



The SKYHOOK



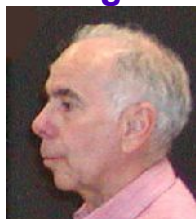
HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

<http://www.hcarc.us/>

JANUARY 2013

Toms River, NJ

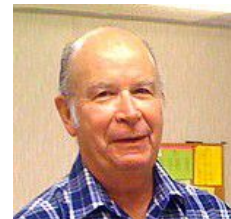
Program for Our Next Meeting



The Incoming DX Post Office

DX country QSL cards arrive every day from overseas. headed for countless U.S. hams in the 2nd call area. How do they get to the designated recipient? The answer is the New Jersey DX Association. Larry Puccio, K2QDY, a participant, will tell us how it all gets done.

The President's Message



by Carl Lee W2PTZ

I want to start the New Year by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

It was good to see everyone at the club Holiday Party. It looked like everyone had a good time. I want to thank Grace and Larry Puccio for all their work to make the party a success.

The Executive Board is working on getting together interesting programs and activities for club members. If anyone has any ideas for things of interest to the members please contact any of the club officers with them.

The program for the January meeting is about QSL cards.

To those going to warmer areas for the winter I wish you all a safe trip and look forward to seeing you when you return.

Dates to Remember

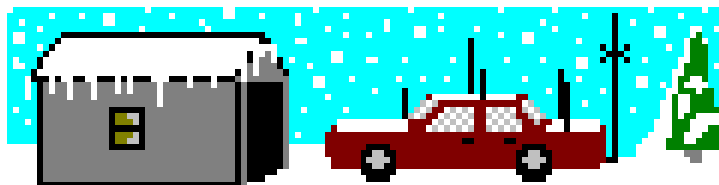
January 3 at 7pm	Regular Meeting
January 7 at Noon	Lunch at HC Diner
January 9 at 7pm	License Exams
January 20	
January 21 at Noon	SKYHOOK Deadline
January 30 at 10am	Lunch at HC Diner
February 1 at 7pm	Regular Meeting

Happy Birthdays to:

January 13 Barbara Keay
January 17 Murray Goldberg
January 18 Ed Picciuti
January 26 Jane Lee



72 de Carl w2ptz

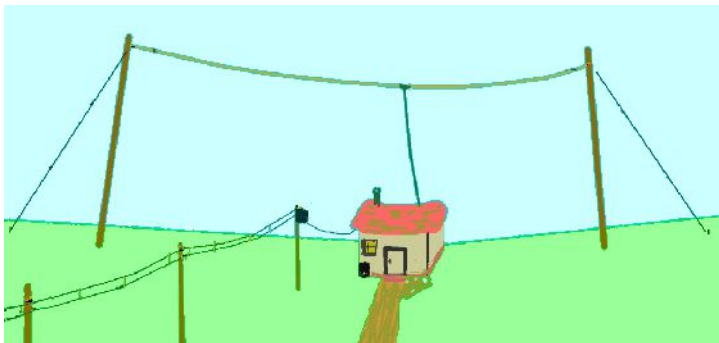


NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 3
Thursday 7:00PM

Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse
Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

Dues are due January 1

Your dues are not only appreciated, but important to the continuity of your club. Please contact Larry Puccio, K2QDY 732-349-2950.



Dear Elmer, Can I Work DX with an Indoor Antenna?

Dear Friend,

Indoor antennas don't work as well as outdoor antennas. One reason is they pick up interference from, and may interfere with, TV sets, computers, and other equipment. Other considerations are limited height, signal loss in walls and roof, and increased RF radiation exposure.

However, if you can get the antenna up high enough, and away from the household electrical wiring, you can do quite well, and you don't need lightning protection.

On 7 MHz to 30 MHz, you can work DX with a simple center-fed half-wave wire dipole, high in the attic. I prefer dipoles indoors because they don't need a good ground, which is hard to find indoors. You will need an antenna tuner. Digital modes, such as CW, RTTY and PSK31 work better than SSB.

If you can invest around 500 bucks, get an MFJ Ultra Hi Q Loop antenna. It's only 3 feet in diameter, has an internal remotely controlled antenna tuner, and works great. Russ Young WA2VQV works DX using one in his attic. One advantage is it's easier to find a place for it away from house wiring. There's a version (MFJ-1788) that even covers 15 to 40 meters.

For bands above 30 MHz, interference is much less of a problem, but don't expect any DX. A J-pole antenna is a good choice for FM and digital modes, and a half-wave dipole is a good starter antenna for CW and SSB.

So go have some fun. 73,

Elmer

If you need an answer or an explanation about any radio subject, send SKYHOOK an e-mail beginning with "Dear Elmer,".

The e-mail address is KQ4WR@arrl.net

HCARC Official Badge Ordering

The club's official badge maker is the Capital Engraving Co. in Longview, WA. To order a badge, simply call Capital at 1-800-628-4985 after 1PM M-F. All that is required is to give your call and first name and your mail address. Use your credit card to pay. Cost is \$12.50 plus \$2 S&H. Al Ross WA7UQE will take care of you and create an official logo and club name on your personal badge.

Our VE Crew

Murray KD2IN, John K2JWH, Ed, W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Stan KB2PD, Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA, Ed WA2NDA, Walter KC2LFD.

License exams are given 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.

Directions: Go to Mule Rd. and to the corner of Santiago Dr. Turn into Santiago Dr., then into the parking lot in front of the pool. Enter bldg. On right

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ed Baronowski

www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Carl W2PTZ

Publicity: Ed W1EAP

Programs: Murray KD2IN

Sunshine: Dave WA2DJN

Field Day: Larry K2QDY

VE Sessions: Larry K2QDY & the crew

Skyhook: John Roberts KQ4WR

Fund Raising: vacant

Membership: Murray KD2IN

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732 237-2421
Vice President	vacant		
Secretary	John Hann	K2JWH	609 660-0985
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732 349-2950
Executive Board	John Roberts	KQ4WR	732-350-1162
Executive Board	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732 736-0955
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732 505-4821
W2HC Trustee	Don Smith	W2III	732 505-4821

Membership is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required. Dues are \$20.00 per year, payable Jan 1st. Members joining during the year will have the dues prorated. Family membership \$30.00.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 pm. Location: Meeting Room #1 in the Holiday City South Clubhouse. Directions: Go to Mule Rd. and to the corner of Santiago Dr. Turn into Santiago Dr., then into the parking lot in front of the pool. Enter bldg. On right.

The SKYHOOK is published monthly.

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The Ten Meter Band

by John Roberts KQ4WR

Ten Meters is not often “open”, but when it's hot, it's very hot. Now that we are near the peak of the eleven-year sunspot cycle, you can expect amazing, but brief, openings. Look for Europe in the late morning, South America in mid-afternoon, Asia in the early evening.

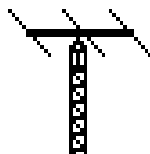
It's a really unpredictable band. My son, KD4WCL, worked New Zealand on SSB with only 20 watts and a simple wire dipole. I note that Russ Young, WA2VQV, works 10m DX from mid-afternoon into mid-evening, but my experience is that the band usually opens and closes hours earlier, when it does open.

The good news is that there are CW beacons operating on 28.200. If you hear them, the band is alive to that part of the world.

If there's no DX, call CQ and rag chew with a local. Back in the 50's, 10m was a preferred band for a local QSO, especially for mobiles. That was before CB, repeaters and cell phones, but phone patches were common, so mobiles could phone home if stuck in traffic.

28.000-28.070	CW (DX, QRS, QRP, W1AW, etc)
28.070-28.120	RTTY & Data (Packet on 28.1023 or 28.1043; PSK31 on 28.120)
28.120-28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
28.190-28.225	Beacons (Includes IBP/NCDXF Beacons on a 3-minute cycle at 28.200)
28.225-28.300	CW
28.300-28.500	SSB (QRP Calling Freq is 28.385)
28.500-29.000	SSB (W1AW on 28.590; SSTV on 28.680)
29.000-29.200	AM
29.300-29.510	Linear Downlink (AMSAT OSCAR 7 on 29.400-29.502)
29.520-29.580	FM Repeater Inputs
29.600-29.610	FM Simplex
29.620-29.700	FM Repeater Outputs

Technicians and Novices are limited to 200W PEP, and may only use CW 28.000 to 28.300, and SSB 28.300 to 28.500. All other hams may use up to 1500W PEP on the entire band.



Ham Band Chart Available

The ARRL Band Chart can be downloaded at:

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Hambands_color.pdf

You may want to print it out like a centerfold or 2-page poster. Note that there are some changes, including frequency changes to the third channel of the 60m band, since the previous edition. Just enter the http...pdf line shown above into the address line of your browser, and select Download File. The pdf file should appear in your Downloads folder, ready to view or print. The chart is updated from time to time as the FCC rules change, but the latest version will probably have the same Internet address.

ICOM has a similar chart and other useful charts and tables at: <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/amateurtools/> but these may not be automatically kept up to date.

2013 Holiday List

- Jan 01 New Years Day*
 - Jan 21 M L King Day
 - Feb 2 Sausage Day
 - Feb 13 Ash Wednesday
 - Feb 14 Valentine's Day
 - Feb 18 Presidents Day
 - Mar 10 DST Begins
 - Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
 - Mar 26 Passover*
 - Mar 31 Easter Sunday
 - May 09 Ascension Day
 - May 12 Mothers Day
 - May 27 Memorial Day
 - Jun 14 Flag Day
 - Jun 16 Fathers Day
 - Jun 29-Jun 30 Field Day**
 - Jul 04 Independence Day
 - Sept 02 Labor Day
 - Sept 05 Rosh Hashanah*
 - Sept 11 First-Responders Day
 - Sept 14 Yom Kippur*
 - Oct 14 Columbus Day
 - Oct 31 Halloween
 - Nov 1 All Saints Day
 - Nov 03 DST Ends
 - Nov 05 Election Day
 - Nov 11 Veterans Day
 - Nov 28 Hanukkah (first day)*
 - Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day
 - Dec 07 Pearl Harbor Day
 - Dec 25 Christmas Day
- *begins at sundown of the day before date shown

“RAILROAD” MORSE



The original Morse code, known as American Morse or "Railroad Morse", was used for well over a century for railroad communications until gradually phased out by TTY.

The American Morse Code was designed for a machine that scratched out marks of various lengths, separated by spaces of various lengths.

Telegraph operators soon discovered that they could "read" the message by listening to the clacks and clicks of the machine; a clack at the start of a mark, and a click at the end of the mark.

Soon, these machines were replaced by "sounders." That was much faster than decoding the message by examining marks on paper.

American Morse continued to be used for wired communications, but International Morse has always been the standard for radio, and is probably easier to learn.

Although knowledge of International Morse Code is no longer required for any US radio license, amateur or commercial, it is still favored by many amateur radio operators, for its ability to provide world-wide communications with minimal power, and for the simplicity of transmitting equipment.

Comparing the codes:

A, B, D, E, G, H, I, K, M, N, S, T, U, V, W, and 4 are about the same in both codes. The other characters bear little resemblance to International Morse.

In American Morse, the gaps between pulses within a character are not of uniform length, as in International Morse, nor are the lengths of dashes.

Zero was a nice long dah. It was common practice for hams to use the American Morse long dah for zero well into the 1950's, as it was easier to send than 5 dahs.

Our "ES" comes from the old "&". Our <SK> is a corruption of the code for "30", (didididahdit daaaaah), which meant "END OF MESSAGE."

It's possible to make up messages and re-write them so that they will sound a lot like they're being sent in American Morse. The trick is to leave extra space between characters, so characters with internal spaces will be more authentic. You can then make an audio recording and "play" it through a rectifier to an antique telegraph sounder. A loud relay will do for a sounder.

[30]

The NATO Phonetic Alphabet

Used world-wide for air traffic, amateur radio, and (with some variations in pronunciation) many other services.

Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, India, Juliet, Kilo (KEE-low), Lima (LEE-mah), Mike, November, Oscar (OSS-kah), Papa (pah-PAH), Quebec (keh-BEK), Romeo, Sierra, Tango, Uniform, Victor (VIK-tah), Whiskey, X-ray, Yankee, Zulu.

HOW'S DX?

From: November 15th through December 14th, 2012:



Russ, WA2VQV worked:

On 30 Meters CW: PJ2/W0NB Curacao.

On 20 Meters CW: 5TOSP Mauritania.

On 20 Meters SSB: 5TOSP Mauritania, RW0A Asiatic Russia.

On 20 Meters RTTY: 5TOSP Mauritania.

On 17 Meters CW: 5TOSP Mauritania, EL2DT Liberia, PT0S St. Peter & St. Paul Rocks, V31NO Belize.

On 15 Meters SSB: 5TOSP Mauritania.

On 12 Meters CW: 5TOSP Mauritania, 7P8D Lesotho, EW6DX Belarus.

On 12 Meters SSB: 5TOSP Mauritania, YU3AA Serbia.

On 12 Meters RTTY: 5TOSP Mauritania.

On 10 Meters SSB: W4D Puerto Rico.

(Russ mentioned that he also worked 70 stations in the 10m Contest, but that the band was horrible.)

From: November 15th through December 14th, 2012:



Larry K2QDY Worked:

80 Meters CW: DL0AGU DL0WW Germany, EA1DR Spain, LY2FN Lithuania, RU3EG Russia, SM3NXS SM0BRF Sweden, VP2V Tortorla, VP5 Turks.

40 Meters CW: 4O3A Montenegro, 5G12TDO Morocco, C6AUM Bahamas.

17 Meters CW: DL1DGS Germany, G8DX GX4HRC England, IK0NOJ Italy, OM3CW OM3KMR Slovak Republic, ON4KCD Belgium, LU6EF Argentina, P40CX Aruba, YL3BJ Latvia.

10 Meters CW: CW5W Uruguay, TI5/N2BA Costa Rico.

(On 10 meters Larry also worked 122 US and Canadian stations in the 10 Meter Contest.)