



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

May 2010

Toms River, NJ

## Program for our May Meeting

Our May program will be a DVD video presentation. At this time I am not sure which video we will be watching but it could be a DXpedition or a ham radio Fox Hunt. Both of these topics are very interesting and educational. We have seen DXpeditions in the past but each is very interesting and dangerous in it's own. Fox hunting is a game where a small millwatt transmitter is placed out in the field a distance from the origination point and then the participants using sensitive receivers and directional antennas try to locate the hidden transmitter.

We will also be finalizing our plans for Field Day which is Saturday June 26. Once again we will hold our Field Day operations at the Toms River Park located at the foot of Selkirk and Orlando Blvds here in Holiday City South.

## Dates to Remember

May 2	Warminster P.A. Hamfest
May 3	Club Luncheon
May 6	Regular Membership Meeting
May 12	VE Session Wednesday 7:00 PM
May 17	Club Luncheon
May 26	Executive Board Meeting
May 31	Club Luncheon

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Joe Militano 05/11

### Anniversaries

Kevin and Kathy Wagner 05/20

Warren and Barbara Keay 05/26



## The President's Corner By Dave WA2DJN



The April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was attended by 12 members. We did not have other officers present due to some health problems. There has been some articles, in the Sky Hook, Yahoo Groups, and club Web Site. Please send in more articles to support our club. April is a busy month for a number of different reasons.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Middletown Grange Fairgrounds 576 Penns Park Rd. Wrightstown Pa. Rt. 413 7-2 cost \$5.00

We discussed having another luncheon in July, but at a different location. Amy 2 Chinese Buffet, located off Rt. 571 near the Pathmark shopping store.

We had a Show and Tell which was very interesting. Don Pye, GIUCT, showed us his Ham license from England. He also showed us a certificate which took him a year to obtain, twice a week, to get his license. He had a test of over 50 questions.

Ed Picciuti W1EAP, showed his 1923 Antique Receiver which his son purchased for him. He told us how he built a power supply for it and replaced some tubes and parts.

Murray Goldberg KD2IN, showed off a DC Battery Type Voltmeter, he also showed some small Nixi Type of indicator tubes as well as some small Quartz Crystals which he used to check for exact frequencies.

I showed off several different type of AC socket testers, one of which was a buzzer type. I also showed a continuity checker made with a 9 volt battery a 1000 ohm resistor and a led indicator. My last show and tell was an LC type of meter which reads coils, and capacitors, made by Almost All Digital Electronics. This is a kit and sell for about \$100.00. It is a great instrument for experimenters.

I hope to see you at the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

73

Dave Ottenberg

**NEXT MEETING: May 6, 2010**

**Thursday 7:00PM**

**Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South  
Clubhouse**

**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

## The Amazing World of Ham Radio

### By Frank Fallon N2FF

This morning after breakfast with the heavy rain I decided to play with the new Elecraft K3 on 17 meters and see if I could work a few English or Irish stations and have a good rag chew. As I have spent so much time over the years in both countries I enjoy working stations in places where I have stayed or visited and talk with hams who might even know some of my friends or relatives. So it was that I found a clear frequency and put out a few CQs. The first few times I called no one answered. It took me a while to realize that I was transmitting on the 15 meter loops. Wrong antenna once again! I am not yet use to the new manual bandswitch. I put the switch to the 17 meter position and called again and sure enough a station answered.

He was EI3HA/M on his way driving home to Roscommon. So we started to chat about where he was and my Irish connections. Licensed in 1962 I have been at this ham radio game for more than 48 years. My first SSB rig was a Drake R4 bought used in 1965. I spent a lot time in those days on 10 and 15 meters with a 14 QVQ vertical on the roof of the garden apartment where we lived in Cambria Heights in Queens at the time. Ten was great in those years and I quickly started to rack up a lot of EU stations early in the morning. At that point I was on late session at Forest Hills High School and did not start work until 10:30 in the morning. Thus I had an hour or more to look for new ones before I set off for the work day. One of the first Irish stations I worked on SSB was EI8H. I lost him before we could complete that first contact. I had his name but not his QTH or location. When I pulled out the Foreign Call Book and looked him up I was amazed to find that he was located in the town of Granard in County Longford. I was excited because both of my parents who came to the USA in 1928 were born in County Longford. I took the time to look through all of the Irish stations listed in the call book. There were less than 300 listed at that time and only three of them were located in County Longford. So my first Irish QSO was real Irish luck at it's finest. I bored a lot of relatives and friends over the next few days with this small world story. Over time I talked to one of the other three in Longford, who was actually a German national who ran the largest factory in Longford at the time employing over 70 people. Six years later my contacts eventually led me finally to make a five week family visit to see Ireland with my wife and two children and visit relatives I had heard my parents speak of but who I have never seen. This Irish visit in 1972 led to an application for a Fulbright Teacher Exchange position and eventually the family, my wife and my son and daughter, spent a year in the Blackpool in the North of England in 1974 and 1975. But

that story needs its own book.

So here I was talking to Tony who was in his car driving home to Roscommon in heavy rain. It was raining on both sides of the Atlantic at the time. Eventually when signals started to fade I tied the ribbons on my chat with Tony and hoped that we could continue the chat at some future point. That often happens in the ham radio world. When I signed or closed with him he was called by another Irish station and I stayed on frequency listening. The new station explained that

#### Our VE Crew

Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Jack KC2FS, Stan KB2PD Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA Ed WA2NDA.

#### CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: John K2WJH, Carl W2PTZ  
www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA  
Publicity: Ed W1EAP  
Programs: Vacant  
Sunshine: Ed W1EAP  
Event Food Committee:  
Field Day: Larry K2QDY  
VE Sessions: Bill AC2F, Larry K2QDY plus the 'crew'  
Skyhook: Larry K2QDY  
Funds Raising: Vacant  
Membership: Bill AC2F

#### HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

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

President	Dave Ottenberg	WA2DJN	732 505-5953
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Norm Smith	W2PXE	732 920-5423
Treasurer	Joe Militano	KC2QLA	732 657-7092
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732 505-4821
Executive Board	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732 349-2950
Executive Board	Bill Haldane	AC2F	732 240-7064
Executive Board	John Hann	W2JWH	609 660-0985
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

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 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.

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he had just come up the band but had been down lower working the west coast of the US on CW. He heard Tony loud and explained that he was usually able to see Tony's tower from his location in Balinallee. I immediately knew that the new station was in Longford as my mother had often spoken of Balinallee and the famous Irish General, Sean Mac Eoin, who came from that town and eventually headed the UN Irish contingent in the Congo in the 1960's. When the two Irish stations quickly finished their short chat I called the station in Ballinallee.

He came back and told me his name was Owen (Irish spelling Eoin), EI9O. I told him of my Longford Irish connections in Lanesboro and Longford town. I mentioned that I had visited Longford many times on many visits to Ireland telling him that I had often stayed with my ham friend George, EI6S. Owen replied saying, "Maybe then you know EI8H, my father?"

I actually gasped when he said father.

I came back, "Mary and Pat Fagan are your parents?" I sputtered out.

"Yes," he responded. I was unaware that any of EI8H's children had become hams.

"God," I answered, "My wife and I and our two children met you when you were a little kid. I have many pictures I took of you and your brothers and sisters on our visits to your house in Granard. I can't believe this! How are your parents?" I asked as I had not talked to EI8H in many years. Mary and Pat Fagin had twelve children so I am not sure which one is Owen in the pictures. I'll have to send him one and have him figure it out. While Pat was a farmer, who had been a ships radio operator before settling down to raise children and cows, his wife Mary was a licensed pharmacist who worked in a chemist shop on the main street in Longford town.

"They are fine. They are going to be very excited when I tell them I worked you on the air."

"Don't get, Pat too excited. He may not be able to take the strain." I knew I was pretty excited, so I could imagine how Pat would react.

We signed off shortly after promising to look for each other and continue the conversation next time.

My wife was out in the rain shopping but I had a good story to tell when she came home for lunch.

Here was another small world ham radio story for me to tell my friends. God, I hope I don't bore them too much with this one.

## My Friend Frank, N2FF By Larry Puccio

In the mid 1950s two young boys were attending "The Most Holy Trinity" high school in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, New York. This was an all boys parochial high school and the students came from all of the boroughs throughout the City of New York. I lived in the county of Queens and Frank also lived in the same county but not near my home. The teachers at the school were Marianist Priests and Brothers. One of the Brothers "Bob Lindermann" had an interest in ham radio and together we formed the school radio club. Frank did not have a license at that time but had a strong interest in ham radio and would come to my house to listen to my equipment. After high school we lost contact with each other as he went to one college and I went to another. Frank did get his license and he became very active in the hobby.

He is the Hudson Division Director for the ARRL and has championed many ham radio causes including antenna restriction cases. Often we will meet for and eye ball contact at hamfests throughout NY and NJ.

Today we meet regularly on the air at 8:30 AM on 3700Khz with another alumni from the high school, Bob Van Rekowsky, W2II who graduated a year or two before us. The group consists of nine regular check-ins. We usually talk for thirty to forty five minutes and all are welcomed to join. Most of the conversation is about ham radio and DX but sometimes we drift off onto the subject of the high school days and the antics that occurred then. As we all know ham radio is a very interesting hobby and people do become friends and keep up those friendships' for many years.

## 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 Joe Militano club Treasurer with your dues money.



## How's DX Cont'd

By Russ Young WA2VQV

### Russ, WA2VQV Worked:

**On 30 Meters CW:** 9K2MU Kuwait, F5NBX, TM7CC EU-065 France, MD0CCE Isle of Man.

**On 20 Meters CW:** 5B/US8ITL Cyprus.

**On 20 Meters SSB:** CN8WW Morocco, CO6LC Cuba, GI9JU Northern Ireland, HI3TEJ Dominican Republic, LY11A Lithuania, MC0SHL Wales, RN3QO European Russia, S51CK Slovenia, TM5EL France, UW7LL Ukraine, VY0V NA-231 Canada.

**On 17 Meters CW:** 6W1SJ Senegal, HA0NAR Hungary, HR2/NP3D Honduras, KH6MB, KH7Y Hawaii, LY11MM Lithuania, LZ132GO Bulgaria, MM0DGR/P Scotland, RK3ER European Russia, TA1C/2 Turkey, TG9IRP Guatemala US5CB, EM20UCC Ukraine, ZF2UL Cayman Islands.

**On 17 Meters SSB:** LY11A Lithuania

**On 12 Meters CW:** 5N50K Nigeria, CO8LY Cuba, EA5FX Spain, LU5OM, LU7YS Argentina, V31QS Belize, V51AS Namibia.

**On 12 meters SSB:** EA1DR, EA7RU, Spain, HI3/W1JNZ Dominican Republic, ZF2UL Cayman Islands.

### Joe Militano KC2QLA Worked:

**40 Meters SSB:** VE3MGY Canada.

**20 Meters SSB:** EA7HIQ Spain, LX1SG Luxemburg, DR1A Germany, ON4HIL Belgium, GI5K Northern Ireland, S55T OM2VL Slovenia, SN2B Poland, CO2GG Cuba.

**17 Meters SSB:** J5UAP Guinea-Bissau.

**12 Meters SSB:** V2IZG Antigua Barbuda.

### Larry Puccio K2QDY Worked:

**On 80 Meters SSB:** EA1KE Spain.

**On 20 Meters SSB:** OZ8CTH Denmark.

**On 20 Meters CW:** 4X4DZ Israel.

**On 17 Meters CW:** JR1NHD Japan, VQ9LA Diego Garcia, LU6EF Argentina, EA5FX EA5KA Spain.

73 & Good Hunting, Russ, WA2VQV

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