



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

September 2007

Toms River, NJ

## Program for the September Meeting

Some things are easy to do, and other things are hard to get right when you do them. PL 259 co-ax plugs soldered properly on a co-ax cable end is one of those 'hard' things to do smoothly and correctly. (At least for most hams.) At this meeting Steve Jackson N2WLH will demonstrate the proper and easy way to do just that.

If time permits, Dave WA2DJN will demonstrate the assembly details of the kit he built of a multi-band QSP unit. It has unique band switching details, and other special features.

Once a year we have Officer elections. September is the first of the two nomination opportunities for anyone to be nominated. The 2nd time is at the October meeting, when the nominations are then followed by the election itself. If you would like to serve the club in some capacity, this is your chance to do that.

Meeting Sponsorship: Cake and Coffee Sponsor for this meeting is Murray KD2IN. Last meeting's Sponsor was Fred Fanizzo.

## Membership News

Joseph Cuff's brand new call is KC2RYO. Joe is studying for the upgrade to General, not even waiting for the ink to dry on his new Tech license. Way to go Joe!

Please correct the membership listing last month for Lee Kissel. The correct call is WA2JWR.

The HCARC club net every Thursday is going strong, thank you! Joe KC2QLA is net control for the 7PM net on 146.880. (No subtone). Lee WA2JWR has made his repeater available for the club to use for this net. Thanks Lee. Check in to the net for some lively talk on all kinds of subjects by our members. The more the merrier!

At the July meeting we had the pleasure of a visit by Mike KC2MTT up from Florida. While here he offered to be the Sponsor for the October Pizza meeting. TX Mike!

## The President's Corner

By Larry K2QDY



At our last meeting we had a discussion provided by Jules De Puma, KA2FUY, who described today's Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS). Jules told the group that the MARS organization is rapidly moving away from CW and SSB towards more digital systems. He described message handling and the role of the various MARS organizations, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force. It seems to me that today's MARS is quite different from the system I was accustomed to in the 60's and 70's. The talk was very interesting and educational and all in attendance thanked Jules for his presentation.

Well by the time you read this article our club picnic will have taken place. I am expecting we will have had upwards of 20 members and family attending. I am also hoping that the weather will not be too warm or rainy and I am sure that the group will have as a good time as we have had in the past particularly at Field Day. It seems that the women are never at a loss for words and enjoy each others company while exchanging recipes and fashion ideas and talking about the grandchildren.

It looks like the slump in propagation is now turning upward. I have been listening to openings on 20, 15 meters and some on 10 meters and have been seeing many spots on 6 meters also. The other day one of the neighbors had two grandchildren to visit. Well I remember that Lee Kissel, WA2JWQ, told us at the last club meeting that he was going to put the shuttle and space station link on to his repeater. It did not take me to long to ask the two boys, age 14 and 6, if they would like to listen to the commands the ground crew was giving to the shuttle crew. The two quickly agreed and the grandfather asked to come along also as he did not believe what I was saying. The three came to my house that evening and sure enough the 146.880 repeater obliged with much conversation between ground control and the shuttle. The boys eyes lit up and the grandfather asked if it was real?? We listened for a while then I asked them if they would like to talk to another ham over the radio. They said they would and I

(Continued on page 2)

**NEXT MEETING: September 6th**

**Thursday 7:00PM**

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

**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

(Continued from page 1) Larry turned on 20 meters and tuned down a little to 14,175 KHZ where I heard 4X4FR calling CQ North America at 20 over S9. I quickly called him and he returned my call stating that he was in Israel giving also his location and name Rafi. After the usual exchange of usual information I told him I had the two boys in the shack and that they were eager to say hello. The two told him their names and age and where they lived. He told them about his location and that it was in the Holy land and some other information. When the QSO ended the two said they had to go home now to call their mother. They called home to speak to their mother who also thought it was a hoax. Maybe one of these boys will remember the experience and some day get a license. It was also very gratifying for me. Maybe you could do the same for some youngster.

Well Grace and I are going on a trip to Ireland during the first two weeks in September and I was thinking what an opportunity to bring ham radio along. I don't think that will be possible as this is a planned tour group with many stops around Ireland. I will be able to share some of the highlights of the trip with the radio club members when I return.

Well that's all for now and I look forward to seeing you at our September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Best 73s  
Larry Puccio  
K2QDY

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

09/04 Rose Fanizzo  
09/12 Robert KC2QMZ Forshee  
09/17 Shirley Goldberg (KD2IN)  
09/19 Steve N2WLH Jackson  
09/30 John S. K2YH Smith



## ANNIVERSARIES

09/04 Audrey & Andy KA2FTF Murin  
09/20 Sharon & Robert KC2QMZ Forshee



## Monday HC Diner Dates

We next get together for our bi-weekly lunches at the Diner on the following dates: Sept. 10th and Sept. 24th. Be there at a few minutes before 12 noon for a count for the table setup. Everyone is invited, wives included, of course. No set food order arrangement. Order as little or as much as you wish. We always have a good time. Join us.

## Holidays & Other Events

09/05 Labor Day  
09/06 HCARC Meeting Night– First Nominations  
09/13 HCARC Net, also 09/20/ 09/27, 146.880 7PM  
09/13 Rosh Hashanah  
09/22 Yom Kippur  
09/23 Autumn Begins (End of Summer)  
09/26 Executive Bd. Meeting

September has a bumper crop of Special Event stations on the air. 66 in all listed on page 88 of Sept. QST. Lots of QSL cards and certificates for 1 contact. Lots of Fun! Join in.

### Our VE Crew

John W2LKS, Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Stan KB2PD, Kevin W2FA .

### CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ray kc2gkn, Carl w2ptz, John k2jwh

www.hcarc.us Webmaster:

Publicity: Ed w1eap

Programs: Robert kc2qmqz

Sunshine: David wa2djn

Event Food Committee: Joe kc2qla

Field Day: Larry k2qdy

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

Skyhook: Murray kd2in

Funds Raising: Irv n2bh

Membership: Bill ac2f

## 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	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732-736-0955
Treasurer	Joe Militano	KC2QLA	732-657-7092
Secretary	Norm Smith	W2PXE	732-920-5423
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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Toms River, NJ 08757-6445

## VE Session on September 8th

The next VE Session run by our club, headed up by Larry K2QDY, will be on Saturday, 9/8. As usual we will assemble in Room #1 in Holiday City South's clubhouse area, at 10 am. (Future dates: November 10th, January 12th.)

If you plan to attend, please call Larry at 732-349-2950 and let him know. A call in advance will be necessary. Walk-ins are no longer accepted. Bring originals and copies of all licenses and credits. Also a picture ID or 2 other forms of ID. Test fee is \$14.

Ocean County ARES® News - September,



## The ARES Newsletter

2007

Hurricane season appears to be operating in high gear as of this writing. Dean is tearing up the Caribbean and looks like it will be threatening Mexico (Cancun) and the Texas coast. Ocean County has been pretty lucky for many years with little hurricane activity. Hopefully this will not be our year to make the headlines from a destructive storm. Now is a good time to ensure your ARES ready kit has the proper gear and provisions. Don't forget prescription medication that you may need. Also make sure your family has a storm plan and an adequate amount of provisions set aside to carry you through a loss of power, light and transportation should a serious storm strike.

On September 30, Ocean County ARES will be supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation by providing communications during the Seaside Heights Boardwalk fundraising walk. This is an annual event which we always support. Last year we encountered a miserable day of rain and wind, so this year it's got to be nice! We need 8 to 10 operators with HT's positioned at rest stations along the walk route. The event should be over by Noon. JDF provides a Breakfast and Lunch for all volunteers along with a Volunteer T-shirt. Street parking is normally free because the walk is held after Labor Day. More details and a volunteer sign-up will follow during the weekly ARES training nets. Don't forget sunglasses to keep the ocean wind from burning your eyes and at least a light jacket during the early morning. To sign up, contact Bob at wx2nj@aol.com

For those of you who are interested in mobile APRS, there is a GPS on the market, which is so small, it's hard to see. The unit is manufactured by Deluo Electronics and can be seen at: [www.deluelectronics.com](http://www.deluelectronics.com)

The entire unit is about the size of an external Motorola GPS patch antenna (1.5" x 1.5"), has a magnetic base and easily attaches to a vehicle roof top. A single cable provides power and an output to your APRS ready radio or tracker. A variety

## YOUR BUY AND SELL PLACE

### Heathkit Station \$350

HW-101 Transceiver  
HP-23A Power Supply  
SB-600 Speaker  
HD-15 Phone patch  
SB-610 Scope

### Drake Station \$250

TR-4 Transceiver  
MS-4 Speaker and power supply

### Yaesu SP-8 \$200

Speaker and phone patch

### IBM Desktop computer (2) \$400 each

ThinkCentre S50 8183  
3.2 Ghz P4 CPU  
1 Gig of memory  
40 GB Hard drive  
DVD ROM and Floppy drive  
1 Gig Ethernet network port

Contact Kevin W2FA 732-966-5377 or email address  
W2fa@comcast.net

of adapter cables are available for many of the APRS ready radios being sold (Kenwood, Alinco).

I've been using one of these GPS unit sold under the Byonics name ([www.byonics.com](http://www.byonics.com)) for about a month and the operation has been flawless. The GPS always remains energized and even acquires satellite signals in the garage through the roof. When using the unit with a Kenwood D700 no user interface is required. Just turn on the radio and the GPS signal is present. Byonics claims the unit is weatherproof. It appears to be sealed and just does it's thing, rain or shine.

### SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "I Wanna Soak Up the Sun(spots)" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Average daily sunspot numbers were up a little, rising more than five points to 12.4. After a short period of no sunspots, we are back to seeing a spot or two every day. Expect these conditions to continue, possibly falling back to zero spots again around August 16-20. Today (August 10), expect some unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions due to a solar wind stream. Planetary A index predicted for August 10-16 is 25, 15, 5, 5, 5, 5 and 10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts unsettled to active conditions August 10, quiet to unsettled August 11, quiet August 12-14, quiet to unsettled August 15 and unsettled August 16. Sunspot numbers for August 2 through 8 were 0, 11, 11, 11, 16, 13 and 25 with a mean of 12.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.4, 70.4, 69.4, 68.9, 70, 69 and 69, with a mean of 69.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 2, 2, 12, 23 and 6 with a mean of 7.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 4, 0, 2, 8, 23 and 5 with a mean of 6.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://>



## The ARRL Newsletter

### September QST Hits the Streets

If you haven't received the September issue of QST, just wait a bit, because it's on its way! QST, the official journal of the ARRL, is the members-only magazine featuring all the latest Amateur Radio news and technology.

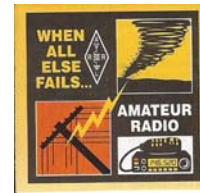
The September issue is our first-ever Emergency Communications issue. Learn how the ARRL is promoting effective, coordinated responses to emergencies. Look for an exciting article on D-STAR, a new way to transmit digital voice and data at VHF and UHF. Have you ever wondered just how emergency communications began? Read about its rich and varied history in September QST. Learn how the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) is now integrated into one unit that emphasizes digital communication.

On the technical side, the September issue offers articles on how to get a maximum gain portable HF Yagi antenna and a remote power controller. Be sure to read about a way

to pack power to bring with you for emergencies. Learn about a way of determining resonant frequency of a tuned circuit. QST Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, reviews the Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.5KFX linear amplifier, ARRL Lab Test Engineer Mike Tracy, KC1SX, reviews the Gamma Research HPS-1a switching power supply and Rich Arland, W3OSS, reviews the Hendricks QRP Kits FireFly transceiver.

If you're looking for upcoming operating events, don't miss Jamboree on the Air and the 2007 Simulated Emergency Test, both of which are covered in the September issue.

As in each and every QST, you will find a wide variety of articles and columns for all hams, covering DXing, vintage gear and cutting edge technology, public service, special events, as well as a schedule of upcoming hamfests, conventions and contests.



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