



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

September 2008

Toms River, NJ

Program for our September Meeting

Our September meeting will be an enjoyable meeting in that our members will be presenting their DX QSL contact prizes. This meeting is for all members to present their prize possession QSL cards. The QSL card is the mainstay of the ham radio certificate program. Worked All States WAS, Worked all Continents WAC, Worked all Zones WAZ, and the coveted DXCC worked 100 Countries all depend on the QSL card. In recent years a new logging system has been developed called Log Book of the World LoTW which makes use of the internet to verify contacts with DX stations. Although this mechanized system provided the necessary proof of contact it won't take the place of the QSL card. I am sure you will agree with me after you see the QSL cards displayed by our members at this September meeting that cards are here to stay.

Dates to Remember

- September 4 Regular Membership Meeting
- September 8 Club Luncheon
- September 13 VE Session
- September 22 Club Luncheon
- September 24 Executive Board Meeting

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- Rose Fanizzo 09/04
- Bob Forshee 09/12
- Shirley Goldberg 09/17
- Steve Jackson 09/09
- John Smith 09/30



Anniversaries

- Bob and Sharon Forshee 09/20
- Andy and Audrey Murin 09/04



The President's Corner By Larry K2QDY



It is with great sorrow that I open this column with the announcement that Irv Gietter, N2BHS, has become a SK. Irv was a true gentleman. I never heard a disparaging word out of Irv's mouth. Although he had not been on the air for a while he was always interested in hearing about some new method of using ham radio. Irv was an extra class license holder and had been licensed since 1979. He was a club member since 1994. Irv a strong supporter of the club passed away on August 19 while in his sleep at his home here in Holiday City South. Irv could always be seen wearing a jacket or sweater at the club meetings or outings. He was well respected by all the club members. At each monthly meeting you could always find Irv with the 50/50 raffle tickets in one hand and announcing who wants a tickets. At many of the club luncheons Irv would be at the table with the many friends he had enjoying conversation and exchanging ideas. When we had our quarterly club luncheon you could always count on Irv and his wife Millie being at the restaurant with the club group. Irv will surely be missed.

The sunspot cycle still is in the doldrums. If you pay attention to the various readings, SF, A and K index's you will see that we are still at the bottom of this cycle. However, no mater how bleak it looks there is still plenty of DX available if you listen. The 20 meter band opens to Europe surprisingly in the late afternoon with contacts possible to Russia, Spain, England, Italy Germany and many other countries. If you are lucky enough to have an 80 meter antenna you can also work plenty of DX there too. Most nights Ireland, Germany, Italy and Spain can be heard and worked. For those of us that are CW operators the 30 meter band is open early morning (five to six AM) and during the late afternoon, evening and into the night with contacts possible into Europe, the South Pacific and also into Australia. Check the "How's DX" column by Russ Young, WA2VQV, to see how some of our members are doing with DX contacts. By the way Russ uses an indoor loop antenna to contact all the DX he works.

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NEXT MEETING: September 4, 2008
Thursday 7:00PM
Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse
Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

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The fall is almost here and you will have one last time to do any antenna work you may want to do before the winter sets in. Dipoles or beam antennas are easier to work on when the temperature is above freezing. Don't forget that support rope does breakdown in the sunlight and with the changes in extreme temperatures. Dacron covered support rope will hold up longer than non-covered but it still breaks down. I usually change my support guy lines every three to four years. I find that it is better to replace the lines than to have to restring one if breaks usually in the dead of winter.

Don't forget the Thursday evenings, 7:00 PM schedule, on the 146.880 repeater. We have had Lee Kissel, Mike Agostinello and Stan Stafiej come up on the repeater through Echo Link. Those of you that don't have HTs can also access the repeater the same way. Echo Link is a free download off the internet. Additionally, club members access the repeater each day at 10:00 AM for some good rag chew and technical discussion.

Well that's all for this month's column and I am looking forward to seeing you at our September 4th 2008 meeting where we will have group presentations about their DX QSL cards

73
Larry
K2QDY

Yours for the Asking

John Hann has a Kenwood T599 transmitter that he is willing to give to someone that will give it a good home. This is a 1970s vintage transmitter and you may need to do some work to get it up to snuff. John's phone number is (609) 660-0985. Give John a call to make arrangements.

Morse Code is Alive and Well

From time to time a Broadcast Television station picks up on a ham radio item of interest and does a special. The following web site has a real interesting video about English ham radio operators. There is a little about Morse code, some pictures about antenna installation and some human interest as well. For those of you that have internet capability I think you will enjoy this news clip from across the pond to the east.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/7544147.stm

It would be nice to see a similar piece on US television and I bet some hams would love to have the opportunity to display their accomplishments, abilities, interests and what our

hobby is about and how it interfaces with the modern internet world and that we are not living in the past but are an integral part to the present and likely the future. Many of today's modern day wonders were advanced through ham radio operators. I wonder how many of the general population know that ham radio operators had installed and operated a country wide network of repeaters and HT radios in the 60's that provided communications with other HT radios from the house, car or while walking. Humm sounds just like the Cell phone everyone is using regularly today!

Our VE Crew

John W2LKS, Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Jack KC2FS, Stan KB2PD Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA Ed WA2NDA.

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ray KC2GKN John K2WJH, Carl W2PTZ
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

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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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How's DX

By Russ Young WA2VQV

From July 15th to August 14th, 2008 HCARC Members worked the following DX:

Joe Militano, KC2QLA

On 20 Meter SSB: NH7O Hawaii, K4S Puerto Rico, VA3CWT Canada.

Murray Goldberg, KD2IN

On 20 Meter SSB: HK3JJH Colombia, VY2SS, VC1T Canada.

John Hann, K2JWH

On 20 Meter SSB: IK8EPC Italy, YR1C Romania.

Russ Young, WA2VQV,

On 30 Meter CW: CU1F Azores, E71AA Bosnia, EA5KV Spain, EL2DX Liberia, F2YT France, IM0/IK2QEI Sardinia, IN3NJB Italy, LA5HE Norway, LY2ZZ Lithuania, LZ5F Bulgaria, OM0SX Slovakia, OZ1CTK Denmark, UA3TCJ Euro Russia.

On 20 Meter CW: 4O3A Montenegro, A61Q United Arab Emirates, CT3/DF8AA Madeira, CU1/CT3FN Azores, E77RR Bosnia, EI7JW Ireland, FJ5KH St. Barthelemy, HB0/DL7JAN Liechtenstein, IM0/IK5PWQ EU-041 Italy, LZ5F Bulgaria, MD0CCE Isle of Man, OY/DD1LD Faroe Islands, PJ2/PB2T Curacao, PZ5RA Suriname, RU6DX Euro Russia, SP2GWH, HF94KE Poland, T77C San Marino, VE1AI/M Canada, XE2AI Mexico.

On 17 Meter CW: V31MR Belize.

Larry Puccio, K2QDY

On 80 Meters SSB: GW3XHG England, GW4RIB England, VQ9LA Chagos.

On 40 Meters CW: YW6AJ Venezuela, C91SL Mozambique.

On 30 Meters CW: UA3TCJ Russia, 4X4WN Israel, G6PZ England, HB9CVQ Switzerland, EI9JA Ireland, T99WBosnia and Herzegovina.

On 20 Meters CW: HK3JRL Colombia, TF/DJ2VO Iceland, EI9JF Ireland, AO7AJR Spain, F5KEE France.

On 20 Meters SSB: 6W1SJ Senegal, G6MC England, CU1/CT1EGW St. Maria Island Azores, IZ6GSQ Italy, EI9FBB Ireland, 4L4WW Georgia, EI6GCB Ireland.

On 10 Meters SSB: EA1ACP Spain, EA1ALE Spain

73 AND GOOD HUNTING,
de Russ, WA2VQV

"Rouge Signals"

The following is a reprint from the ARRL news letter.

When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything -- until she called on some local ham radio operators.

"Many people lock and unlock a car by remote and don't even give it a second thought unless it doesn't work," said NBC10 reporter Lu Ann Cahn. "The mystery problem repeatedly occurs outside the Kohl's store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's [to ask about this], they told me they had no idea [about this]."

Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it." Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but Cahn said that officials at the plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. "Police tell us that they can't figure it out either," Cahn said.

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club; Rex is Vice President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. "Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot," Leister said, "there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal." When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. "There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building," Rex said when he read the analyzer.

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Leister and Rex moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors. Rex, an engineer, said that the thing that bothers him about this is that the signals "are running constantly." When Cahn approached Kohl's management with their findings, she was told that "they will look into it."

"The FCC licenses radio signals and these ham radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good," Cahn said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, "The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken." Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors might be the culprit.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn said. "The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents

in New York City and Tampa, Florida." A few days after they found the signals, Leister explained that he and Rex did not think the anti-shoplifting detectors were the problem: "What we are guessing here is that they are probably connected to some kind of device that triggers a security camera to come on if there is a breach. Except instead of just sending out a quick 2-5 second (Part 15) blip, these seem to be on continuously and exceeding the permissible signal levels."

Cahn was quick to give on-air credit to the local hams who stepped up to the plate and helped crack this mystery: "We here at NBC10 were so curious as to why these remote car locks would just stop working, so we thought we should really try to solve this mystery. I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. They were so great and so excited. You don't know how many people we called -- police, Triple A, car dealerships -- we called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these ham radio operators. We really want to thank them for their help with this."

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