



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

December 2011

Toms River, NJ

## Our December Meeting Will be our Holiday Party

December 1st, 2011 is our annual holiday party meeting. There will be a brief business meeting and then on to the festivities. Please try to be to the Club House by 6:30 PM. This year we will have hors d'oeuvres and deserts. Please keep the date open and of course wives or significant others are invited.

### 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. Our bills amount to \$600.00 per year Please see Larry Puccio, our club Treasurer, with your dues money.

### Dates to Remember

December 1	Holiday Party
December 12	Club member Luncheon
December 14	VE Session
December 26	Club member Luncheon
December 28	Executive Board Meeting

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Jessie Kaciuba 12/01  
Helen Picciuti 12/26  
Joyce Smith 12/19



#### Anniversaries

Dave and Sandy Ottenberg 12/09  
Ed and Helen Picciuti 12/05



## The President's Corner By Dave WA2DJN



Hi All

Our November meeting was the first one that the new club officers conducted. I took the office of the Vice President and will take on the job of president for a short time until we can find someone to take over the president's position. Thank you Steve for the great job you did as president of the club last year. The other officers are Larry Puccio Treasurer, Carl Lee as Secretary, with Bill Haldane and Don Smith on the executive board. We need members to work on the executive board and someone to take the presidency.

Larry gave a treasurers report and noted that there were about 22 members. He also talked about the cost of running the Field Day event and suggested that we drop it because of the cost and the amount of work and time involved. He suggested that we go to the Old Barney Club for Field Day. I will discuss this more at the January meeting.

I gave a presentation showing the new Hendricks CW transceiver which is 5watts output and has a built in tuner, keyer and VFO. I also showed a home brew tuner which is used for long wire antenna's, and explained how I am going to use it in the field.

Our December meeting will be the Holiday party and members should call Grace Puccio to let her know how many will attend and what food you plan to bring. Her telephone is 723-349-2950

I hope that every one has a nice Thanksgiving holiday and hope to see you all at the December first Holiday Party.

73  
Dave Ottenberg  
WA2DJN

**NEXT MEETING: December 3, 2011**  
**Thursday 7:00PM**  
**Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South**  
**Clubhouse**  
**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

## QRZ Callsign Database Policy Change

Effective today, the QRZ Callsign database is changing the way we serve callsign data to our web (browser) based users. These changes have been brought on by a steadily increasing number of automated systems that access the QRZ data in so-called hidden or stealth mode. Such systems create a significant load on the QRZ servers and in doing so, deprive ordinary users of the performance that they deserve.

These robots (or 'bots') come in many forms. Some are designed to scrape the entire website for every piece of information we have. Others, known as "log checkers" are programs written by hams that repeatedly query the QRZ servers while working through lists of 10's of thousands of callsigns, doing it as rapidly as possible. Finally, some logging programs provide "auto fill" features that use the QRZ servers in the background to fetch callsign data as soon as the user types in a callsign.

For the past several years, QRZ has provided an XML Data service that was specifically designed to serve automated requests such as those described above. The XML service is an extremely lightweight and flexible system that places less than 1/10 of the load on our database that a "stealth" callsign lookup does on our regular pages. In addition, our advertisers are being deprived of ad exposures by these programs which routinely ignore or discard all such non-callsign data as they scrape our site.

Today's changes address these issues with a new set of constraints that we have developed with the goal of providing fast and fair access to all QRZ users. The following is a summary of what these measures mean:

Callsign data, including name, address, and other QSL and logging information will be shown only to registered users of QRZ who are logged in at the time of the request. Guests that have not logged in will still see the callsign Bio page and pictures, but no callsign information will be shown.

Registered users who are logged in will see the full detail on callsign pages.

Ham users, i.e. those whose user name matches a callsign in our database, are limited to 150 callsign page lookups per day, not including their own callsign page.

*Continued on page 4*

## 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: Vacant

Programs: Dave WA2DJN

Sunshine: Dave WA2DJN

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	Vacant		
Vice President	Dave Ottenberg	WA2DJN	732 505-5953
Secretary	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732 237-2421
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732-505-4821
Executive Board	Bill Haldane	AC2F	732-240-7064
Executive Board	Vacant		
Executive Board	Vacant		
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 additional \$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 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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## WA2VQV Construction Projects By Russ Young WA2VQV

My first attempt at building anything electronic was a crystal radio from a schematic in Boys Life Magazine (remember Pedro, the burro with earphones?). The radio consisted of a 1N34 germanium diode, a small variable capacitor and a ferri-loop stick, which was an inductor with an iron core tunable slug. Soldering was done with a wood burning tool. The radio was mounted in a wooden cheese box which was painted olive drab with model airplane dope. Connected to a dipole antenna which was installed from my bedroom window, down the driveway to the garage, the radio tuned two local AM stations simultaneously. It was not possible to separate them but if you concentrated, you could listen to one or the other.

The second attempt at building anything electronic was an EICO (Electronic Instrument Company) 20 Watt monaural HiFi amplifier kit in 1959. Connected to a 16" Utah speaker it worked fine when I plugged it in and was able to spin some LPs on a Gerrard turntable.

That kept me going for a while but then my trigger finger was itching to use my Weller soldering gun again. I had just gotten my novice license and decided to attack the 30 Watt input 80/40/15 Meters CW rig in the 1961 ARRL Handbook. Obtaining new and used (surplus) parts was easy in those days as Radio Row was still alive and kicking on Cortlandt Street in downtown Manhattan. The final was a 6DQ6B beam power pentode with 370 Volts on the plate and a cathode current of 90 mA. The 2 X 7 X 13 inch chassis was enclosed in a 7 X 9 X 15 inch aluminum box. I painted the box with black gloss enamel and identified all the operating controls with decals. It was a work of art! The antenna was, again, a dipole installed from the living room window down the driveway to the garage (different house). However, not many QSOs were obtained with a 15 foot high dipole and 30 Watts. So, Attempt #3 was an EICO-720 90 Watt input CW transmitter kit covering 5 bands 80-10 Meters.

The EICO worked fine and I didn't dispose of it until 1996, along with an HQ-145X receiver. Having completed the (working) EICO rig and now having a General license, wouldn't it be nice to be able to get on phone? The 1961 Handbook also had a nice 25 Watt plate modulator using 6BQ6GTs in push-pull. Checking the RCA tube manual it appeared that the 6DQ6B had pretty much the same characteristics as the 6BQ6. So, the 30 Wat-

ter was rebuilt into the 25 Watt plate modulator. The AM audio always got excellent reports for audio quality.

Surfing the internet recently, I came across a kit for the "Ice Tube Clock" The clock uses an IV-18 vacuum fluorescent display (VFD) tube (Russian surplus, the tube has CCCP stamped on the back). It displays the time, date and day of the week. It can be set for U.S. or European display. In other words, the time can be displayed in 12 hour AM/PM or in 24 hour time. The date in U.S. is MMDDYY or in Euro DDMMYY. I have it set for 24 hour time but rarely use the date/day of the week functions. Construction is surface mounted on a printed circuit board (PCB). This was the first time I had attempted this type of construction and was somewhat apprehensive about the soldering technique. Obviously, I couldn't use my old Weller soldering gun here, so a trip to Radio Shack and I had a new soldering station to play with.

When the kit arrived in the mail, there were no instructions, no manual, nothing. Before sending the thing back, I went to the internet site and to my surprise found everything needed there, available to download.

On the web site:

- A list of the tools required to build the kit, with color photos.
- A complete parts list with color photos of each part and # of pieces.
- A 37 page construction manual with color photos of each step.
- A 5 page construction manual for the acrylic enclosure.
- A 12 page operation manual for setting the various functions.
- A 5 page description and schematics of the circuits.

It took me about 12 hours over a three day period to build the clock and it looks great on the operating desk next to the rig. The only discrepancy is the digits on the tube glow green and not blue.

The kit cost \$85.00 plus S+H but I was having so much fun building the thing I didn't think about the price.

73, Russ, WA2VQV

[Ice Tube VFD Clock kit - Glowy retro tube clock](#)

*Continued from page 2*

Non-ham users, i.e. users who aren't hams or don't have a username that matches one of our callsigns, will be limited to 25 callsign lookups per day.

QRZ subscribers, of any type, are granted unlimited daily access to the QRZ callsign data. *Continued on page 5*

These limits are designed for fairness and the vast majority of our ham users will never be affected by them, aside from the new requirement that you must be logged in to see callsign data. Note as well that when looking up or viewing your own callsign page that the act does not count against your daily lookup limit.

We ask for your support in accepting these changes and understanding that they were necessary in order to maintain the high level of service and support that our users have grown accustomed to.

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ  
 Publisher, QRZ.COM  
[aa7bq@qrz.com](mailto:aa7bq@qrz.com)

## CW shortcuts By Murray Goldberg KD2IN

This is an article written to help those who are relatively new to copying CW off the air.

It may be confusing to hear a QSO with brief sets of letters that don't seem to make any sense. These are just shortcuts. Get to know the word-shortcuts listed here and become a better CW operator.

The following words and Q signals have been culled from practice CW QSOs. These words and Q sigs can be used for code practice.

Agn ant bug c cul fb gm (good morning) ga (good afternoon) ge hi om op pwr rx tnx wx xmtr rig yl 88 abt bk b4 cud (could) de es gn (good night) hw ob pse sri vy wud xyl 73 fer sig rpt hpe wrk u hr ur rst59 qrp thru hf temp gud cpy qrn qrs qrt qrz qsb qsl qsy qth

The 10 most used 2, 3 and 4 letter words in the English language.

To in of it is be as at so we the and for are but not you all any can that with have this will your from they know want

Most frequently heard Q signals.

QRM QRS QRN QRT QRZ QSB QSL QSY QTH

Frequently heard equipment manufacturer names.

Yaesu Kenwood MFJ Icom Alinco Cushcraft

Antenna words.

Yagi dipole vertical quad 3el tribander

Frequently used punctuation.

Comma (,) dash (-) Question mark (?)

## Special Events By Kevin Wagner W2FA

**12/04/2011 | Pearl Harbor Commemoration**

**Dec 4-Dec 7, 1400Z-2200Z, W2W**, Baltimore, MD. National Electronics Museum (K3NEM). 14.241 14.041 7.241 7.041. Certificate & QSL. W2W, PO Box 1693, MS4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. Other bands/modes possible, K3NEM will spot W2W. [k3nem.org](http://k3nem.org)

**12/10/2011 | Holidays from the Twin Christmas Cities of Nazareth and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania**

**Dec 10-Dec 11, 1400Z-0200Z, WX3MAS**, Nazareth, PA. Christmas City and Delaware/Lehigh Amateur Radio Clubs. 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.850, PSK31 on 20 40 m, 10 15 m if conditions permit. Certificate. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club, RR 8 Greystone Bldg, Nazareth, PA 18064. [www.dlarc.org](http://www.dlarc.org) or [www.qrz.com/db/WX3MAS](http://www.qrz.com/db/WX3MAS)

## How's DX

From: October 15<sup>th</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>:

**Joe KC2QLA** Worked

**40 Meters SSB:** DR1A Germany, EB3CW Spain, VE32C Canada.

**20 Meters SSB:** EA8ZS Canary Islands, LU7MED Argentina, LX7I Luxemburg, NPAZ Puerto Rico, RL3A Russia, YT2T Serbia

**15 Meters SSB:** CR2X Portugal, GI5K Northern Ireland, ON4LT Belgium, P33W Cyprus, PI4D Netherlands, PV8CQ Brazil, S59N Slovenia, TM2S France, VP5T Turks & Caicos, WP2Z Virgin Islands.

**12 Meters SSB:** I5REA Italy, PJ2/W1ASB Bonair Curaca, SP2Y Poland

**10 Meters SSB:** CO8LY Cuba, P4OGH Aruba, EA9IE Ceuta & Melilla, R7LV Asiatic Russia.

*Continued from page 4*

**Warren KC2SSQ** Worked:

**On 15 Meters SSB:** DH0F DJ1A DL0XIM DR4W  
DK0CN Germany, IZ4NPE Italy, RA3BL RL3A RW3DA  
UA4NCI UX6IZ Russia,

**On 10 Meters SSB:** 7X4AN Algeria, EA8CAC Canary  
islands, EB3CW Spain, HI8LAM Dominican Republic,  
IW1CKR Italy, OK1VUC Czech Republic.

**Russ, WA2VQV** worked:

**On 30 Meters CW:** EG8FBN Canary Islands, TX7M  
Marquesas Islands.

**On 20 Meters CW:** PJ7/W4BUW Saint Maarten.

**On 20 Meters RTTY:** TX7M Marquesas Islands.

**On 17 Meters CW:** PJ4/W9NJY Bonaire, TX7M Mar-  
quesas Islands.

**On 17 Meters SSB:** ZD8ZZ Ascension Island.

**On 17 Meters RTTY:** PJ4J Bonaire.

**On 15 Meters CW:** T32C East Kiribati

**On 15 Meters RTTY:** ZD8F Ascension Island.

**On 12 Meters CW:** 4L1MA Georgia, HB9LCW Switzer-  
land, JA1VND Japan, ST2AR Sudan, TA3AX Turkey,  
TU2T Ivory Coast, TX7M Marquesas Islands, UA2FR Ka-  
liningrad, VQ9JC Chagos, ZF2AH Cayman Islands,  
ZL1BYZ New Zealand.

**On 12 Meters SSB:** XF1C NA-165 Mexico.

**On 12 Meters RTTY:** A65BR United Arab Emirates,  
E74KC Bosnia-Herzegovina, R0FA Asiatic Russia.

**On 10 Meters CW:** EW80 Belarus, PF7DKW Netherlands,  
R6YY European Russia.

**On 10 Meters SSB:** CN8ZG Morocco, DK7LA, DL8YBM  
Germany, IT9YHR Sicily, PE1GNP Netherlands, RA3CQ,  
RK3SWB, UA3ADW European Russia, S54KM, S550ACP  
Slovenia, SV2CXI Greece. TX7M Marquesas Islands.

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