



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

FEBRUARY 2013

Toms River, NJ



Field Day, Anyone?

This month's program will be a chance to watch a large Club in Virginia do a Super Duper Field Day, with all the trimmings. Fun to watch.

In addition there will be a Special Event celebration of one of Marconi's Transatlantic Station sites on Cape Cod. It was organized by a small group of Hams with initiative and imagination. Presented by our program manager Murray [KD2IN](#), with thanks to YouTube.



The President's Corner

It was good to see everyone at the January meeting. I want to again thank Larry, [K2QDY](#) for his program on the NJDXA QSL Bureau. I know I learned a lot about how they do it.

This past Saturday the New Jersey QRP Club held a meeting and our own Past President Dave, [WA2DJN](#) was present with something for show and tell. If you go to the club web site: www.njqrp.org, you will find a recap of the meeting with many pictures of what took place at the meeting. If anyone is building something please think about bringing it to a meeting to share with our members. Until we get back in our home please use my cell phone # 732-575-7558 if you need to contact me. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the February 7th meeting.

73,
Carl

[w2ptz](#)

Dates to Remember

- Feb 4 at Noon [Lunch Get-together](#)
- Feb 7 at 7pm [Monthly Meeting](#)
- Feb 13 at 7pm [License Exams](#)
- Feb 18 at Noon [Lunch Get-together](#)
- Feb 27 at 10am [Board meeting](#)

Happy Birthday to

Feb 25 Warren Keay [KC2SSQ](#)



Happy Anniversaries to

Feb 3 Murray & Shirley Goldberg
Feb 20 Paul & Jessie Kaciuba



NEXT MEETING:

Thursday Feb 7 at 7:00PM

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

ARES Meeting February 20

by Bob Murdock, [WX2NJ](#)

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on Wednesday, February 20th, at 7:00 PM at the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark. There will be no training net that evening to accommodate the meeting. I'm hoping to demonstrate a device known as the "DV Dongle" at the meeting, which allows the user to access D-Star repeaters via a PC connection through the Internet..

Are You "In Good Standing"?

Please note that dues were due January 1. This is our largest source of income and we depend on everyone participating. If you're not sure you're paid up, please call or write our friendly club treasurer, Larry Puccio, [K2QDY](#), lpuccio1@comcast.net. 732-349-2950.

Doing It Yourself



Radio amateur with home-brew 120W AM/CW transmitter (left) and matching communications receiver (right), around 1953.

Remember when hams made their own radios? I remember a QST article about a South American ham who even made his own tubes! Around 1957, I met a blind ham buying small parts, and putting them into envelopes which he had previously marked in Braille. He said he was building a field strength meter, with a voltage controlled audio oscillator instead of a panel meter. Yes, he did his own soldering!

Lots of us learned electronics that way, with lots of help from the ARRL Handbook, magazines, and Elmers. You can still get a special kind of pleasure by making something that can be heard in New Zealand, or maybe by creating a whole new method of communication, or working out the solution to a problem that's been bugging us.

What have you been working on? We'd like to know.

The End of AM Broadcasting?

Australia is phasing out AM broadcasting, and many other nations will be doing it, too. That includes the US. The FCC has approved a different system, NRSC-5B, better known as HD radio. Canada, with the rest of the world, is adopting the DAB system.

Internet and e-Mail Address Links

Internet addresses and most call signs in SKYHOOK are now hyperlinks. If clicking on the link does not bring up the web site (or e-mail), copy the address and paste it into your search box.

To Search FCC (ULS) Database, Click:

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchAdvanced.jsp>

Our VE Crew

Murray [KD2IN](#), John [K2JWH](#), Ed [W1EAP](#), Larry [K2QDY](#), John [KQ4WR](#), Stan [KB2PD](#), Steve [N2WLH](#), Kevin [W2FA](#) 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

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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John Roberts [KQ4WR](#), phone: 732 350-1162 E-mail KQ4WR@arrl.net

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7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505, or e-mail KQ4WR@arrl.net

Every Ham Shack Needs Accessories!

By Murray, [KD2IN](#).

The first of a series of articles on things every ham shack needs.

There are a few extras that every setup needs to make it a good, properly equipped station. What are they?

What didn't come with the radio were some of these things: A key of some kind for CW. A desk or headset mike for SSB audio. What about a 24 hour Zulu clock for contest logging? And then there is the issue of protection from lightning and power line surges that can damage your radio? And there are more items you will need as you build your station. We'll cover them in later articles.



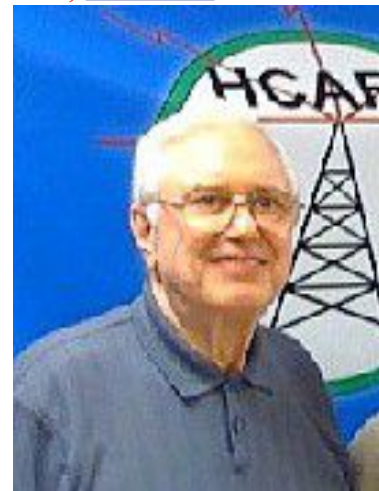
Let's start with surges from lightning storms and what to do about them. Here is a quote from Alpha Delta company.

“High voltage static charges can be induced in your feed line from local thunderstorms, high winds, rain and snow. Protect your connected equipment from serious damage by using ‘Alpha Delta’ surge protectors which incorporate special ‘Arc-Plugs’ that bleed off rising static electricity charges from the feed line, routing them harmlessly to ground.”

[Mount it outdoors, and ground it well. Ed]

There are units made with SO-239 connectors as well as N-type connectors. There are also other makers of these units. They are Diamond Antenna and Polyphase and others. More information about models, specs. and prices can be obtained in catalogs like the AES one, as well as from the Web sites listed below. Prices run from \$38 to \$70 depending on power ratings and fittings. Don't be without one in your ham shack!

Ed Picciuti, [W1EAP](#) Honored at Party



Ed and Helen Picciuti, their 2 sons, 4 daughters, all 13 grandchildren, and about 30 other family members and friends, celebrated Ed's 80th birthday at a surprise party at the Italy's Best Restaurant in Lakehurst, on Saturday, January 26.

Ed is an active member of HCARC, serving as the club's publicity agent, a Volunteer Examiner, and a member of the Executive Board.

HEALTH WARNING

There's a new strain of Norovirus (a gastrointestinal virus). It is very contagious, but thorough hand washing with soap & water is effective. Hand sanitizers don't work against it. (This article has nothing to do with the one above.)

The Other Clubs in the Area

Garden State Amateur Radio Association (GSARA)

<http://www.gardenstateara.org/> meets at at 7:30pm at the Red Cross HQ, 1540 West Park Ave Tinton Falls NJ on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 730pm.

JSARS or "Jay-Sars" (Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society)

<http://www.jsars.org/> meets at 7:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Riverwood Park, Riverwood Drive, Toms River NJ Also gatherings on other Thursdays.

Old Barney Ham Club (Old Barney Amateur Radio Club)

<http://www.obarc.org/> usually meets at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Ocean Acres Community Center, 489 Nautilus Dr, Manahawken NJ.

OMARC (Ocean-Monmouth Amateur Radio Club)

<http://www.n2oo.org/> normally meets at Camp Evans Diana Site, but check website to confirm meeting location and schedule.

South Jersey DX Association (SJDXA) www.sjdx.org

normally meets at 7:30pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month in West Creek NJ. Contact n2oo@comcast.net for directions.

Ocean County ARES / RACES (Ocean County Amateur

Radio Emergency Service) meets bi-monthly. For information, contact Bob Murdock, WX2NJ

The 17 Meter Band

Presented as a guide to the normal activities.

18.068 Lower Limit of 17m Band

DX (CW)

18.081 HFPAck (CW Camping, hiking, etc)

18.096 QRP (CW)

18.0975 W1AW (CW)

18.100 to 18.105 PSK31 & RTTY

18.1025 W1AW (PSK31, RTTY)

18.105 to 18.110 Packet & RTTY & Olivia

18.110 Beacons (CW)

18.110 Lower Limit of Phone Sub-band

18.1275 HFPAck (SSB Camping, hiking, etc)

18.130 QRP (phone)

18.150 AM

18.1575 HFPAck (SSB Camping, hiking, etc)

18.160 W1AW (SSB)

18.162 to 18.165 Digital Voice

18.168 Upper Limit of 17m Band

The 15 Meter Band

Presented as a guide to the normal activities.

21.000 Lower Limit of 15m Band

21000 to 21025 Extra Class Only

21.025 Lower Limit for General Class (Tech & Novice Operators see NOTE)

21.060 QRP (CW)

21.0675 W1AW (CW)

21.070 to 21.075 RTTY, PSK31

21.0865 to 21.087 Olivia

21.095 W1AW (RTTY, PSK31, etc)

21.100 to 21.110 Packet

21.1525 to 21.1535 Olivia

21.1575 ALE

21.200 Lower Limit of Phone Sub-band

21.200 to 21.225 Extra Class Only

21.225 to 21.275 Extra & Advanced Classes Only

21.275 Lower Limit of General Class Phone

21.275 to 21.335 SSB

21.340 SSTV

21.345 FAX

21.385 QRP (phone)

21.390 W1AW (SSB)

21.400 to 21.445 AM

21.4375 ALE

21.450 Upper Limit of 15m Band

NOTE:

Technician and Novice Class Operators also have limited use of the 21.025 to 21.200 sub-band. The special restrictions are:

- Power output limited to 200W PEP
- CW only. No other modes allowed
- International Morse Code only

The 12 Meter Band

Presented as a guide to the normal activities.

24.890 Lower Limit of 12m Band

24.890 to 24.906 DX (CW)

24.906 QRP (CW)

24.906 to 24.920 CW, RTTY, Data

24.920 to 24.925 RTTY, JT65A, BPSK31, FeldHell

24.925 to 24.930 RTTY, JT65A, Packet, ALE

24.930 Beacons (CW)

24.930 Lower Limit of Phone Sub-band

24.930 to 24.985 SSB, Image

24.950 QRP (phone)

24.990 Upper Limit of 12m Band



Our Club's VE Sessions

by Murray [KD2IN](#)

The club has had a VE (Volunteer Examiner) program to conduct VE Examinations since 2005. It has conducted almost 90 sessions with the help of club members who are accredited VE's.

Our VE sessions are held at 7 pm, on the second Wednesday of each month, at Holiday City South Clubhouse A, which is at the corner of Mule Rd. and Santiago Drive.

Our contact person is Larry Puccio [K2QDY](#) 732-349-2950. He obtains the test materials from the ARRL VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator), supervises the testing, coordinates all the paperwork, and sends it to the ARRL VEC for review. They in turn send it to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission).

The FCC requires a minimum three VEs to conduct each session, do the ID checks and grade the tests. They have the responsibility to insure the integrity of the whole process and indirectly are acting as agents of the Government via the FCC. We have seven active VEs. There have been times when all seven showed up for the session. More typically, as a result of vacations, illness, or schedule conflicts, as few as three may be available.

The VE Session on January 9th was conducted with three VE's on hand. One of them was Larry, who in effect was wearing two hats, as Liaison and as VE. Helping him were Murray Goldberg [KD2IN](#) and Ed Picciuti [W1EAP](#). There was one candidate for the Technician Class License. He passed and earned an Amateur Radio License. All the VEs congratulated him and urged him to study for the General Class license to earn more operating privileges on the air. At other sessions there have been candidates taking tests for all grades of licenses.

Would you like to become a VE? All it takes, if you have a General or Extra license, is to fill out some forms and do an open book test. That's all. Larry or Murray have the forms to fill out to become a VE. The answers to the questions on the test are based on material in the VE Manual. We will give you the Manual to review to take the test. The club's VE's would be happy to welcome you to their group.

Dear Elmer, What's My Grid Square?



Dear Friend,

The part of Ocean County that's North of the 40 degree latitude line, like Lakehurst, Silverton, and Normandy Beach, is in FN20.

The part that's South of that line, like Whiting, Holiday City and Chadwick Beach, is in FM29.

Grid Squares are areas two degrees West-to-East by one degree South-to-North. They are numbered Eastward from the 180 Degree Meridian, and Northward from the South Pole.

The "F" and the "2" in FM29 says it's the 62nd grid square from "The 180", because "F" is the 6th letter of the alphabet. (Don't forget to count "A" as the first). The "M" and the "9" means the 139th from the South Pole.

And no, I don't know why they're called "Squares".

73,

Elmer

How's Dx?

From December 15th through January 14th, 2013:

Russ, [WA2VQV](#) worked:

On 20 Meters CW: OH8WW Finland, VK3EGN Australia.

On 20 Meters RTTY: J8/W6HGF St. Vincent.

On 17 Meters CW: C6ANM Bahamas, SU9VB Egypt, VP2MRV Montserrat, ZP6CW Paraguay.

On 17 Meters RTTY: CW90A Uruguay.

On 15 Meters CW: C6AVA NA-048 Bahamas.

On 15 Meters RTTY: ZD7VC St. Helena Island.

On 12 Meters CW: CT1JOP Portugal, EA7AJR Spain, HI8A Dominican Rep., KH2L Guam. .

On 12 Meters SSB: CT8/EA5KA Portugal.

On 12 Meters PSK31: D2QR Angola.

Larry, [K2QDY](#) worked:

40 Meters CW: EU1A Belarus, HA7RY Hungary, LZ1QI Bulgaria, OA1F Peru, RW6FS Russia

30 Meters CW: F6EAZ France, JA1VND Japan ZF2LC Cayman Islands

20 Meters CW: FM5WD Martinique

15 Meters CW: OY6FRA Faroe Islands

17 Meters: CX5DR Uruguay, HK1MW Colombia, V44KAO St Kitts

12 Meters CW: CT1IUA Portugal, DL7BA Germany, EA4SV EA5AR EA5KV Spain

10 Meters SSB: 5R8UI Madagascar,

10 Meters CW: KH7Y Kure Islands, KH2L Guam, PD1ZDX Netherlands,

DX Opportunities in February

NG3K.com lists at least one for every day of the month. That site gives hyperlinks to most of the information, such as Callsign used, Location, Bands, QSL info, etc. Try it.

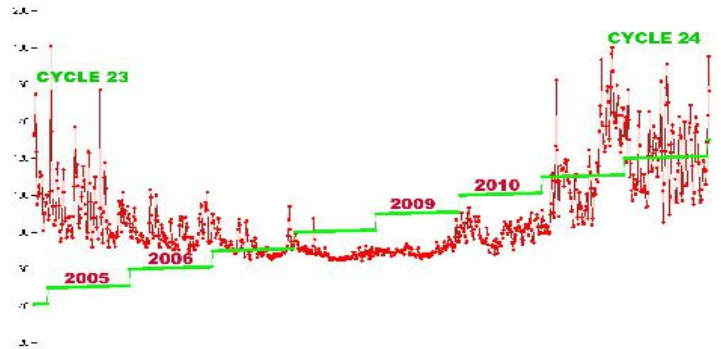
5X8C Uganda (AF, ITU48, CQ37, DXCC286) from Feb 6 until at least the 18th. That's 7036 miles ESE of HCS Bldg A. Freqs are listed in page 92 of QST.

I note that **XV2OLH Mui Ne Vietnam** (AS, ITU49, CQ26, DXCC293), will come alive Feb 15 to 26. Shortest path is 8917 miles North.

The rare one this month is **TX5K on Clipperton Island** (NA, ITU10, CQ07, DXCC036, IOTA NA-011) in the Pacific Ocean SW of Mexico, from Feb 28 to March 10. Grid Square DK50, 2963 miles SW of HCS Bldg A.

And there's the CW **DX Contest** on the 16th and 17th.

10.7cm Solar Flux



This chart shows the end of Sunspot Cycle 23, and the start of Cycle 24 up to January 10. The green is only a date reference. In 2013, will Cycle 24 stumble on, improve, or fizzle out?

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Pork Sausage Day*
3	4 Noon Get-together	5	6	7 HCARC Meeting 7pm	8	9
10 Chinese New Year	11	12	13 Ash Wednesday; License Exams 7pm	14	15	16 CW Dx Contest
17 CW Dx Contest	18 Noon Get-together	19	20 ARES Meeting	21	22 SKYHOOK deadline	23
24	25	26	27 HCARC Board Meeting 10am	28		
				*It's a pun		
					Updated on	1/22/2013