



The SKYHOOK



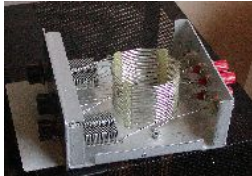
HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

MARCH 2013

Toms River, NJ

Program for Our Next Meeting



The March meeting's program will be about Antenna Tuners

How and Why they work will be explored in a presentation by Murray KD2IN. The 'mysteries' of their operation and designs will be 'de-mystified' in the course of his talk.

The program will be enhanced by actual tuners brought in by members, with covers off, to show their internal construction. **Please bring in your unit** for the show-and-tell part of the program.

Ocean County ARES® News



On Wednesday, February 20th, Ocean County ARES held a general meeting at the Ocean County EOC. A video on lightning protection was shown by WX2NJ. The recent activation of ARES during Sandy was also discussed along with communications support of Red Cross shelters. The topic of D-Star installation in Ocean County in order to be aligned with the remainder of the SNJ counties in SCERN (Southern Counties Emergency Repeater Network) was also discussed and WX2NJ is going to obtain cost estimates from the SNJ SEC (K2ZA) for the installation of a 70 cm D-Star repeater system.

Ocean County ARES would like to welcome new members Larry Rosenberg Jr. - WX2PST and Paul Hansen – N2QXB. Both were present at the meeting to give a brief presentation of their backgrounds.

If any Ocean County ARES members have not yet received a new picture ID badge, please contact WX2NJ at admin@wa2res.com to request one. Please include a digital photo similar to that on a drivers license (no hat or sunglasses). This badge replaces the standard ARES ID Card.

According to the ARRL E-Letter of February 20, 2013, the Red Cross has made the decision to phase out and decommission its Emergency Communication Response Vehicles (ECRVs), due to changes in technology, as well as a new satellite system and other factors regarding the vehicle fleet. "Retrofitting the decade-old vehicles with new equipment is not a good use of donated funds, as the long-term strategy is to move to more portable systems," American Red Cross Disaster Services Technology Manager Keith Robertory, KG4UIR, told the ARRL. "This is consistent with the trends in the telecom and technology industries."

The American Red Cross will be removing the Amateur Radios out of the ECRVs as part of the decommissioning process. These radios will either become part of the deployable inventory or provided to the chapter to build the local capacity. Equipment that can be used by the American Red Cross will not be phased out with the vehicle. According to Robertory, every communication capability of the ECRV already exists -- or will soon -- as a rapidly deployable kit that can be loaded on *any* vehicle that is owned or rented by the American Red Cross, providing more flexibility in

Dates to Remember

- March 4 at noon Lunch Get-together
- March 7 at 7 pm Regular Meeting
- March 13 at 7 pm License Exams
- March 18 at noon Lunch Get-together
- March 27 at 10 am Board Meeting
- April 4 at 7 pm Regular Meeting
- April 10 at noon Springtime Chinese Buffet

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Fred Fanizzo
George Waked
Susan Graber
Sarah Punderson
John Roberts



No anniversaries were reported

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Thursday March 7 at 7:00PM
Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse, Santiago Drive at Mule Road,
Toms River, NJ 08757

(continued on next page)

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shaping its response to match the disaster. If you recall, the Red Cross was supposed to have procured about 20 trailers complete with communication gear for use by amateur radio operators, and these trailers were to be positioned at shelters or any other point deemed necessary by the Red Cross. As Superstorm Sandy swept through our area, we learned that none of these trailers were ever purchased and any communications equipment used at shelters was the responsibility of the communications agency involved, in the case of Sandy, Ocean County ARES. The ARRL was contacted and loaned Ocean County ARES communications gear from the ARRL "Ham Aid" inventory. It is not known if the communications gear from the ECRV's will become available for use at shelters. Throughout the recovery of Sandy, I have yet to see a single Red Cross ECRV.

73 de WX2NJ
Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

Dear Elmer,

Where can I get a list of local repeaters?



Good question.

For South Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, a complete list of coordinated repeaters can be found at www.arcc-inc.org

For North Jersey and New York City Area, use <http://www.metrocor.us/>

In case you're not familiar with repeaters, here's how they work. The repeater transmits on the listed (output) frequency whatever it receives on its input frequency. On the 2 meter band, for instance, the difference is usually 600kHz, but some use 1000kHz.

The difference is called the offset.

Repeaters often receive signals intended for other repeaters monitoring the same frequency.

To avoid unintended transmissions, most repeaters will only respond to signals that have a small amount of a hum at a particular audio frequency, called a CTCSS or PL (a Motorola trademark) tone.

Some repeaters are linked together to transmit as a network. Some repeaters are for normal amateur use ("open") while others are for members only ("closed").

Most repeaters are for FM voice mode, but some are intended for other modes, such as digital or TV. Repeaters are free, but donations are appreciated, as there is considerable expense involved.

73,

Elmer

We Welcome New Members:

Ed Baranowski, who is studying for a license. His wife's name is Kathleen. They live in Bayville, NJ

Mike Graber, KD2CTX, Tech, who earned his license here in 2012. His wife's name is Susan. They live on Fort de France Ave.

Paul Hansen N2QXB, Tech, who has been a Ham for 9 years. His wife's name is Eunice. He lives in Silver Ridge, NJ.

Lawrence Loscalzo WA2VLR, Extra, has been licensed since 2010. His wife's name is Janice. They live in Millstone, NJ

Doug Poray, KC2TZC, Extra, who has been a Ham since 2010. His wife's name is Jeanne. He lives in Jackson, N.J.

Bob Wilson KA2WPL, Gen, who has been a ham since 1985. His wife's name is Lynn. They live in Forked River, NJ

VE Session Report

Our VE crew reports that a candidate who earned his Tech license here last month passed the General test and now "holds" a General Class License.



Springtime Chinese Buffet

Yes, our Chinese Buffet club lunch will be in mid April and right in the middle of Spring's floral awakenings.

This year we will be going to the new, enlarged, **FUSION BUFFET**. Located at the intersection of **Rt. 9 and Rt. 571**, it is easy to get to. If you have been to Home Depot or Pathmark Supermarket you've been to the mall already! **Mark your calendars. April 10th, Wednesday, at noon. Cost: \$10 total.**



Carl Lefevre Receives Award



HCARC President Carl Lee presented Carl Lefevre with a certificate celebrating his 50 years of amateur radio.

Decoding a Split



As heard on 40m cw (portions deleted):

CQ CQ CQ DE C6A/AA4NN U2
 K7B 5NN TU
 K3JLM 5NN TU
 N4NO 5NN TU
 RY 3 T DY
 K4DY 5NN TU LES CU TU
 JD? K2JB 5NN TU
 G4AF? G4AF? SRI ?
 T T O T T T T T T
 G4AF?
 T T T T PSE
 PSE O N L Y G4AF?
 G4AFJ 5NN TU
 6 DE
 NOW PSE QRX
 QRX DE C6A/AA4NN +

Explanation:

US ham AA4NN operating C6A, a temporary station in the Bahamas (C6 callsign), sending CQ ("seek you"), requesting responses 2kHz higher in frequency ("Up 2"), rather than on his frequency. That's called a "split". He acknowledges K7B with an RST599 (Readability 5/5, Strength S9, Tone quality 9/9), apparently receives a report from K7B, and thanks him (TU).

He then works K3JLM and N4NO, but has difficulty separating K4DY from all the other stations in the pile-up. After working K2JB, he had to quiet the pileup (T T T T Please! ONLY G4AF?) in order to read the G4. He eventually works G4AFJ, then takes a well-deserved break (QRX).

Some of My Favorite Websites

- ARRL = <http://www.arrl.org>
- DX calendar = <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>
- DX live reports = <http://www.dxscape.com>
- FCC database = http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/General_Menu_Reports
- HCARC = <http://www.hcarc.us>
- Maps = <http://www.store.usgs.gov/> click "Map Locator"
- Weather forecast = <http://weather.gov>
- Weather radar = http://radar.weather.gov/Conus/full_loop_php

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 at 7pm 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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Send all newsletter items to: John Roberts
7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505, or e-mail KQ4WR@arrl.net

The 20 Meter Band

14000
14025
14150
14175
14225
14350

14000-14025 DX CW

14025-14045 CW

14047.5 W1AW CW

14059-14060 QRP

14063-14095 Digital modes

14095 W1AW RTTY

14095-14110 Digital modes

14110-14150 Canadian SSB Nets

14150-14175 DX SSB

14175-14225 SSB

14230 Slow Scan TV

14236-14239 Digi Voice

14250-14280 SSB

14285 QRP SSB

14286 AM Voice

14290 W1AW SSB

14300 International Nets

14325 Hurricane Watch Net

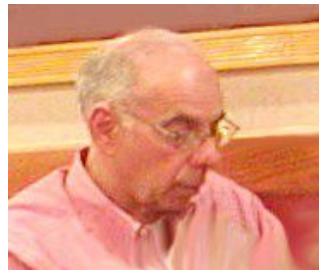
14342.5-14346 HF Pack QRP

When and Where?

Morning: Europe & Africa
All day: South America
Afternoon: Hawaii
Early Evening: S. Pacific & Asia
All Night: use 80 meter CW.

What Band?
 Listen to 10 meters.
 If all you hear are locals,
 assume the band is dead, so
 go to a lower frequency band.
 But if Ten is open, go for it.
 If 20m is dead, try 40m.
 If 40m is dead, 80m is
 probably open.

HOW'S DX?



Larry K2QDY worked

80 Meters CW: OE3SKQ Austria, OZ1CTK Denmark, RW5KW Russia.

40 Meters CW: CO6RD Cuba, DM2AUJ Germany, OM5OA Slovak Republic, UA3MIF Russia, YN4SU Nicaragua.

30 Meters CW: EA1NE, EA3NT Spain, HK1X Colombia, JH1GNU Japan, V44KAO St Kitts, VP2ETN Anguilla.

20 Meters CW: AX7CW Australia, OE5MSM Austria, UR5VK Russia.

17 Meters CW: HK1MW Colombia, IK5ZWL Italy, JQ2IQW Japan.

15 Meters CW: EA3CW Spain.

12 Meters CW: CO6RD Cuba, F4DPT France.
 From January 15th through February 14th 2013:



Russ, WA2VQV worked:

20 Meters SSB: HK3JJH/1 SA-040 Colombia, JX9JKA EU-022 Jan Mayen Island, T48RRC NA-218 Cuba.

17 Meters SSB: JX9JKA Jan Mayen Island.

17 Meters RTTY: C6AJR Bahamas.

15 Meters CW: 6W/HA0NAR Senegal, EA7ATE Spain, HC2/RC5A Ecuador, OE2013A Austria, OT4A Belgium.

15 Meters SSB: JX9JKA Jan Mayen Island.

12 Meters CW: ZK3T OC-048 Tokelau Islands.



Joe Militano KC2QLA worked:

40 Meters CW:
2/17/13 TM6M France.

15 Meters SSB:
1/19/13 VE5MX Canada, 1/19/13 IZ5BRW Italy, 1/19/13 OE2013 Austria, 1/20/13 ON7TQ Belgium, 2/16/13 EA3ESZ Spain

10 Meters SSB:
2/3/13 WP4ONJ Puerto Rico, 2/3/13 PY4PI Brazil, 2/17/13 PD2PA Netherlands.

How Much DX can you Work Using a Simple Wire Antenna?

The January issue of the Skyhook contained a very interesting article by "Elmer" who discussed the prospects of working DX using an indoor antenna. Before discussing the feasibility of

working DX with simple wire antennas, it might be a good idea to define DX and the factors allowing DX QSOs. One's antenna determines, all other things being equal, the amount of RF getting out "into the ether".

Believe it or not, signal level is not the most important factor when chasing DX. If we define DX as a station outside the US/Canada, you can work almost limitless DX with an indoor antenna and a 100 watt rig. If we define DX as countries needed by someone with 200 already confirmed, we have a whole different kettle of fish. There are factors other than power and antenna that are highly important for working DX, not the least of which are operating ability and quality of one's location. Let me illustrate with my own recent experience.

First, a little personal background. In 1962, I was one country off the top of the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll. That country was Heard Island. I did work Heard in the early 1970s so in my simplistic mind I've worked them all. In the mid 1960s, I started to lose interest in DXing for a variety of reasons, and by the early 1970s I had slipped off the Honor Roll. The next couple of decades witnessed my entering college for the first time, getting divorced, getting Undergraduate, Masters and Doctorate degrees, starting a college teaching career and, last but not least, getting married again.

In November of 2009 I got back on the air with a spanking new Yaesu FT450 and a 20 meter dipole about 20 feet off the ground. At that point I was 36 countries – entities as the ARRL now prefers to call them – off the bottom of the Honor Roll. In early 2010 I added a pair of 40 meter traps to my 20 meter dipole, and shortly thereafter, 80 meter traps.

As the HF bands started to come to life, I put up a hybrid antenna, my trapped dipole and fanned dipoles for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 30 meters, all feed from the same feed line. It was, and still is, in an inverted "V" configuration, about 35 feet at the apex. In the later part of 2011, an Ameritron AL- 811 amplifier was added to my bag of tricks, but not used most of the time.

In a little over three years I'm now 3 countries off the bottom of the Honor Roll and have worked 297 distinct countries. Common folklore dictates you had better have a beam if you want to make the Honor Roll. Let's put that one to bed.

To be fair and honest, I must admit that I have a superior location. My back yard is a salt water lagoon, and if I go down 4 feet from anywhere on my lot I run into salt water. I'm also a seasoned DX operator. The only country that was on the air during this period that I didn't work is Mt. Athos.

Put up the best antenna you can. If it doesn't transmitting. Good luck. come down during its first winter, it wasn't big enough or high enough. Next, learn everything possible about propagation, operating skill, and available Internet tools. It's a counter-intuitive premise, but you'll work more DX by learning to listen well than by continuously

73, Urb W1UL formerly W2DEC

Holiday City SKYHOOK DX Directory for March 2013

DATES		QTH	CALL	IOTA	ITU	CQ	OTHER	GRID	MODE *	MILES	DIR	
Mar02	to	Mar03	SSB Contest				ARRL DX		SSB			
Mar02	to	Mar17	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	NA-105	11	08	-	FK88lb	C, S	1655	SSE
Mar03	to	Mar07	Aruba	P4	SA-036	11	09	-	FK52am	CW	1915	S
Mar04	to	Mar12	Rwanda	9X0NH	AF	52	36	-	KI48wb	CW	7051	E
Mar05	to	Mar20	Grenada	J34G	NA-024	11	08	-	FK92db		2074	SSE
Mar07	to	Apr03	Madeira	CT9	AF-014	36	33	-	IM12mp	C, Data	3177	E
Mar07	to	Mar10	Canada	VO2AAA	NA		02	-	FO62mw		962	NNE
Mar07	to	Mar13	Turks & Caicos	VP5	NA-002	11	08	-	FL41cm	CW	1283	S
Mar08	to	Mar25	Solomon Is	H44G	OC-047	51	28	-	QI90vn	ALL	8519	WSW
Mar08	to	Mar17	Dominica	J79GV	NA-101	11	08	-	FK95ik		1866	SSE
Mar08	to	Mar22	Curacao	PJ2	SA-099	11	09	-	FK52me	ALL	1946	S
Mar10	to	Mar18	Spratly	9M4SLL	AS-051	54	28	-	OJ58xp		9058	N
Mar10	to	Mar29	St Martin	FS	NA-105	11	08	-	FK88la	P, R, S	1656	SSE
Mar12	to	Mar23	Temotu	H40T	OC-047	51	32	-	RH39mg	ALL	8210	W
Mar12	to	Mar23	Tuvalu	T2GM	OC-015	65	31	-	RI91ol	>Europe	7472	W
Mar14	to	Mar20	Chatham I	ZL7LC	OC-038	60	32	CHA009	AE16ug	PSK31	8570	ENE
Mar15	to	Mar23	Sint Maarten	PJ7	NA-105	11	08	-	FK88lb		1655	SSE
Mar19	to	Apr02	Tuvalu	T2	OC-015	65	31	-	RI91ol	SSB	7472	W
Mar20	to	Mar27	Easter I	XR0YG	SA-001	44	24	-	DG52gu	CW	5159	SSW
Mar22	to	Mar29	Niue (ZK2)	E6RQ	OC-040	62	32	WLOTA2139	AH50aw	6meters	4347	WSW
Mar22	to	Mar29	Niue (ZK2)	E6SG	OC-040	62	32	WLOTA2139	AH50aw	6meters	4347	WSW
Mar25	to	Apr12	Mayotte (FH)	T07BC	AF-027	53	39	WLOTA LH0376	LH27pf	SSB	8338	E
Mar26	to	Apr16	Tonga	A3EAQ	OC-049	62	32	-	AG28ju	SSB	7708	W
Mar26	to	Apr03	Azores	CT8	EU-003	36	14	-	HM77dr	C, S	2586	ENE
Mar30	to	Mar31	SSB Contest					CQ WW WPX	SSB			
Mar30	to	Apr13	Cocos Keeling	VK9C	OC-003	54	29	-	NH87kv	C, R, S	10139	NNE
Feb20	to	Mar14	Montserrat	VP2MRS	NA	11	08	-	FK86vs	SSB	1757	SSE
Feb20	to	Mar14	Montserrat	VP2MUR	NA	11	08	-	FK86vs	SSB	1757	SSE
Feb20	to	Mar31	StKitts & Nevis	V47JA	NA-104	11	08	-	FK87pg	SSB	1714	SSE
Feb21	to	Mar06	Burkina Faso	XT2TT	AF	46	36	-	IK92fi	C, R, S	4761	E

* MODES: C=CW, P=PSK31, R=RTTY, S=SSB, T=SSTV