



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

January 2010

Toms River, NJ

January Program

Our January program may consist of a DX video as we have done in the past, however, it would be so much nicer if a couple of our members could bring in a constructions project or maybe a piece of equipment to describe or demonstrate. If you are building a kit of any kind you could talk about the construction or maybe demonstrate what the kit does. If you have built a project in the past, for example, a tuner you could also bring that item and discuss how you gathered the parts, where you got the idea and how it works.

Dates to Remember

January 7	Membership Meeting
January 11	Club Luncheon
January 13	VE Session
January 25	Club Luncheon
January 27	Executive Board Meeting

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to all:

01/13	Barbara Keay
01/17	Murray Goldberg (89 years young)
01/26	Lee Kissel
01/26	Jane Lee
01/18	Ed Picciuti
01/18	Dan Repetti



The President's Corner By Dave WA2DJN



The December 3rd meeting was our holiday dinner. We had about thirty Members and wives who attended. This year we did something different and had sandwiches, salads, coffee, soda, and a nice sheet cake for desert.

If you were not there you missed a very nice affair. We had a 50/50 Raffle, as well as a scratch off cards, for the ladies. Thank you Ed Picciuti, for you help in organizing this.

Several members took pictures and Steve Jackson, will post them on our Web site in the near future. I want to thank Carl and Harriet LeFevre, Larry and Grace Puccio and many others for their help in setting up for the dinner, and putting the food out to eat, and then cleaning up after the dinner. I also want to thank my wife Sandy, for her help as well.

We are planning on having a lunch in the Chinese Buffet, possibly in March of this year. I will check with the members next month.

We are looking for articles for the web site, yahoo group and the Sky hook, to keep them full and active. I also need a program manager, to coordinate the monthly speakers or activity, for our meetings. They do not have present a program, if they do not wish to do so.

The new year will be here before we know it. I hope that it brings good health, and happiness, for the new year. I hope to see you all at our next meeting on January seventh.

73
Dave Ottenberg

NEXT MEETING January 8th, 2009
Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse
Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

Articles Needed

Our Skyhook has been published for many years with many very interesting articles. Articles from outside sources most times require a consent to republish. This is covered under the US Copy-write laws. Another source of articles are those that are developed and written by our club members and they do not require Copy-write permission. Generally articles can be anything from "How I got Started in Ham Radio", "I have constructed a new antenna" or maybe "My job was very interesting." Maybe you could write about a Kit you are building or some piece of equipment that you built from a magazine article. Please try to put some article together for the Skyhook as it surely would make the newsletter a better publication.

Amateur Radio News from Florida By Carl Lefevre, WA2IQE

The Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society held its 44th annual hamfest in Melbourne, Florida on October 11, 2009, as reported in an article written in the newspaper, Florida Today. The Chairperson of the event, Kathy Quinn, told the Florida Today reporters that "about 1,500" were expected to attend the two-day event, which was held in the Melbourne Auditorium.

Just a few miles south of Melbourne is the small town of Palm Bay, where I have a step-mother. A ham radio operator from Palm Bay, Fred Boyer, N3QK, said that "when emergencies occur and cell phone towers are out, amateur radio is one of the few reliable modes of communications." Boyer acknowledged what many of us already know, that since the use of cell phones is so widespread, ham radio is often not as necessary in emergencies, such as power outages, as long as the cell towers are operational.

Because this hamfest took place in an area of Florida I have visited many, many times in the past, I decided to look up the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society online. A "Google" search quickly located the Society website, which is: www.pcars.org. The site indicates that this Society resides in the "central east coast of Florida." It has been in existence "for over 40 years," and "has 100 members. The Society meets the second Monday of each month at 7:15PM at the Salvation Army building at 1080 Hickory Street, Melbourne.

The Society has a club callsign, W4MLB, issued by the FCC. They operate two VHF FM repeaters (146.85/.25; 146.61/.01) and one UHF repeater (444.425/449.425 Out/In Tone 107.2; packet mode 149.09). The club president is Jim Hogan, NN4AA.

While this brief article is about ham radio in another part of the country, I found it interesting to learn initially about this Society in an area of Florida I am familiar with and then to gain additional information through the Society's website. It's a good example of how much information is available about ham radio (and almost any topic, actually) in this, the information age.

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.

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: John K2JWH Carl W2PTZ
www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA
Publicity: Ed W1EAP
Programs: Open
Sunshine: Ed W1EAP
Event Food Committee:
Field Day: Larry K2QDY
VE Sessions: Bill AC2F, Larry K2QDY plus the 'crew'
Skyhook: Larry K2QDY
Funds Raising: Open
Membership: Bill AC2F

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Dave Ottenberg	WA2DJN	732-505-5953
Vice President	Kevin Wagner	W2FA	732-279-0532
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	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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The Log Book of the World

ARRL's Logbook of The World Reaches New Milestones



Since its inception on September 15, 2003, more than 30,000 hams have signed on to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)), ARRL's online logging program -- an increase of more than 7000 hams since 2008. These 30,000 hams have made upwards of 250 million QSOs -- more than 58 million QSOs in 2009 alone. In 2009, there was an increase of more than 24 percent for both the number of registered users and the number of QSOs over 2008.

The LoTW system is a repository of log records submitted by amateurs from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. While US amateurs do not need to be members of the ARRL to use LoTW, only members can use LoTW to apply for ARRL awards, such as DXCC and Worked All States ([WAS](#)). Some awards, like the [Triple Play Award](#), only use LoTW credits instead of traditional QSL cards (foreign amateurs do not need to be ARRL members to apply for ARRL awards).

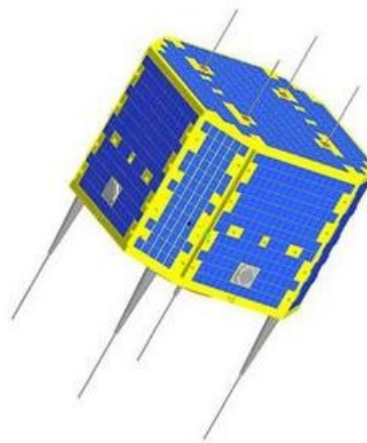
When an amateur uses LoTW to apply for an ARRL award, the award is processed much faster than if they sent in traditional cards. According to Administrative Manager for the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Sharon Taratula, an award applied for via LoTW can be processed in 24 hours versus sending in the cards. "Cards could take anywhere from 6-8 weeks," she explained. "It is definitely much quicker to apply for awards via Logbook of The World." Logbook of The World Specialist Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, said she answers more than 500 questions and inquiries each month from amateurs, ranging from replacing lost certificates, obtaining additional certificates and getting started in Logbook, as well as guiding people through the directions on how to enter in their QSOs. In November 2009, Allison answered 532 questions that came in via e-mail (no statistics are kept on the number of phone calls concerning LoTW, but Taratula estimated that it's "at least several hundred a month").

"One of the more common questions we receive has to do with using LoTW on multiple computers," Allison explained. "Now that a lot of people have a desktop computer and a laptop computer, we get this question a lot. We also get a lot of questions about what to do when a computer crashes." There are [step-by-step instructions](#) -- with pictures -- on how to navigate Logbook on the LoTW Web page.

"Logbook is not only for the serious DXer or contester -- it's for any active amateur," said ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "Even though we knew that Logbook of The World would explode in its popularity, 250 million QSOs in roughly the first six years of its existence show that LoTW's concept and ideas have worked beyond our expectations as we continue to improve and expand the system." Yaesu is the Principal Sponsor of the LoTW Web site.

Amateur Radio in Space:

First Chinese Amateur Radio Satellite Now in Space



AMSAT China ([CAMSAT](#)) reports that at around 0230 UTC on December 15, China launched its first Amateur Radio satellite -- named [XW-1](#) -- into space. The microsatellite -- a secondary payload aboard the CZ-4C rocket launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center -- was

launched into a Sun-synchronous orbit with an apogee of approximately 1200 kilometers. XW-1 successfully reached orbit at 0253 UTC. Members of the XW-1 launch team reported they received a beacon from the satellite shortly after the satellite deployed. In the first few days, the XW-1 team will work on the satellite's FM and store-forward transponder mode and its linear transponder mode. Once those tests are complete, they will upload a new flight program to set up the payload schedule. The satellite's communications payload includes a beacon and three crossband transponders operating in FM, SSB/CW and digital modes. Uplink and downlink frequencies can be found on the [CAMSAT Web site](#). For the latest Keplerian elements for XW-1 and other satellites, check out the [W1AW Keplerian Bulletins](#).

This Satellite operates up-link on 2 Meters and down-link on 432 Mhz. It should be easy to hear with very modest equipment. Why not give Satellite a try??

NOV-DEC 2009 HOW'S DX

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First, in answer to a question about the September QSO with **T2G** from Norm Smith, W2PXE, the QTH in the Tuvalu Atoll was Funafuti Island, as stated on the QSL card.

Russ, WA2VQV:

On 30 Meters CW: 3V3S Tunisia, CN2R Morocco, KP2/K3CT U.S. Virgin Islands, LY5A Lithuania, V31WV Belize.

On 20 Meters CW:

6Y7J, 6Y9LM Jamaica, 9G5TT Ghana, 9L1NH, 9L7NS Sierra Leone, E73W Bosnia, FM/F6ARC Martinique, HI3A, HI3B Dominican Republic, PP5BZ Brazil, UA0FAI Asiatic Russia, YS4/W0OR El Salvador.

On 20 Meters SSB: 9G5XX Ghana, FM5BH, TO1BT Martinique, IQ6CC Italy, KH2L Guam, TL0A Central African Republic

On 20 Meters PSK31: CE3FZ Chile, DL2OCE Germany, EA4/YO8DHC Spain, FM5AA Martinique, G0UZP England, KL8DX Alaska, ZL3NB New Zealand.

On 17 Meters CW: K2V U.S. Virgin Islands, V31WV Belize, VP2V/DL7VOG British Virgin Islands, VP5/N5KW Turks/Caicos Islands.

On 17 Meters SSB: K2V U.S. Virgin Islands, VP5/N5KW Turks/Caicos Islands.

73 & Good Hunting,
Russ, WA2VQV

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 2010 dues money.

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