



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcArc.us

January 2008

Toms River, NJ

Membership

As a result of the Asbury Park Press article about our club "Ham Universe" we have received a number of phone calls regarding membership in our club. At the holiday party two new members participated, Paul Kaciuba, N2IFH, and his wife Jessie and Warren Keay, KB2ICL, and his wife Barbara. Both indicated they had a good time at the party and we are looking forward to their participation at our meetings. In addition we have three or four other people that I will be contacting to invite them to our January meeting. We need to continue to grow the club and any help we can get in this area is welcomed. If you meet someone new in the community that has an interest in ham radio invite them to our meetings, if you see a call sign license plate get that information to one of the club officers for us to contact.

Dues

It's time for Dues again. Please remember that our club does not host hamfests or other fund raisers. With the help of those members that have contributed to the coffee, cake and pizza and other donations we are able to maintain the club account. However, without the full membership dues we would be in serious trouble. The club insurance bill is equal to the dues of 15 members and our donation for the use of the meeting room equates to the dues of six members.

January Program

This month Lee Kissel, WA2JWR, will be demonstrating "Echo Link." This is a good program for those who can't put up an antenna or use traditional ham radio equipment due to restrictions.

The President's Corner By Larry K2QDY



Our holiday party has happened and I believe all those in attendance had a real good time. This party was a buffet and there was all kinds of finger food and dips and deserts. I would like to thank all the people that participated and brought in the many delectable foods that made our holiday table very bountiful. We thought that maybe next year we would try an international flare. Those who choose to participate will be asked to bring in a dish from their heritage. I did this once before at my office and it was a huge success. Italian, German, French, Jewish and many others dishes made for a delightful choice of foods and deserts. Another highlight of the evening was Lucille Hann's game, "The holiday picture song sheet" and her antique presentation. Songs were presented in picture form and the group had to identify the name of the tune. Some were very difficult but everyone had a good time guessing the titles. After that game Lucille presented her antique collection. Lucille told the group about how she and John had collected antiques when living up in Plainfield. The collection is extensive and she passed around all the items for everyone to examine and try to identify. We were surprised at some of the explanations. A few that I can remember are the mustache curling iron, the ice cream scoop, the egg beater and the tire boot used to find you car after someone took it for a joy ride. We thanked Lucille for fine presentation and look forward to her providing another game program at the next club get together.

We should start to think about Field Day June 28/29 2008. My guess is a committee should be established to determine how and what we should do. Our June 2007 Field Day was a huge success and 2008 should be better. We had good weather and a good group of folks who participated.

Another committee I will be looking to form is for the development of a float to be entered in the Toms River Halloween parade. We have an offer from John Hann, K2JWH, for the use of his pick-up truck in the parade. Imagine a float with HCARC displayed and maybe some

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NEXT MEETING: January 3, 2008
Thursday 7:00PM
Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse
Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

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CW or SSB emanating from a speaker system.

I am also thinking about a ladies auxiliary to the club. At the holiday party the suggestion was made and perhaps we need to think about the benefits. The ladies could help with the refreshments at our meetings and with setting up our luncheons or anything else they might feel is something they could accomplish.

Well that's all for this month and I look forward to seeing you at the January 3rd meeting and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. Imagine 2008!

73

Larry
K2QDY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to all:

01/17 John Calise (W2LKS)
01/17 Millie Gietter
01/17 Murray Goldberg (KD2IN)
01/26 Lee Kissel (WA2JWR)
01/26 Jane Lee
01/18 Ed Picciuti (W1EAP)
01/18 Dan Repetti (NT1C)

How about Coincidence??

Happy Anniversary to all:

01/21 John and Elizabeth Calise (W2LKS)

Holiday City ARC Diner Luncheons

The January lunch get-togethers will be the 14th and the 28th of the month. Luncheon items can be selected from a lunch menu special or by ordering separate items from the menu.

Murray Goldberg, KD2IN, Receives An Appreciation Plaque

The reason a club stays in tact for many years is mainly due to the dedication of its members. At our holiday party, December 6th, Murray Goldberg, KD2IN, was presented a plaque for his many years of untiring work on behalf of the club. Murray was a past President,

Vice President, Executive Board member and Editor of the club news letter the "Skyhook." Murray also took care of membership, inventorying and purchasing supplies for the club's refreshments and many other jobs. His efforts will be missed but he has truly earned his new retirement. We hope Murray will continue to be an active participant in the club and at club functions.

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 KC2GNK, John K2JWH
www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA
Publicity: Ed W1EAP
Programs: Bob KC2QMZ
Sunshine: David WA2DJN
Event Food Committee: Grace-Marie (K2QDY)
Field Day: Larry K2QDY
VE Sessions: Bill AC2F, Larry K2QDY plus the 'crew'
Skyhook: Larry K2QDY
Funds Raising: Irv N2BHS
Membership: Bill AC2F

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Vice President	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732-736-0955
Secretary	Norm Smith	W2PXE	732-920-5423
Treasurer	Joe Militano	KC2QLA	732-657-7092
Executive Board	Don Smith	W2III	732-505-4821
Executive Board	Lee Kissel	WA2JWR	732-244-6074
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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4. (1) 6 Pos Coax Antenna Switch—\$35.00

Contact Dave Ottenberg at (732) 505-5953

DXing for beginners written by Brennen Ernst, KI4PRK, age 13 from Leesburg VA.

In a just over a year and a half of being a ham, the only thing I've found that I can do for hours on end without getting bored is DXing. I've found that many people claim that DXing is too hard, or that they don't have the equipment, or that QSLing is too expensive.

I have one of the most basic setups a ham can have. Being 13 years old, I certainly don't have money to throw around, nor do I have the experience time in ham radio to be an expert. So how did I end up with 188 countries?

DXing is something that EVERYONE can enjoy. And nobody says that you have to QSL to be a DXer. Many hams I talk to are DXers with over 200 countries but not a single QSL to speak of. DXing is not hard. You simply need to remember these five, simple rules:

Always listen before transmitting:

- 1) Always listen before transmitting
- 2) Always be courteous
- 3) There is always propagation to somewhere
- 4) Know your propagation, at least basically
- 5) Be patient

If you already follow these 5 rules, you have 90% of what you need. For those who don't have unlimited time, a computer can be useful to pick up some DX spots. Some good spot sites are DXwatch.com, or DX summit. Your equipment matters very little for the first 50 to 75 countries. If you are very patient and willing to learn a little technique, you can stick with QRP to a wire for those earlier catches. But the easiest way to go is 100w plain transceiver and a Dipole or a good vertical. There are excellent books out there. Too many to name, but my personal favorites are the DXCC handbook by the ARRL, and "The complete DXer", by W9KNI. Both are available from the ARRL.

While not necessary, an Extra class license helps. On 80, 40, 20, and 15 most of the good DX hangs out below the General class segment. But I worked 75 countries with a General class license, and you can too. 17 and 30 will be your best bands for now, and 12/10 when the sun-

spots come back. And once the sunspot cycle kicks in again, even the techs can work DX on 10M!

I recommend learning CW. CW has a very good signal to noise ratio versus a SSB signal under same conditions. Of course, I have worked VU7RG, 9U9Z, and others running SSB but CW will be your best friend in poor circumstances. SSB works fine and some have achieved Honor roll #1 on SSB, but CW helps a lot.

And even at this point in the cycle, don't forget about the higher bands. Even 10 meters is open to Central America, the Caribbean, and northern South America at some times, at least from the Eastern USA. I have PM5JC in Indonesia confirmed on 15M! So though not as active as 20 or 17, keep an eye on the spotting net while tuning 20 and you may get a nice surprise. 12 and 15 are often open to the pacific when other bands are not, usually in the mid/late afternoon. While I've stated before that your equipment matters little for very casual DXing, I still recommend getting the best antenna you can. Put your Dipole up high, or get a good set of radials for your vertical. For the low bands, Beverages work nice for receive (only), and for 160/80 inverted L's are good for transmitting. Don't abandon digital modes either! PSK31 is a very efficient mode, and with my Dipole at 40 feet I've made it all the way to Ukraine on 3 watts using this mode! And if you do chase awards, DXCC is not the only option. IOTA, SOTA, CQ zones, Worked all Africa (very hard!), or some of the smaller awards are fun too. I enjoy the Canadian awards. And WAC (worked all continents) makes a very nice first award. QSLing can be easy. I won't go into detail about the complicated direct process, but via the buro is cheap and easy if you are willing to wait. And LoTW costs virtually nothing! Not all DX utilize this excellent resource, but some patient DXers have DXCC using only Logbook of the World! And though not accepted for DXCC, eQSL is fun and easy. So next time you hear a DX calling CQ, don't just listen. Join in! It's fun!

73 and hope to hear you on the bands, de Brennen
KI4PRK age 13

Now you know everything you need to know to work those rare ones. Maybe we should have a contest in the club to see who can work the most DX in a years time. How many have DXCC, WAC or WAS?

Written by Joe Derhay
77 Roberts Road
Toms River, NJ 08755

Ed Picciuti

Hope you don't mind an extra photo of your write-up. My call is WB2IAT. In all my life (84), all I was interested in music and ham radio so I applaud you. I grew up in Jersey City and was always going to lower New York for extra #30 tubes, resistors, batteries etc. for my one and two tube radios. My interest began while hearing the hams just off the broadcast band. I had a knack for cw from the start.

In 1938 I got hooked into music. I was active around Times Square and the big bands and free tickets to broadcasts. All I had to do was take the train across the river. I still play keyboard and accordion with bands and in nursing homes around the area with a

write-up in Senior Scoop once in a while.

In 1992, I was New Jersey state MARS director for one year as AAR2UL (AAA2NJ).

My rig was the Drake twins and I enjoyed it. I still have the mars roster for New Jersey dated April 1992.

Four years ago I had to move and unload all my radio gear. I sure miss the action. I also totaled my car and can't get around the way I want. If and when I get another car I will be sure to attend your club meetings. Meanwhile, I would appreciate a club bulletin once in a while. Thanks for listening and 73's to all

Joe Derhay
WB2IAT

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