



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

APRIL 2007

Toms River, NJ

Program for the April Meeting

Ham radio without using our ears? Near impossible. Yet we often don't give our ears a second thought. Our bodies are not what they were when we were in our teens. And our ears have declined in their abilities as well. so what to do?

Our guest speaker this month can enlighten us about this subject, as well as suggest remedies for failing hearing abilities. He is Michael Salazar, MA., CCC-A. From New Jersey Audiology on Lakehurst Rd.



This month, as is the case every third month, is a Pizza treat event. Sponsors for the Pizza are Ed W1EAP and John K2JWH. Topping sponsor is Murray KD2IN.

Membership News

Our newest member is:

Lee Kissel WA2JWR. His wife Donna is also a Ham, her call is WA2JWQ. Lee is very active in Ham radio again after being away from it for a while. (See the report on his repeater in Larry's column on the right.) He hails from Staten Island and was active in the Ham community there for quite a while. Welcome to the club Lee.

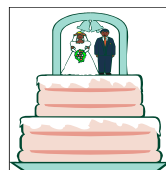
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4/2 Marjorie Stafiej (KB2PD)
- 4/2 Joe Cuff
- 4/4 Bob McGuirk AB2KS
- 4/8 Grace Puccio (K2QDY)
- 4/10 Marty Wiegler N2MRC
- 4/13 Polly Waked (KB2OQM)
- 4/13 Audrey Murin (KA2FTF)
- 4/16 James Hart KC2OOT
- 4/25 Doris Salisbury (W2JSF)
- 4/29 Joe Savarese WB2FXE



Anniversary

- 4/26 Jeanne & Marty N2MRC Wiegler



The President's Corner By Larry K2QDY



Last month our program included a presentation by Mr. Bill Wells from the New Jersey Natural Gas company. His talk related to cost saving in the home. Bill's slide presentation described many overlooked areas of the home where a small investment could result in large savings not only to the homeowner but also for our natural resources. One of the items touched on was the implementation of small instant heat water heaters. These are relatively small domestic hot water heaters, generally hung on a wall, but do not store a large quantity of hot water, but start heating the water under demand. Although sounding like a good idea the issue of sufficient capacity for a family and the fact that water needs to be run through the length of exposed piping, which may be in unheated areas, from the heater to the spigot before hot water may be realized, are concerns. Mr. Wells presentation was both educational and interesting.

A second presentation was provided by our new club member Lee Kissel, WA2JWR. Lee advised the group that he has a repeater at his home on frequency 146.88 (-) with no PL tone. Lee advised the group that his intent was to provide a repeater that would be available to those hams that had older HTs having no PL tone generator. He told the group that in order to avoid having to provide cavity filters, for separation of input and output energy, he has located the receive portion of the system in another part of town and connect the two over a 430mhz link. Lee invited the group to use the repeater and stated there are a couple of groups, Salvation Army and Union County Traffic Group using the repeater for nets in the evening, one day per week, but during the day the repeater is open for use.

On the air this past month there has been a lot of opportunity to work some rare and some not so rare DX stations. The ARRL international DX SSB contest occurred the weekend of March 3rd and 4th. Although I was only able to operate for two hours I did manage to work 200 stations in 24 different countries, unfortunately none of which I needed. I made contacts on 20, 80 and 160 meters and for the short time operating I did have a good time. DX wise this past month I was able to work TC2DX in Turkey, GP0STH on Guernsey Island, SV9GPV and SV9CVY both on the Isle of Crete. Although we are at the bottom of this sun spot cycle there are still some good band openings.

We had our VE session Saturday, March 10 and had four

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**NEXT MEETING: April 5th
Thursday 7:00PM
Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse
Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

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applicants. Two were upgrade to General Class without having to take tests as they had previously passed the test for element 3 and were able to present their CSCE forms as identification of previously passing the test. With the CSCE for element 3 they only require filling the NCVEC form 605 for the automatic up grade to General Class.

We are still looking for someone to volunteer for our Program Chairperson's position. This position is responsible for determining and arranging program material for our meetings. Program material might be videos or a public speaker. The club officers are willing to assist the chairperson in the identifying various program material. Our club has provided programs that make our meetings very educational, informative and interesting. Most material is relating to ham radio but we have also had public officials speak as well. Please consider this important position to lighten the burden on the club officers.

I want to thank the club members who have already paid their yearly dues. The dues are our primary source of income and we need all the members to support our efforts. The dues pay for club insurance, rental of videos and the coffee and cake and the pizza that we have from time to time.

We are continually on the look-out for new club members. If you know of a ham that has recently moved into your section of the community speak to them or let one of the club officers know about that person so that we might contact them. One new member is Lee Kissel, WA2JWR, and I would like to welcome Lee to the club and hope that he will become a proactive member. You might see a call letter license plate in the neighborhood indicating some ham just moved in so jot it down and let one of the club officers know about the call. If your community has a news letter they may list the names of new people moving into the community. These names may contain a ham that we can look up in the FCC data base or on QRZ. Let us know.

Well that's all for now and I look forward to seeing you at our April 5th meeting.

Best 73s
Larry Puccio
K2QDY

HC Diner Lunch Dates

The next get-together dates for our lunches at the Diner are on April 9th and April 23rd, on Mondays. We arrive around 11:45 am to noon, when the Hostess seats us. Lately we have had 9 to 12 guys showing up, and the talk flows faster than the coffee gets refilled. Lots of fun, and enjoyed by all. So come on down and join the gang.

Location is in Plaza 3 Mall, at the corner of Mule & Davenport Roads.



Holidays for April

4/1	Palm Sunday
4/2	Passover
4/6	Good Friday
4/8	Easter Sunday

Club Activities

4/5	Our April meeting 7pm
4/9	Diner Lunch
4/25	Club Executive meeting 10 am.
4/23	Diner Lunch



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

www.hcarc.us Webmaster:

Publicity: Ed w1eap

Programs:

Sunshine: David wa2djn

Field Day: Larry k2qdy

VE Sessions: Bill ac2f, Larry k2qdy plus the 'crew'

Skyhook: Murray kd2in

Funds Raising: Irv n2bhs

Membership: Don w2iii

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Vice President	Murray Goldberg	KD2IN	732-505-6860
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Treasurer	Joe Militano	KC2QLA	732-657-7092
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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What is PSK31?— And How to Do It.

By Russ Young WA2VQV

PSK31 is a very popular mode because it permits working DX with low power, an order of magnitude of 25 Watts or less. PSK31 stands for Phase Shift Keying 31 BAUD, with a narrow 31.25 Hz (or cycles per second) wide signal.

The operation of PSK31 requires a SSB transceiver (XCVR), a personal computer (PC) with a soundcard and (usually) some sort of unit to provide an interface between the XCVR and PC. In addition, PSK software is required to convert the data being typed on the PC into audio signals, which are sent from the sound card to the SSB XCVR for transmission. This process is reversed for reception of PSK31.

There are a number of interface units on the market. I use a RIGblaster manufactured by West Mountain Radio (www.westmountainradio.com). The use of an interface reduces the PC sound card LINE OUT level to a level acceptable to the XCVR microphone (MIC) input (from about 1 Volt down to 10 milliVolts) to prevent overdriving the XCVR and to maintain the proper audio levels required for an undistorted PSK output signal. The interface also allows the XCVR Push-To-Talk (P-T-T) function to be used.

CABLE CONNECTIONS

- A coaxial stereo audio cable connects the XCVR line output (or speaker terminals) to the PC sound card line input.
- A coaxial stereo audio cable connects the PC sound card line output to the RIGblaster audio input.
- A coaxial MIC cable (supplied with RIGblaster) connects the RIGblaster audio output to the XCVR MIC input.
- A standard DB25 to DB9 serial modem cable connects an unused PC com/serial port to the RIGblaster for P-T-T control of the XCVR during PSK operation.

SOFTWARE

As with interfaces, there are a number of PSK softwares available. I can only comment on DigiPan since that is what I have used since starting out with PSK in 2000. DigiPan Version 1.0 was first available in January 2000 and has since undergone nine releases, Version 2.0 being current as of November, 2004. DigiPan is available on the Internet as a free download at www.digipan.net.

DIGIPAN SCREEN - SPECTRUM WINDOW

DigiPan has three horizontal sections going across the screen, with the receive section on top, transmit section in the middle and the "WATERFALL" going across the bottom. The Waterfall (Spectrum Window) displays a portion of the spectrum on the given band several KHz wide (i.e., 14.071 to 14.075 on 20 Meters). When properly adjusted with the various Windows volume controls the display has a blue background and PSK signals are displayed as vertical yellow lines. A properly modulated PSK signal when transmitted will appear as yellow "railroad tracks" on the display. If overmodulated, additional

vertical lines will be seen on both sides of the railroad tracks representing unwanted sidebands.

DigiPan has a number of MACRO buttons which can be used to type information which is repeated during each QSO, such as equipment descriptions, name and location, etc. Use of the MACROs minimizes the amount of typing required during a QSO. MACROs are also useful during contests for calling CQ and exchanges which are repetitive, i.e., "599 RUSS DELAWARE".

For information about equipment dealers, software, etc., just type "PSK31 interface" in the search box at the top of your internet screen and hit "GO".

Above, I mentioned using WINDOWS volume controls. The DigiPan screen has a "CONFIGURE" button at the top of the screen. Pushing that button provides a drop down menu with buttons for the various volume controls that need to be adjusted for proper operation. It is really a trial-and-error procedure that is beyond the scope of this discussion.

73, Russ email: wa2vqv@aol.com

FURTHER REPORT FROM RUSS ON BAND RESULTS

Here's an update on PSK31 DX worked in Feb/Mar:
 FK...NEW CALEDONIA, VP2V....BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, XT...BURKINA FASO, 6W...SENEGAL, J7...DOMINICA, VP2E....ANGUILLA, G...ENGLAND, PD...NETHERLANDS, S5...SLOVENIA, IS0...SARDINIA, F...FRANCE, RN6...EURO/ RUSSIA, 4Z...ISRAEL, VO2...LABRADOR/CANADA, YL...LATVIA, CN...MOROCCO, HK...COLOMBIA

So, you can see conditions have been good lately with plenty of DX available. This was all done on 20 meters. I did work a guy in South Dakota on 17 meters PSK31 a few weeks ago but 20 meters seems to be where the action is.

73, Russ

(Ed. note: The PSK downloaded program has a help file which can be printed. This will yield a 14 page instruction booklet.)

DX Notes from Stan Stafiej KB2PD

Amateur Radio activity shut down in Iraq (Mar 13, 2007) -- Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, Y1IDZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. He says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners -- including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq.

The request to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of a new

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security plan, Sayah said. He received subsequent confirmation via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to shut down ham radio activity, although he allows for a possible misunderstanding on the part of government officials as to the nature and purpose of Amateur Radio.

FYI Guys !

Murray...It may be worth putting a note in the Skyhook to alert DX'ers in the club.

Stan



Scarborough Reef (a.k.a. Huang Yan Dao) is located at 15.1 North 117.5 East in the South China Sea and is more than 500 miles from mainland China. There have been three BS7H operations from Huang Yan Dao, which literally means Yellow Rock Islands. The first operation, which made about 2,000 QSOs, was in late June 1994 and did not count for DXCC. The second operation started on April 12, 1995 and ran for just under 4 days managing some 11,835 QSOs. This operation did count for DXCC. The last operation took place in late April and early May 1997 but came to a halt after just over 70 hours and 13,154 QSOs. This was when the Philippine Navy showed up and the Chinese ops agreed to leave. Scarborough Reef now ranks as the number one most wanted DXCC Entity. In fact it is number one everywhere

except in Asia (#7), North America Mountain Time Zone (#3) and North America Pacific Time Zone (#4).

Bernie McClenny, W3UR Announcing the 2007 DXpedition to Huang Yan Dao Better Known as...Scarborough Reef

After three years of effort to obtain permission to land and operate from the most needed entity in the world, that needed authorization has been received. A multi-national team led by W6RGG will operate from Scarborough Reef for ten days in late April 2007. BA1HAM and BV4FH have been instrumental in bringing this operation to reality with ongoing support being provided by N4XP, N1DG, K5YY and N6MZ. A team is being assembled that will include members from Asia, Europe and the USA.

As with any DXpedition to a location such as this, transportation is very costly and will be the largest single expense. Success will depend on the contributions of the DX Community. Please QRX for more information as it becomes available and the web site is activated.

N4XP for the 2007 DXpedition to Huang Yan Dao.

Bernie McClenny, W3UR

Now more than ever - you need The Daily DX and The Weekly DX - to keep up with the DX news from around the globe!

Editor of - The Daily DX <-- two free weeks...

<http://www.dailydx.com/order.htm>

- The Weekly DX <-- free sample

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