



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

May 2007

Toms River, NJ

Program for the May Meeting

So you bought that new, bargain-priced printer. Then the realization sets in that it was not such a great deal after all, when you discover the cost of the ink cartridges. Some printers have as many as 6 of them!

Entering the picture is the person of Mr. Norman Freeman. He represents Cartridge World, the place to save lots of dollars when you need a replacement ink cartridge. Yes, there is an alternative to buying, over and over again, the original manufacturers' expensive cartridge(s). And our speaker will tell us about this new way to save money, and get replacements for your cartridges as good as new, by his re-manufacturing technology.

Sponsors for this past and future Pizza meetings have been well subscribed to by several members. There are many more meetings this year where we provide varied cakes and coffee. We are looking for Sponsors for these 'coffee breaks' as well. Sponsors at \$5 each meeting would be a welcome help to enable the club to continue to provide quality refreshments. All Sponsors are credited in the Skyhook for their contributions.

Club Luncheon at new Chinese Buffet

We will be having a Chinese buffet luncheon at the newly opened **Fortune Buffet Restaurant** in the new **Orchards at Dover Mall** at 1311 Rt. 37 West. We will be there at 12 noon on Friday, May 11th. The cost for Seniors is only \$6.29. For those under 60 the charge is \$1 more. All members and their spouses and friends are invited to come and enjoy this fun get-together.

We will all be seated in their attractive 'Occasion Room'. Tea is included. (Soft drinks are not included.)

The Fortune Buffet has an enormous choice of foods. It goes from a salad bar and soups to all kinds of hot and cold choices for the main courses. Also an extensive dessert bar along with sushi and a cook-to-order Mongolian Grill. For seafood lovers they have a wide variety of fish and shellfish. (Lots of shrimp and snow crab legs, etc.) Come hungry—lots to try!

Please register at the May meeting for \$1 per person. This fee will be applied to the gratuity for the club table. You pay for your meal as you leave.

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The President's Corner

By Larry K2QDY



Last month our program included a presentation by Audiologist Michael Salazar who explained the workings of the ear. He talked about how various noises can cause damage to the ear if the noise is sustained for a length of time and of significant amplitude. In general the damage can manifest itself as a buzzing noise, a constant tone or the actual loss of hearing. He advised us that many people ignore the hearing until it is too late to be helped. Once the nerves in the inner ear have been damaged and loss of hearing occurs, without the help of a properly programmed hearing aid the total loss of hearing often times results. He described the tests he performs and explained that in general the loss starts with the high frequency tones. His talk was very informative and I was able to relate to the problem called tinnitus, sometime referred to as a tin ear, as I suffer from it.

Spring is finally here and that means time for antenna parties. Kevin Wagner, KC2NYQ, was telling me about his new tower and beam. Maybe Kevin would tell us about how he went about erecting his tower. I still have not had time to get my plans together for my tower. When I lived up north I had the tower mounted along the side of the house and bracketed to the house near the roof. The total height was 50 feet and one could see for a great distance when working on the antenna at that height. The antenna worked real well and DX was much easier to work than with the dipole I use now.

Start watching for the Hamfests. Don't forget one man's junk is another man's gems.

As this was our second quarter meeting, April, we enjoyed a pizza and soda meeting. After the business meeting and before the Audiologist started his presentation the group sat around and enjoyed some interesting ham conversation while munching of the pizza. I would like to thank everyone who put a buck or two into the coffee can as this really helps the club to afford these small pleasures.

On the air this past month there has been a lot of opportunity to work some rare and some not so rare DX stations. Swains Island had evaded me for quite a while but I persevered and was able to make three contacts with the rare N8S station before they closed down operation. One contact on 30 meters CW, one on 20 meters SSB and the last one on 17 meters. Coming soon is Scarborough Reef with the call sign of BS7H. There was a lot of discussion about the last DXpedition to the reef and we are all looking forward to this opportunity. 80 meters still affords some good DX to Europe in the early evening but with the summer months coming on the static crashes will make those contacts

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NEXT MEETING: May 3rd

Thursday 7:00PM

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

Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

(Continued from page 1)

difficult if not impossible.

This May we will be enjoying a Chinese luncheon buffet at the "Fortune" restaurant in the new mall along route 37 west. Grace and I had dinner there the other evening and I can tell you that the food is very good and with a large variety. If you go there for dinner, try to get there before 5:30 PM as the waiting line is long. We still need someone to help with the arrangements for future club luncheons. It only happens once a quarter and only requires the person to go to the restaurant to make arrangements. It is an easy job and we will help you until you get the hang of it.

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. 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 May 3rd meeting.

Best 73s

Larry Puccio K2QDY

Directions: The Mall is on Rt. 37 W between St. Catherine (from page one— Buffet)

Bldv. and Bimini Dr. There is a central entrance on the eastbound side of Rt. 37 W. From Mule Rd. Go west on 37 to Bimini, then use the jughandle to reverse direction, and go eastbound a half block to the Mall entrance.

VE Session May 12th Saturday

The next VE Session will be held at Meeting Room #1 at Holiday City South's Clubhouse area. Time is 10 am. Location is at the corner of Mule Rd. and Santiago Dr.

Call Larry K2QDY at 732-349-2950 to arrange to be at this session. Larry will be able to fill you in on all details and documents needed to bring with you to take a test, or upgrade with a CSCE.. (Walk-ins no longer accepted.) Fee is \$14.

All valid CSCE's can now be accepted for an upgrade at this session, even if no code test was previously passed. Also any test for General or Extra which is now passed, will result in a license upgrade, also without the code test requirement.

Diner Monday Lunches

The next dates for the lunches at the Holiday City Diner for the club members and friends are May 7th and May 21st. 12 noon is the time, and Mule Rd and Davenport Rd intersection is the place.

Come on down and join the roundtable discussions. Order what you like, from a cup of coffee to a full lunch special. Numbers vary and recently we've had as many as 13 and as few as 5 members and friends show up. Who they are is always a surprise – but a pleasant one. We'll look for you at the next one.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5/11 Connie Sedlak WA2BLA
 5/11 Joe Militano KC2QLA
 ANNIVERSARIES
 5/20 Kathy and Kevin KC2NYQ Wagner
 5/31 Millie and Irv N2BHS Gietter



Holidays in May

- 5/13 Mothers Day
 5/19 Armed Forces Day
 5/28 Memorial Day



Our VE Crew

John W2LKS, Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Jack KC2FS, Stan KB2PD, Kevin KC2NYQ .

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ray kc2gkn, Carl w2ptz, John k2jwh

www.hcarc.us Webmaster:

Publicity: Ed w1eap

Programs: Robert kc2qmqz

Sunshine: David wa2djn

Field Day: Larry k2qdy

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

Skyhook: Murray kd2in

Funds Raising: Irv n2bhhs

Membership: Don w2iii

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

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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
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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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WORDS FROM JIM

by
Jim Hepburn, W2IIC

NEW DATA ON SUNSPOTS

I was pounding away on my word processor and did not notice Elmer as he came in, poured himself a cup of coffee, and sat down at the op position. He turned the receiver gain up which startled me. I looked up and greeted Elmer sheepishly who asked if I was asleep. I ignored the question and told him about the QSO I just had with a GM3 about sunspots. Ian is a professor at Glen Fiddich University, which is in the Glens southwest of Aberdeen. Ian told me he has been in Thurso, Scotland for the last month studying the Aurora from the inside. Thurso is within the north auroral zone and is unique in that there are auroral lights all around. There were no signals to be heard, just a crackling noise in his headphones. This noise was caused by surge currents in the protective diodes across the antenna feedline. He offered this explanation: Interplanetary space has a magnetic field supported by the magnetic fields of the Sun, Mercury, Earth, Jupiter and Mars. It's strength depends on the relative alignment of the magnetic fields of the planets, which is constantly changing as the planets orbit around the sun.

When the planets are all in a line the magnetic force on the sun is maximum and it causes many ruptures in the photosphere. These holes show up as black spots, which we call sunspots. These holes allow large amounts of ultraviolet and x-radiation to escape. These electromagnetic rays ionize the upper atmosphere on earth and facilitate wireless signals. Jupiter orbits the sun every 11.4 years making what we know as the solar cycle. When Jupiter is off the sun earth axis the sunspot number drops down until it is a minimum when Jupiter and others are on the other side of the sun and have the opposite pole in the sun's direction. He also noted that Mercury orbits the sun two and a fraction times in a year. Also the magnetic poles on Mercury are located on its rotational equator and as a result it adds and subtracts its field from the others 5 plus times each year.



In addition to the magnetic disturbances that produce spots the sun's internal magnetic uproar causes pieces of the corona to break off in what is called a coronal mass ejection (CME). This ejection consists of highly ionized gas particles sometimes called quarks. It has been named the solar wind, which travels outward at about a million miles an hour. Upon hitting the earth's magnetic field these quarks are deflected toward the poles and produce the aurora. The quarks were discovered about 20 years ago and were so named because of the sound they make in a receiver. They sound like the Aflac duck with a sore throat.

Ian told me he was publishing a paper describing his work, which he will post on the university's web page. T h e U R L is <http://www.glenfiddichu.edu.uk/april1> The publication date - April 1, 2007.

73, Jim, W2IIC.

(Thanks to Old Barney for permission to reprint this article.)

Membership News

Lets welcome our newest member to our club. He is Bob Boice KC2IJR. He has a Tech Grade license which he obtained in 2001, and he lives in the Toms River area. Active on 2 meters and 440 at his base as well as mobile. We are happy to have him as part of the Holiday City ARC.

Report from Florida

Stan, KB2PD, had a temporary residence while staying for a few months over the Winter season in Florida. He had to rig up a station and get on the air in spite of these limitations. Here is his report summing up his on the air results.

Radio activity has been sporadic and frustrating. I have been most successful in making contacts only during the 2 ARRL contests..one on cw and the other on phone. The bands were very active during those times and virtually "dead" during non-contest times. So far with about 9 weeks of activity, I have made 105 QSOs with 41 countries on 40 M and 20M. The best DX was Hawaii and the bulk in the Caribbean and Central America with the remainder in Europe.

Until the first contest came on, I thought that it was my "new" antenna that accounted for my lack of success in even hearing , much less working stations. This year I decided to replace my 33 foot long end-fed Zepp antenna (which I had used previously for 3 years) with a full length 40 M dipole stretched out across the living and dining areas of the condo. This antenna is an inverted Vee with an angle of about 30 degrees between the 2 legs lying in a horizontal, not vertical, plane. Someday I ought to try to analyze this antenna for its characteristics using software that I can download from the Internet.

I feed this antenna with ladder line, a balun, and a small autotuner. With this setup the SWRs on 40, 30 and 20 M are less than 1:5 to 1. But those numbers don't guarantee efficiency on any of these 3 bands.

73 Stan

OST de W1AW

**The ARRL Newsletter**

ARRL Bulletin 12 ARLB012

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT April 23, 2007

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB012

ARRL012 FCC poised to lower vanity call sign fee

The FCC has proposed reducing the regulatory fee to obtain or retain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting later this year. In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) released April 18, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the

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Commission is proposing to cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. If ultimately adopted, that would mark the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC proposed to collect nearly \$290.3 million in FY 2007 regulatory fees.

"These fees are mandated by Congress and are collected to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities," the FCC said. "Consistent with our established practice, we intend to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2007 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year." Comments on MD Docket 07-81 are due May 3. Reply comments are due May 11.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current vanity call sign program, from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign but upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt

from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.



Coming soon. June 23rd and June 24th.

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