



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

April 2010

Toms River, NJ

## Program for our April Meeting

This month's program should prove very interesting. It is about all the different types of keys that Hams use when communicating by Morse Code. The standard old straight key often the reliable military J38, or maybe someone has an old Lafayette Radio straight key or maybe someone has an old bug for example a MacKey or VibroPlex. Then again someone else might have a modern Paddle Keyer. Bring whatever you have. There will be an oscillator available for us to show off our CW skills.

## Dues are Due

It's that time of year again and our club membership dues are due. This is our largest source of income and we depend on everyone. Please see Larry Puccio, club Treasurer, with your dues money. There are still some club members that have inadvertently forgotten to pay their membership. Your club needs you. Please support your club.

## Dates to Remember

April 4	Club Luncheon
April 7	Regular Membership Meeting
April 13	Evening VE Session
April 18	Club Luncheon
April 27	Executive Board Meeting

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Joe Cuff 04/02  
 Audrey Murin 04/13  
 Grace Marie Puccio 04/08  
 Marjorie Stafiej 04/01



## The President's Corner By Steve, N2WLH



I'm pleased to see the weather braking and the bands are getting better too. Reports of members making contacts on the 10, 12 and 17 meter bands are increasing as the summer approaches. As you may have noticed I've started placing antenna construction ideas in the Skyhook intended to spark interest in that area of Ham radio. Let's face it, a lot of our members can't put up a big antenna with antenna restrictions that plague us these days; so having it blend into the surrounding environment as best we can is essential. In that respect I just read an article sent out by the ARRL's Hints & Kinks about weatherproofing your automatic antenna tuner. This may fit into using it with one feed point and several hidden wire antennas. You can find it here at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2011-03-10#toc07>.

Murray KD2IN, our Membership Chairperson, has sent out email request for members to join our Yahoo Group. As you know the Yahoo Group has been in operation for some time but we are going to use it as an announcement site for sending messages about the club meetings, lunch date reminders, cancellations of meeting due to bad weather, etc. So follow the link for joining provided in Murray's email or on the club website to receive updates by the club. There will be more to follow on this subject in this issue of the Skyhook.

The presentation given at our March meeting was given by Dave WA2DJN. He showed us his construction of a "Modern Signal Tracer" that was featured in the February, 2011 issue of QST. If you missed the meeting you missed a good presentation by Dave.

New Jersey is also holding it ARRL State Convention beginning on April 2nd in Ewing, New Jersey this year. According to their website they will feature two full days of radio related presentations, forums and vendors. Reviving the old tradition of a New Jersey State ARRL Convention and sponsored by the Delaware Valley Radio Association, planned radio related presentation topics will include DXing, Contesting, Digital Communications methods, Software Defined Radio,

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**NEXT MEETING: April 7 2011**  
**Thursday 7:00PM**  
**Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South**  
**Clubhouse**  
**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

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Emergency Communications, VHF Roving, WiFi, ARRL Forums and more!

In closing keep in mind that the annual Field Day event is just around the corner and we will be setting up at the usual location. If you have ideas about the event, bring them with you to the upcoming club meetings.

The very best 73,  
Steve Jackson N2WLH

## Stealth antenna suggestions By Steve Jackson N2WLH

### The Grasswire

What is it? Put simply, it is an end-fed, long wire antenna that is laid right on the grass. The original grasswire used by K3MT in the summer of 1988 was just 204' of #18 AWG magnet wire laid along the property line, anywhere from 1" to 6" above the ground. The article on this antenna can be located here:

<http://users.erols.com/k3mt/graswire/graswire.htm>

### Small Loop Antennas

Magnetic loops are very effective small antennas. these 3 to 3 1/2+ foot antennas perform close to and in some cases (low mounting heights for one) better than even a small beam. The reason is that a magnetic field is much more concentrated than an electrical one, for example a small horizontal loop at 17 feet performs better (lower radiation angle) than a full size dipole at 35 feet, in fact better for DX than a beam at that height because of the much lower takeoff angle. If you place a beam 1 foot off the ground it will only radiate straight up while a vertical loop will still work DX stations quite well. This smaller more intense magnetic field also has the advantage of greatly reducing TVI - RFI potential if the loop is more than 15 feet or so away from TV antennas, electronics etc. Another advantage of this magnetic field is the very low background noise heard on the loop because most manmade noise is electrical fields. For example if you lived next to a Shopping Mall the loop would not hear all that lighting and power transformers. Also reducing interference is the loops "Hi Q" which means that it receives & transmits on a narrow band range compared to the "full size" antennas. This effect is very pronounced on the lower bands that the loop will work.

### Low Profile Operating Outside Antennas

Antennas outside ? Not here ! Well you might be surprised. There are many methods to get your antennas out in the free air. The key here is do the very best you can to blend in or conceal your installation. Do your best not to attract attention. Install your antenna at night if possible, another way is to mix it in with some other project like painting, repairs or hanging Christmas lights.

### PAINT

A little paint does very little to your RF efficiency but goes a long way to disguise your antennas.

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## 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, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Stan KB2PD, Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA, Ed WA2NDA, Walter KC2LFD.

### CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Carl WA2IQE, Carl W2PTZ

www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA

Publicity: Ed W1EAP

Programs: Dave WA2DJN

Sunshine: Ed W1EAP

Event Food Committee: Vacant

Field Day: Larry K2QDY

VE Sessions: Bill AC2F, Larry K2QDY plus the 'crew'

Skyhook: Larry K2QDY

Funds Raising: Vacant

Membership: Murray KD2IN

## HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

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

President	Steve Jackson	N2WLH	732 255-7916
Vice President	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732 736-0955
Secretary	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732 237-2421
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732-505-4821
Executive Board	Joe Militano	KC2QLA	732-657-7092
Executive Board	Bill Haldane	AC2F	732-240-7064
Executive Board	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732-237-2421
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 \$10.00 additional.

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 Drive. Turn into Santiago Dr., then into the parking lot in front of the pool. Enter bldg. on right.

The SKYHOOK is published monthly.

Editor and Publisher:

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Since my house is in the clear with few trees I use a blue-gray color that blends into the sky and in my case my house. Use a flat color if possible. Also there is a line of camouflage paints that are made for cars that are great around foliage, fences or decks. Experiment by painting boards to see what will work best for you.

## VERTICALS

Radials: On HF the length of the radials on the ground is not as critical because the earth detunes them. Run as many as you can as close as you can to the 1/4 wave length for your lowest frequency. I would suggest that you bury them down about 1 inch. Radiator(s): On VHF & UHF full size and radiators are usually fairly easy to hide. For example use 3/16 rod instead of 1/2" tubing for your J-pole and paint to match, or hide it in a fake roof vent. Several amateurs have built 1/4 and even 5/8 wave antennas into a working wind vane. On HF verticals can be built into "birdhouses" on a pole, these can be full sized on 10 meters or so and loaded or capacitance hats in the "house" itself for other bands. A popular theme is the flagpole antenna. One design for a multi band version is in the ARRL antenna book, it consists of a pole made of PVC with homemade traps inside. Another good way is to feed a ground isolated 26 foot pole against a radial system with a concealed remote tuner at its base. Also a wire radial can be run up a wood flag pole. Coax: Use a good quality coax cable to reduce RF & interaction problems.

## DIPOLES

Dipoles can be very effective and also being balanced usually are some of the cleanest in terms of TVI and RFI. The eaves of your house is a good spot to hide a dipole, just staple it up there and paint to match. Also a dipole laid flat on your roof can have good results. Inverted Vee configurations tend to work best for stateside contacts while flat tops high in the air work best for DX. A surprisingly good choice is the "invisible wire", small gauge wire as small as 30 gauge can be used if suspended properly, I suggest 26 gauge magnet wire. These small wire sizes will create some loss but not too much until you get to the low bands and even there it will work ok. Also 18 gauge or so wire can be used and allowed to oxidize to have no reflection of sunlight. These antennas can be supported by trees, fences etc. Fishing line is very useful for tying to structures and pulleys with small springs or weights can be used to let the dipole move in the wind without stretching. Feed line: A little care is needed here, be careful of running parallel to electrical lines or ductwork if using balanced lines. Use the best coax or twin lead you can but if you can't, use 300 ohm TV lead with some loss for easy routing.

## How's DX By Russ Young WA2VQV

Russ, WA2VQV worked:

On 30 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, 5N7M Nigeria, CN2FB Morocco, CY0/N1SNB Sable Island, EI6IZ Ireland, GW3YDX Wales, I5ITA Italy.

On 20 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, LZ1370PRT Bulgaria, TT8DX Chad.

On 20 Meters SSB: 4A4A Revillagigedo, CY0/N1SNB Sable Island, EA8URL, EF8R Canary Islands, EI8GS Ireland, KP2CW U.S. Virgin Islands, TI8M Costa Rica, V31TF Belize, VP9/W6PH Bermuda.

On 20 Meters PSK31: EA6AZ Balearic Islands, KP4CPC Puerto Rico.

On 20 Meters RTTY: 5K3W Colombia, 8P9NX Barbados, DF5MA Germany, EA6AZ Balearic Islands, HH4/AF4Z Haiti, HZ1PS Saudi Arabia, J6/DF2SS ST. Lucia, J73WA Dominica, UN1L Kazakhstan, V21ZG Antigua.

On 17 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, 5N7M Nigeria, 6W2SC Senegal, CY0/N1SNB Sable Island, HC1MD Ecuador, HH4/AF4Z Haiti, OK1KW Czech Rep., PJ2/W0NB Curacao, TI5/N3KS Costa Rica, TJ9PF Cameroon, V4/AA1M St.Kitts & Nevis, VP5/AC8W Turks & Caicos.

On 17 Meters SSB: 4A4A Revillagigedo, TJ3AY Cameroon.

On 17 Meters PSK31: F1MWV France.

On 17 Meters RTTY: CY0/N0TG Sable Island, KG4SS Guantanamo, P40YL Aruba, TJ9PF Cameroon.

On 15 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, 8P9AA Barbados, J88DR St. Vincent, PJ2/NP2L Curacao, VP2V/G3PHO British V.I..

On 15 Meters SSB: 4A4A Revillagigedo, S9DX Sao Tome & Principe.

On 15 Meters RTTY: 4A4A Revillagigedo.

On 12 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, EI6IZ Ireland, FO8RZ French Polynesia, J39BS Grenada, KH2/N2NL Guam.

On 12 Meters SSB: OE3DIA Austria, S58N Slovenia, WP4NEG Puerto Rico.

On 12 Meters PSK31: V21ZG Antigua.

On 12 Meters RTTY: 4A4A Revillagigedo, GU3UOQ Guernsey.

On 10 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, FM5LD Martinique, HC2SL Ecuador, PJ2/N5HZ Curacao.

On 10 Meters RTTY: J73WA Dominica.

Steve, N2WLH worked:

On 40 Meters SSB: 4A4A Revillagigedo Islands, OM2AML Slovakia.

On 20 Meters SSB: 4L1AN Georgia, 4U1ITU ITU HQ, CY0/N1SNB Sable Is., GB4R England, HB10K Switzerland, J79XBI Dominica, JW8XRA, JW9VDA Svalbard, S50O Slovenia, S9DX Sao Tome & Principe, UW7LL Ukraine.

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On 17 Meters SSB: 9A2YM Croatia, 9K5OUU Kuwait, FM4NB Martinique, HB9CVQ Switzerland, HI3/KL7JR Dominican Republic, PA3GSU, PC4U Netherlands, PJ7/W8EB Saint Maarten, PZ5P Surinam, SP2Y Poland, TK1CX Corsica.

On 15 Meters SSB: 5L2RL Liberia, 7X4AN Algeria, HH4/AF4Z Haiti, NP2I U.S. Virgin Is, OQ4U Belgium, PJ2/N4QQ Curacao, R7DX European Russia, TJ9PF, TJ3AY Cameroon.

On 12 Meters SSB: 9K2YM Kuwait, CN8SG Morocco, EA8BWL Canary Is., ES5GP Estonia, HA0NAR Hungary, IK4GRO Italy, V44KJ St. Kitts & Nevis, YL2BJ Latvia.

On 10 Meters SSB: 8P5A Barbados, C91KHN Mozambique, I5REA Italy, NP2I U.S. Virgin Island, XE2IA Mexico, ZS2EZ South Africa.

Warren, KC2SSQ Worked:

On 20 meters SSB: OM3GI Slovak Republic, OM5M Slovak Republic, OR7K Belgium, CO6LC Cuba, EF8R Canary Islands, G3BJ England, F8AAN France, TM6M France, LX7I Luxembourg, HK1X Colombia, OK7K Czech Republic, DK8NG Germany.

On 10 meters SSB: XE2AU Mexico, PJ4G Curacao, LS1D Argentina.

Larry K2ODY Worked:

On 30 Meters CW: 6Y5WJ Jamaica, F6ITP France, VP2MFX Montserrat, P40D Aruba, SV9/ON6WP Crete.

On 40 Meters CW: ZF2LCK Cayman Islands, P40D Aruba, 7X4AN Algeria, KH5MB Hawaii, II1TO Italy.

On 20 Meters SSB: HK1X Colombia, OL9Z Czeck Republic, LN9Z Norway, IZ2BNI Italy, OZ7X Denmark, KP2CW Virgin Islands, YP9W Romania, 9A1A Croatia, SN8R Poland, DK4WA Germany.

On 15 Meters SSB: KL7RA Alaska, JA3YBK JR3NZC JR1CBC Japan, LS1D Argentina, ZP5MAL Paraguay, ZX5J Brazil.

On 24 Meters SSB: XE2WWW Mexico, IK2AGN Italy, S58N Slovenia, ZF2AH Cayman Islands,

On 24 Meters CW: 4A4A Revillagigedo, EA8/DL3KOV Canary Islands, LU7HF Argentina, J68PJ St Luca, ZF2LC Cayman Islands, 7P8KDR Lesotho.

On 10 Meters SSB: XE2WQQ Mexico, CO8LY Cuba, V25WY Antigua, V44KJ St Kitts.

On 10 Meters CW: KP2B Virgin Islands, XE2XR XE2S Mexico, LU4FLJ Argentina, PY3YD Brazil.

73 & GOOD HUNTING,  
RUSS, WA2VQV

## ARRL Special Events By Kevin Wagner W2FA

### 04/02/2011 | 2011 Major League Baseball Opening Weekend

**Apr 2-Apr 3, 1300Z-2200Z, N1B**, Boston, MA. N1AGE. 14.280 7.250. QSL. Dana Copley, 457 Regan Rd, Somerset, MA 0272

### 04/09/2011 | USS Midway (CV-41) Decommissioned 1992, Chief Petty Officer Grade Established 1893

**Apr 9, 1600Z-2359Z, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Radio Operations Room. SSB 14.320 7.250 PSK31 14.070 D-STAR 012C and 2 m/70 cm SOCAL reprints. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. [kk6fz@arrl.net](mailto:kk6fz@arrl.net)

### 04/11/2011 | RMS Titanic Special 99th Anniversary Event Station

**Apr 11-Apr 16, 1400Z-2030Z, W1MGY**, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, Inc. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Special Event Station W1MGY, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151. [webpages.charter.net/kb1mu/Titanic/titanic.htm](http://webpages.charter.net/kb1mu/Titanic/titanic.htm)

### 04/23/2011 | Earth Day

**Apr 23-Apr 24, 1500Z-0000Z, W5E**, Earth, TX. Ransom Canyon Amateur Radio Club. 21.275 21.035 18.120 14.270 14.035 10.120 SSB CW Digital. QSL. Robert C. Boyd, 98 S Lakeshore Dr, Ransom Canyon, TX 79366. In celebration of the 41st Earth Day from EARTH, TEXAS April 22-25, 2011. We will try to operate as many modes as we can and 2 or 3 stations. Weather is always a factor this time of year in West Texas. Rain, wind, dust, sleet, snow, tornadoes, or beautiful clear skies. Just never know. Look for us on the bands. We will try to have a test session and will try to postmark QSL cards from Earth, TX. [wa5vsk@gmail.com](mailto:wa5vsk@gmail.com)

## ARRL Contests:

Rookie Roundup SSB - April 17 2011

## ARRL HamFests:

### 04/02/2011 | New Jersey State Convention

**Location:** Ewing, NJ

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Delaware Valley Radio Association

**Website:** <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>

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**04/03/2011 | Two Rivers ARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Boston, PA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.trarc.net>

**04/09/2011 | 56th Annual York Hamfest**

**Location:** Spring Grove, PA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** York Hamfest Foundation

**Website:** <http://www.yorkhamfest.org>

**04/10/2011 | JSARS Hamfest by the Shore**

**Location:** Toms River, NJ

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://jsars.org>

**04/16/2011 | Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics**

**Expo**

**Location:** Georgetown, DE

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Website:** <http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>

**04/16/2011 | Drumlins ARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Newark, NY

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Drumlins ARC

**Website:** <http://www.drumlinsarc.org>

**04/17/2011 | BARA Hamfest**

**Location:** Port Crane, NY

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Binghamton Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://w2ow.org>

**04/30/2011 | Great Hagerstown Hamfest**

**Location:** Boonsboro, MD

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Antietam Radio Association (W3CWC)

**Website:** <http://w3cwc.org>

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