



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

September 2011

Toms River, NJ

Program for our September Meeting

Our September agenda includes a discussion by Dave Ottenberg, WA2DJN, on uses of the Antenna Analyzer and the Grid Dip meter. When checking an antenna a 50 Ohm reading does not mean everything is okay. There are other factors and the antenna analyzed can display J factor as well. The grid Dip meter was very popular in the early days of radio and continues today as well in aligning tuned circuits.

Dates to Remember

September 1	Regular Membership Meeting
September 5	Club Luncheon
September 14	VE Session
September 19	Club Luncheon
September 28	Executive Board Meeting

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Tom Louis 09/06
 Virginia Louis 09/04
 Shirley Goldberg 09/17
 Steve Jackson 09/09



Anniversaries

Tom and Virginia Louis 09/05
 Andy and Audrey Murin 09/04



The President's Corner By Steve N2WLH



With amateur radio what it is today any ham can find a niche within the vast area of communications it covers. Be it chatting on local repeaters, satellite communications with Astronauts or other ground stations, VoIP with links to amateur radios throughout the world, contesting, or rag chewing to mention just a few, you'll find there is something for everyone.

Many people enjoy the aspects of building low power transceivers from kits to try their hand at making contacts with equipment they have built themselves. This may also include portable antennas that can be utilized while camping, backpacking or cycling. Some of our members use QRP stations when they relocate down south for the winter months allowing for low impact communications in their neighborhoods. Whatever the reason they find QRP stations a joy to use whether they build them themselves or purchase the rigs prebuilt.

Following our general membership meeting in August we adjourned for refreshments and then Dave WA2DJN held a discussion on some of his QRP rigs and station accessories to include an end fed half wave antenna design by Steve Yates AA5TB and a antenna he constructed utilizing portions is a MFJ-1622 apartment antenna coil. Following Dave's presentation he introduced Carl W2PTZ. Carl gave a talk on his "Lil Squall" QRP rig from QRPme that he had built and his plans on how he was going to use it in his station operation. Following Carl, I gave a brief talk on the NorCal "38 Special" I had built several years ago while working in Maryland to pass time while not at work. We went into a brief discussion on varying construction techniques and methods of housing your newly built masterpiece. If you think QRP is for you then you may want to visit this website: <http://www.amqrp.org/misc/links.html>.

As you can see we are having discussions and demonstrations at our meetings presented by our own members showing the various areas of amateur radio they have personally found interesting.

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NEXT MEETING: September 1, 2011

Thursday 7:00PM

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

Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

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If you have a subject you would like to discuss just let Dave know and he will fit you into the discussion schedule. Next month Dave will discuss and present ways to use a MFJ antenna analyzer to include additional uses other than just finding out your antenna's resonant frequency along with the use of the venerable grid dip meter.

The very best 73,
Steve Jackson N2WLH

Ham Radio Sample Tests By Hamilton Carter KD0FNR

Hi,

I just saw the Holiday City ARC on the arrl.org web site and I noticed that you offer help for newcomers. I've written a set of free online FCC ham radio license exam practice tests at <http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/hamtest> that I'm hoping hams will find useful. There are randomly generated practice exams for all three license classes in the U.S. as well as for the Canadian and New Zealand ham radio exams.

Online help topics are provided for many of the exam questions. The list of help topics is constantly growing as I get time to add to it.

Users can track their test scores, as well as a count of how many of the question pool questions they've practiced over time. In addition to random practice exams, users can automatically practice exams with questions they haven't seen yet in each sub-element group, or questions they haven't gotten correct in each sub-element group. There are also embeddable versions of the practice exams that you can add to your clubs own web pages. These are available at:

<http://goo.gl/OC1b7>

Please let me know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better. Also, if you think it's useful, please feel free to add a link to the practice exams at your site. Thanks!

<http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/examhelp/acf.html>

73
KD0FNR
Hamilton Carter

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

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

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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Ocean County ARES® News Provided By bob Murdock WX2NJ

The Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1 and runs through November 30. Now is the time to make preparations if you are in an area which can be affected by hurricanes. The following is an excerpt from Rick Palm, K1CE, from the ARES E-Letter of May 19, 2010:

“As reported in the last issue, it's a bleak outlook for this year's hurricane season. Living on the exposed east coast of Florida, I am personally in the middle of a potential ground zero for catastrophe. It is deeply gratifying to know that Florida is home to some of the finest and most active ARES and RACES planning, training, and exercising in the country. A new statewide ARES emergency plan is in the works, being drafted by an elite group of ARES and State EOC officials. We have had the good fortune of having excellent leaders in our Section Managers and SECs (we have three ARRL Sections in the Sunshine State). I feel that ARES and indeed, Amateur Radio at large, is in very good hands here. It brings to me a sense of safety and security in my home, just a mile or so from the edge of the ocean.

But, I, as well as every radio amateur and citizen in the state also have an obligation for personal preparedness, and planning. Here is what I've done so far for personal readiness: stocked my closet with one case each of canned fruit, mixed vegetables, and baked beans; pasta, instant rice, and about 30 gallons of fresh drinking water. I've laid in a good supply of extra batteries, flashlights, candles, cat food, cat litter, gasoline in extra tanks for the truck and motorcycle. I've pre-bagged sand bags for stacking against rising water. I dusted off the Radio Shack NOAA weather alert radio, plugged it in, tested it, and made sure I had extra batteries for it. I bought several small propane canisters and a stove head for them. I bought a back-up stove as well. Still to do: I need to buy a new hand-held, and will probably buy one of the Yaesu units I tested for June QST's Product Review - they are so inexpensive these days! I'll buy an extra battery for the unit, too. I also need a gel cell for my HF and 2-meter radios on the desk here.

As for planning, I know exactly what I will do if threatened by a hurricane: Go straight to the hospital in Daytona Beach, where I work on the ICU. I will stay there until the event is all over. Incidentally, it's the tallest set of buildings around, and a new D-STAR repeater is being placed on top of one of the towers there. I can also bring my cat there for the duration. Hospital administrations think of everything

when it comes to potential disaster situations facing the community - it is deadly serious business.

What's in your closet? What are your plans?, Rick K1CE “

As Rick stated, living on Florida he is in the potential ground zero for a catastrophe during severe weather. There are many locations in Ocean County that can be in the same situation, such as the barrier islands, essentially at sea level with one egress point. Make your plans now.

73 de WX2NJ
Bob Murdock
Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service®
EC
Ocean County Skywarn Assistant Coordinator

Hamfest

Garden State Amateur Radio Association (GSARA) upcoming Hamfest on Saturday, September 10, 2011 in Tinton Falls.

Note that admission is by the carload, so pack up as many members as you can fit into your vehicle for a total admission of \$5.00

The Hamfest will be held at: MOESC (Formerly MAECOM)

100 Tornillo Way (intersecting with Shafto Rd.)

Tinton Falls, NJ 07712

If you need a map or more help, please email or call me.

Thanks!

Bill, NJ2H 732-982-1792

Gloucester County ARC Upcoming Hamfest on Saturday September 18, 2011 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM rain or shine

Admission is \$6.00 Per Ham

The Hamfest will be held at the Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds

240 Bridgeton Pike (Rt.77)

Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

Hows DX
From JULY 15th – AUGUST 14th:

Russ, WA2VQV worked:

On 30 Meters CW: A45XR Oman. .

On 20 Meters CW: 5C12M Morocco, R6AF/P EU-185 European Russia, ST0R South Sudan.

On 20 Meters SSB: 9A1HDE Croatia, RD1AR European Russia.

On 17 Meters CW: 4J5A Azerbaijan, EA8CAC/P Canary Islands, EU1A Belarus, OQ5A Belgium, YS3CW El Salvador.

On 17 Meters SSB: ST0R South Sudan, YV2BYT Venezuela.

On 17 Meters RTTY: 9H4JX Malta.

On 15 Meters CW: 5C12M Morocco.

Joe, KC2QLA, Worked

40 Meters SSB: E7IA Bosnia

20 Meters SSB: 9A7R Croatia, P43E Aruba, PB6W Netherlands, SP5JTF Poland, UX6IZ Ukraine, YV5EAH Venezuela.

17Meters SSB: CO8LY Cuba

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