that article, I upgraded my tripod and purchased an eighteen foot telescopic mast for my folding military style antenna.

My shack antenna is a dipole with an open wire feed line into an antenna tuner. As you know, a vertical antenna requires a few more additions in order for the radio to function properly. A major component is the ground plane which is not needed with the dipole antenna.

I knew little about ground planes so I thought it best to read up on the subject. I went to the ARRL web site and located an article titled **THE MYSTERY OF RADIALS**. I read the article several times and tried to



*Ground Web*

digest the best way to set up the radials, the article suggested using #12 to #18 AWG wire. I decided to use Zip-cord, lamp cord, for the radials. The cord comes with two conductors that are very flexible and can be easily separated by pulling them apart. After studying the article again, I decided to make a square grid of sixteen radials 16' 8" long with six cross sections, the same length, and soldered at each juncture to stabilize the grid.

An electrical junction box was used to join the coax antenna wire to the radials. The radials were attached to the junction box using binder clips. I joined all sixteen radials to the junction box and noticed no improvement. I then joined the last four radials on each end of the grid to the junction box I heard an improved increase in reception. Grounding the grid seemed to show to no change in the efficiency of the antenna. The downside of using the grid is that it takes time to set up or remove, a cleared area is needed and it is time consuming to make.



*Grounding Box*

So, continuing with **THE MYSTERY OF RADIALS**, and talking to club members Steve Jackson and Ray Kozakiewicz, both of whom shared knowledge and much patience with me, I decided to use two 16' 8" radials as I usually go on 40 and 20 meters. Lately I have been working 17 and 10 meters and that means I will add two more appropriate length radials to the junction box.

Now for the antenna. Using a dipole antenna with a coax fed into the shack usually requires a BALUN where the antenna joins the coax. In the case of the folding antenna I used an UNUN which was joined at the antenna base. The antenna is unbalanced and the coax is unbalanced, therefore, the UNUN. When this was attached, the external antenna tuner had no

problem producing an acceptable standing wave ratio.



*Cable Reel*



*Vertical Antenna*

As before, I still use the same field radio, antenna, antenna tuner, coax lengths, twelve volt battery and stool. I will be in New Egypt 30 days in December and will certainly have time to make contacts and a place to store the unit when not in use. Prior to that I Hope the weather this time of the year will allow me to set up my equipment in the field. If not, the way time goes by, I'm sure the spring season will be just around the corner.

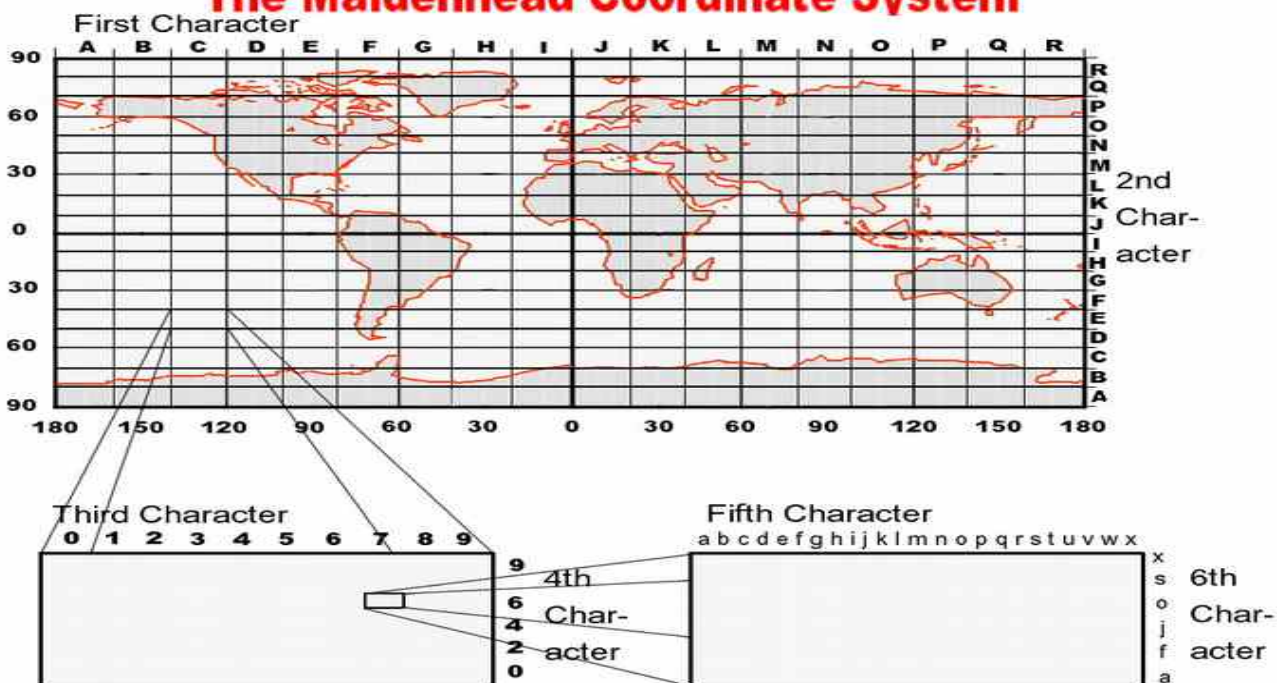
73,

John Perry, KD2NDY

### Larry Puccio K2QDY Worked

DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	CALLSIGN	ENTITY	LOC
9/22/2023	18:36	14.02	CW	IK3VUT	Italy	JN65fs 4189 NE
10/05/2023	19:32	18.12	CW	K6ZB	Texas	EM10cr 1467 WSW
10/07/2023	17:13	28.03	CW	K6RB	California	CM96ax 2560 W
10/10/2023	00:00	7.02	CW	DJ8XE	Germany	JN48jt 3941 NE
10/10/2023	21:18	14.02	CW	SM3FBS	Sweden	not found
10/10/2023	22:12	14.03	CW	OZ4UN	Denmark EU-029	JO65ex 3879 NE
10/11/2023	16:16	28.01	CW	EA1EYL	Spain	IN81lo 3618 ENE
10/11/2023	16:20	28.02	CW	DL7GAO	Germany	JN48la 3971 NE
10/11/2023	16:29	28.01	CW	F5PCV	France	JO10im 3645 NE
10/11/2023	20:15	28.04	CW	EA5JAB	Spain	IN80dj 3620 ENE
10/11/2023	20:25	28.03	CW	G3NAP	England	IO92fj 3430 NE
10/11/2023	20:44	28.03	CW	M7BBI	England EU-005	IO90kt 3479 NE
10/12/2023	20:27	14.01	CW	LY4Y	Lithuania	KO14ww 4314 NE
10/12/2023	20:37	14.01	CW	SP8HMK	Poland	KO10qs 4447 NE
10/13/2023	00:18	14.01	CW	PY2UDB	Brazil SA-024	GG64ax 4801 SSE
10/13/2023	00:18	14.01	CW	LZ3ND	Bulgaria	KN22da 4825 NE
10/13/2023	00:31	14.01	CW	Y03BOQ	Romania	KN34ab 4813 NE
10/13/2023	00:43	14.01	CW	OK1GS	Czech Republic	JO70gh 4127 NE
10/13/2023	16:01	28.02	CW	IZ8EFD	Italy	JN62ks 4309 NE
10/13/2023	16:29	28.02	CW	HB9CCL	Switzerland	JN47ng 4001 NE
10/13/2023	16:46	28.01	CW	IC8FBU	Italy EU-031	KN70cn 5289 NE
10/13/2023	20:13	28.02	CW	DL3ALO	Germany	not found
10/13/2023	20:16	28.02	CW	S01WS	Western Sahara	IL46rd 3733 E
10/17/2023	21:49	28.48	CW	KL7KK	Alaska	AP70ct 3912 NW
10/17/2023	22:39	28.04	CW	JJ0USR	Japan AS-007	PM96dd 6790 NNW

### The Maidenhead Coordinate System



## Some DX Opportunities

Callsigns shown in alphanumeric order

*Italics if DX > 8000mi*

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 Bill Feidt NG3K for ADX0. Also to Wikipedia, Google Maps, the ARRL, the RSGB, DX World, The Daily DX & QRZ.com for the data.

START	FINISH	ENTITY & Ranking	PFX	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC	MILES	DIR	INFO by
2023 Nov06	2023 Dec05	Timor Leste	4W	4W8X	OC-148	160-6m	C S R 8	LoTW	PI21vc	9967	NW	TDDX
	2023 Nov24	Tanzania	5H	5H3FM		80-10m	S F 8	LoTW / HB9DSP	KI93sq	7757	E	DXW.Net
2023 Nov08	2023 Dec08	Tanzania	5H	5H3MB		80-10m	S C R 8	LoTW or IK2GZU	KI71gc	7609	E	DXW.Net
2023 Jul16	2023 Dec17	Mexico	XE	6E0G		80-10m		XE1EE LoTW	DL90tn	2043	WSW	DXNews
2023 Nov23	2023 Dec06	Sierre Leone	9L	9L5M		80-6m	8 C S	LoTW or G3SVK	IJ38il	4316	ESE	DXW.Net
2023 Oct26	2023 Nov13	Botswana	A2	A25RU		160-6m	C S 8	LoTW	KG36gw	7781	ESE	ARLD042
2022 Decem	2023 Dec15	Antarctica	AT4	AT42I				VU2CRS	JB52uf	8852	SSE	DXNews
	2032 Dec31	Taiwan	BV	BM0QSO	AS-020	80-10m	8 d	BM2JCC	PL04nf	7897	NNW	QRZ.com
2023 Oct12	2023 Nov06	North Cook Is	E51	E51JAN	OC-014	80-10m		Club Log OQRS	AH991o	6514	W	SP9FIH
2023 Nov03	2023 Nov10	Niue	E6	E6AJ	OC-040	80-10m	C 4 8 R p	DF8AN (B/d)	AH50bw	7349	WSW	DXW.Net
2023 Oct17	2023 Nov07	Guadeloupe I	FG	FG4KH	NA-102	80-10m	S	F1DUZ	FK96hf	1814	SSE	ARLD041
	2023 Dec31	Wallis & Fortuna	FW	FW1JG	OC-054			LoTW F4CIX	AH16vq	7439	W	ARLD003
2023 Oct26	2023 Nov09	Temotu	H4	H40WA	OC-065	160-10m	C S 8	LoTW	RH29vg	8276	WNW	N6PSE
2023 Nov15	2023 Nov29	Solomon Is	H44	H44WA	OC-047	160-10m	C S 8	M0URX	RI00aj	8521	WNW	DXW.Net
2023 Nov18	2023 Nov25	Panama	HP1	HP1/NK0S		20-10m	8	LoTW	EJ98			TDDX
2023 Nov21	2023 Nov28	Honduras	HR9	K6VHF/HR9	NA-057	40-6m	C S 8 4	LoTW	EK66rh	1794	SSW	TDDX
	2023 Dec31	Luxembourg	LX	LX90RTL		80-10m+sat	C S D	LoTW	JN29vw	3786	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Czech Republic	C	OL300SANTINI		80-10m		per opr instr	JN99he	4324	NE	ARLD029
2023 Oct25	2023 Nov03	Suriname	PZ	PZ5TW		80-6m	C S 8	ClubLog	GJ25fc	2676	SSE	ARLD042
	2024 March	Antarctica	*RN*	RN10N	AN-016		C S D	RI1ANC	OB31km	9782	S	ARLD052
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100TA				borough	KM69kv	5267	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100TC				borough	KM69kw	5265	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100TR				borough	KM69kv	5267	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100YEAR				borough	KM69kv	5267	NE	425dxn
2023 Nov02	2023 Nov15	Cameroon	TJ	TJ9MD		160-6m	C S R 8	IK2VUC (b/d)	JJ54xi	5828	E	DXW.Net
2023 Nov26	2023 Dec08	St Martin	T09	T09W	NA-105	160-6m	C S 8 4 R	LoTW	FK881c	1652	SSE	K9EL
2023 Nov04	2023 Nov19	Marquesas	TX	TX7L	OC-127	160-6m	C S 8 4 R	LoTW	CI001e	5375	WSW	TDDX
	2023 Nov11	StKitts & Nevis	V4	V4/N2HX	NA-104	80-10m	S	N2HX	FK87oi	1707	SSE	ARLD042
2023 Nov16	2024 Apr01	Namibia	V5	V51WH		160-10m		DK2WH	JG88ap	7171	ESE	DXW.Net
2023 Nov03	2023 Nov07	Cocos (Keeling)	VK9	VK9QO	OC-003	80-6m	Sat c s 8	J11LET	PM96rc	6765	NNW	OPDX
2023 Nov21	2023 Dec05	Christmas I	VK9	VK9XGM	OC-002	80-10m	S C 8 4	LoTW or N3SL	OH29tm	10406	N	DXW.Net
2023 Nov05	2023 Nov10	Bahamas	C6A	WA1JAY/C6A	NA-001	40-10m	S 8 4	LoTW WA1JAY	FM05hm	415	SW	TDDX
2023 Nov16	2023 Nov27	Laos	XW	XW4DX		160-10m	C S D	LoTW or F4BKV	OK19oc	8357	N	DXW.Net
2023 Oct22	2023 Nov05	Vanuatu	YJ	YJ0CA	OC-035	40-10m	S	VK2YUS	RH34Lp	8416	W	ARLD042
2023 Oct20	2023 Nov04	Chatham Is	ZL7	ZL7/SP5EAQ	OC-035	80-10m	S c	LoTW	RH34Lp	8416	W	DXW.Net
2023 Nov09	2023 Nov22	Chatham Is	ZL	ZL7A	OC-038	160-10m	S C 8 4	LoTW JF10CQ	RE86ia	8901	WSW	TDDX

## November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:30pm ARES digi net 145.170MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 449.825MHz	<b>2</b> <b>HCARC MEETING 7:00PM</b>		
<b>5</b> DST ENDS		<b>7</b> ELECTION DAY	<b>8</b> 7:00pm License Exams at HCARC by appoint. 7:30pm ARES digi net 449.825MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 145.170MHz			
			<b>15</b> 7:30pm ARES digi net 145.170MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 449.825MHz			
			<b>22</b> 7:30pm ARES digi net 449.825MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 145.170MHz	<b>23</b> THANKSGIVING DAY		
		<b>28</b> Tomorrow: HCARC Board Meeting Nov 29	<b>29</b> 7:30pm ARES digi net 145.170MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 449.825MHz			
					Updated on	10/27/2023

### Our Club's December Meeting

As usual, our plan for December is to not have a regular meeting, but to have a luncheon instead.

HCARC members must contact Larry Puccio to make arrangements to attend.

### We Thank The Following For Our News

Doug Poray KC2TZC, Bob Murdock WX2NJ, Ray Kozakiewicz NE2RD, John Perry KD2NDY, Larry Puccio K2QDY, Bill Feidt NG3K, QRZ.com, and the ARRL.