



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

January 2007

Toms River, NJ

## Program for the January Meeting

How to get through the 'pileups' to make successful contacts with DX (foreign) stations is one of the techniques explained by our January program. It is a video put out by CQ Magazine. Called 'Getting started in Dxing', it covers the whole gamut of questions on Dxing for beginner to 'old hand' at the art of Dxing.



This is also a 'Pizza Night' meeting—arrive hungry!

Sponsors are: Mike KC2MTT & Vince W2GRA.

## Dues are due for 2007

Please write a check for \$20 or bring cash to this meeting to pay your dues. Best bargain around!

## Notice: Nomination & Election

Nominations for a Treasurer and an election to fill the position will be held at this meeting.

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 01/04 Bill Moenter W2HUN
- 01/17 Millie Gietter (W2BHS)
- 01/17 Murray Goldberg KD2IN 86th
- 01/18 Ed Picciutti W1EAP
- 01/26 Jane Lee (W2PTZ)
  
- 01/21 Elizabeth & John W2LKS Calise



## January VE Session

The next club VE session will be on Saturday Jan. 13th. The time is 10 AM at the Holiday City South Clubhouse meeting room #1. Call Larry at 732-349-2950 to register to take a test. (Walk-ins are not acceptable.) Larry K2QDY will fill you in on what to bring, Ids, fee and any other questions you may have for him.

## The President's Corner

By Larry K2QDY



This years Holiday party was held on December 7, 2006, at our regular December meeting. We started the party at 6:00 PM as we were going to have a hot meal and entertainment. Before I go any further I would like to say that we had overwhelming generosity on the part of all the club members that made this years party the great success that it was. In addition to member generosity, Nancy Bruscella wife of silent key John, W2LEC, sent a monetary contribution that we used to purchase a sheet cake and fruit platter that was enjoyed by all. The party started at 6:00 PM with everyone enjoying cheese and cracker platters served by the ladies on Grace's committee. A special thank you goes to Lucille Hann, Nona Haldane, Ed and Helen Picciutti, Barbara Sammarco and my wife Grace who served the group of 42 people quickly and efficiently. This was followed by the group dining on penne al la vodka, Italian sausage, frank and bean casserole, meatballs, macaroni, potato and pasta salads, cole slaw, vegetable platters, green salads, salami and pepperoni platter and Italian bread. Dinner was followed by an array of desserts that included a tropical salad, fruit platter, sheet cake, home made Christmas cookies, sugar free cookies, a spice cake and a delicious apple pie. The meal also included coffee, diet and regular soda and tea. A special thanks to Joe and Dorothy Savarese who donated a bottle of wine to be one of the door prizes.

The meal was followed by entertainment provided by the Harmonics, a Harmonica band that one of our members, Joe Savarese, is a member of. Joe played a solo tune demonstrating his mastery of the Harmonica and accompanied the group with a medley of Christmas and standard tunes that many of the audience hummed along too. Everyone agreed the entertainment was a delight.

All present agreed the party was a huge success in large due to the participation of club members, their spouses and invited guests who once again provided much of the needed items. A special thanks to all the members and their spouses who participated in the clean up effort after our party.

Well now that the holidays are on us and we are about to

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**NEXT MEETING: January 4th**

**Thursday 7:00PM**

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

**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

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start 2007 we need to focus on next years club activities. I will be applying for the permit to use the Tom's River Park again for the clubs Field Day activities in June. This should be a good time for the club members and their spouses and a challenge for the club to improve our score in the contest over this year's total.

We are continually on the look-out for new club members. If you know someone that has recently moved into your section of the community please let one of the club officers know about that person so that we might contact them.

Well that's all for now and I look forward to seeing you at the January 4th meeting.

Best 73s,  
Larry Puccio K2QDY

### Monday Lunches at the Diner

Next ones are on New Years Day Jan. 1st., and then on Jan. 15th and 29th. Location is at the Holiday City Diner in Plaza III at the corner of Mule Rd. and Davenport Rd.



Time is 12 noon. Be there 10 or 15 minutes earlier so the restaurant can know how to set up for us. 'Come on down'.



## The ARRL Newsletter

### FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE AS EXAM REQUIREMENT!

Early next year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We . . . believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques." The FCC says it deems the current regime of written examinations "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio

operator license."

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that

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### Our VE Crew

John W2LKS, Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Jack KC2FS, Stan KB2PD.

### CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ray kc2gkn, Carl w2ptz, John k2jwh

Club Internet Site: Jack kc2fs

Publicity: Ed w1eap

Programs: Murray kd2in

Sunshine: David wa2djn

Event Food Committee: Grace-Marie (k2qdy)

Field Day: Larry k2qdy

VE Sessions: Bill ac2f, Larry k2qdy

Skyhook: Murray kd2in

Funds Raising: Irv n2bhs

### HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

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

President	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Vice President	Murray Goldberg	KD2IN	732-505-6860
Secretary	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732-736-0955
Treasurer			
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732-505-4821
Executive Board	Bob Salisbury	W2JSF	732-240-4318
Executive Board	Bill Haldane	AC2F	732-240-7064
Executive Board	Ray Lauterbach	KC2GKN	732-244-8176
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.

The SKYHOOK is published monthly.

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We now start the new year 2007. It seems appropriate to look back into the club's past as well. Listed in the Silent Keys are all those who were our friends and supporters of the club during the years of the club's existence. Murray KD2IN.

## HCARC Silent Keys 1989—2007 Gone But Not Forgotten

Everett Althoff W2MHB  
 Bill Berthold W2POD  
 John Berwecky AA2EX  
 Hiram Brown W2YSM  
 John Bruscella W2LEC  
 Dr. Phillip Castorino KB2MWM  
 Harry Chapman N2XDK  
 Martin Clifford KE4LGC  
 Sidney Cohen W2HXH  
 William Cox WB2DAQ  
 Charles Dinyovsky N2AI  
 William Foxon KA2QAJ  
 Robert Golder KC2CFW  
 Edward Huber WA2YAI  
 William Johnson KB2GQD  
 Andrew Johnston N2GUT

Roscoe Jones N2LTN  
 Andrew Muskus WD5HLY  
 Vincent Noto W2EKW  
 Jerry Oselador N2NQF  
 Robert Reed W2CE  
 Arnold Repetti WA2QNA  
 Paul Roeder K2PR  
 Frank Russo KE2PE  
 Dave Sanger W2UL  
 James Scholoto KB2ZWT  
 Burt Smith WA2FGB  
 Gene Smith K2DBL  
 Alfred Sundberg W2ADK  
 Frank Tukey KA2EIO  
 Joe Williams KB2LRY  
 George Wright W2GW

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"maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future -- whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact. The Commission further amended Part 97 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who sat-

isfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After reviewing the more than 3500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as

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bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Since World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, the UK, Canada, Germany and other countries have dropped their Morse requirements. Sumner said other countries have successfully made the transition to a codeless testing regime, and he doesn't anticipate problems in the US.

The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says distribution of General Class license training materials have skyrocketed in the week after the FCC announcement.

The ARRL has posted information relevant to the FCC action in WT Docket 05-235, including an FAQ, on its Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

#### STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT IS JANUARY 1, 2007 (UTC)

ARRL once again will sponsor Straight Key Night (SKN) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/skn.html>

starting at 0000 UTC January 1 (New Year's Eve in US time zones) and continuing for the next 24 hours.

SKN is *\*not\** a contest. It's an opportunity for CW enthusiasts -- veterans or novices -- to dust off their straight keys and enjoy socializing and "rag chewing" on the air. Some 350 participants posted entries for SKN 2006. SKN 2007 entries via e-mail <[straightkey@arrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrl.org)> or to SKN, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 must be received by January 31, 2007.

*Above is from the newsletter of 12/22/07*



## Happy New Year 2007

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