



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

October 2009

Toms River, NJ

## Program for our October Meeting

This month we will have a special guest Tim Cwik, N2LTQ, our Assistant Section Manager. Tim will be telling us about the D-Star system and the various activities throughout the Atlantic Division. D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is a digital voice and data protocol specification developed as the result of research by the Japan Amateur Radio League to investigate digital technologies for amateur radio. While there are other digital on-air technologies being used by amateurs that have come from other services, D-Star is one of the first on-air standards to be widely deployed and sold by a major radio manufacturer that is designed specifically for amateur service use.

### Dates to Remember

October 1	Regular Membership Meeting
October 5	Club Luncheon
October 14	Evening VE Session
October 19	Club Luncheon
October 28	Executive Board Meeting

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Bill Haldane 10/09  
 Charlotte Militano 10/27  
 Larry Puccio 10/09  
 Don Smith 10/01  
 Kathy Wagner 10/13



#### Anniversaries

Lee and Donna Kissel 10/23  
 Joe and Charlotte Militano 10/04



## The President's Corner By Dave WA2DJN



The September 3rd meeting helped to set up the next year's officers. I am going to stay on as president for the next year. Norm Smith is staying on as secretary, Joe militant will stay on as treasurer, and Kevin Wagner volunteered to accept the position of vice president.

Carl LeFevre is going to help with the refreshments with Carl Lee. Ed Picciuti volunteered to take over John Hann,s job with the cards for good and welfare. Thank you John for helping out in that position and also with the refreshments.

I am looking for people to take over the position of program chairman. Murray Goldberg wishes to give up the position, but will help with some ideas for future programs.

We discussed the idea of having programs about other hobbies, equipment, antennas, or other experiences that would be interesting.

We also discussed the idea of buying the large Digital Projector for \$ 200.00 but we have to find out about the cost of a replacement bulb. I talked to the company technical people and found out that they do not stock the bulb and it might cost several hundred dollars. I think we have to rethink the idea of the projector, and then go forward.

Please support the Web site, Yahoo Group and the Sky Hook with pictures of your Ham Shack and articles which you think would be interesting to the members.

There is a Hamfest Sept 27 at the Middletown Grange Fair Grounds, Penns Park Road Wrightstown Pa. Route 413.

There is another Hamfest Oct 3 Saturday at the OMARC site Project Diana, Marconi Road Wall Township. Admission 5,00, Tables 10.00 Listed in Sept. QST

I was asked if there would be any interest in having a Swap and Shop column to help members find parts or equipment they might be looking for.

I hope to see everyone at the Oct. 1 meeting.

73  
Dave Ottenberg

**NEXT MEETING: October 1 2009**  
**Thursday 7:00PM**  
**Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South**  
**Clubhouse**  
**Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive**

## WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo XI lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today." Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to ham radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

Walter Leland Cronkite was born in St Joseph, Missouri on November 4, 1916, the only child of a dentist father and homemaker mother. When he was still young, his family moved to Texas. One day, he read an article in "Boys Life" about the adventures of reporters working around the world and young Cronkite was hooked, said his obituary on the CBS Web site. He began working on his high school newspaper and yearbook and in 1933, he entered the University of Texas at Austin to study political science, economics and journalism. He never graduated. He took a part time job at the Houston Post and left college to do what he loved: report.

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot -- and later to declare that he had been killed." CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence -- in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears -- captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America and the world over the next four days.

One of Cronkite's enthusiasms was the space race. In 1969, when America sent a man to the moon, he couldn't contain himself. "Go baby, go." he said as Apollo XI took off.

## HCARC Official Badge Ordering Continued on page 3

The club's official badge maker is the Capital Engraving Co. in Longview, WA. To order a badge, simply call Capital at 1-800-628-4985 after 1PM M-F. All that is required is to give your call and first name and your mail address. Use your credit card to pay. Cost is \$12.50 plus \$2 S&H. Al Ross WA7UQE will take care of you and create an official logo and club name on your personal badge.

### Our VE Crew

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: John K2WJH, Carl W2PTZ  
www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA  
Publicity: Ed W1EAP  
Programs: Murray KD2IN  
Sunshine: John W2JWH  
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](http://www.hcarc.us)

President	Dave Ottenberg	WA2DJN	732 505-5953
Vice President	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732 736-0955
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	John Hann	W2JWH	609 660-0985
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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*Continued from page 2*

He ended up performing what critics described as "Walter to Walter" coverage of the mission -- staying on the air for 27 of the 30 hours that astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong were on the moon. In 2006, NASA honored Cronkite by giving him their Ambassador of Exploration Award. "His marathon, live coverage of the first moon landing brought the excitement and impact of the historic event into the homes of millions of Americans and observers around the world," NASA said in a news release announcing the award. Cronkite was the first non-astronaut and only NASA outsider to receive the award.

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with the world's most trusted anchor man," he told the ARRL. Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just "get in the mood" to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues. At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director. When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS, Mendelsohn recalled. In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed "The New York Times" and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two general class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now

ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, "That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard." I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, "Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters." Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one.

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award. This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington." It was quite a thrill to make this presentation to Cronkite, Fallon said. He has long been recognized as the 'most trusted man in America, so lining our causes to his face, name and voice has been a great help.

## Digital Radio PSK31

Since our PSK31 presentation, by Murray Goldberg KD2IN and Carl Lee W2PTZ, it seems to me that there is a strong growing interest in PSK31 among some of our club members. The PSK31 mode requires a modest outlay of money for some specialized interconnect equipment and some off the WEB free software then you can start making contacts using your computer and H.F. Transceiver. As this is a continuous output signal the power requirements are quite low, in the 30-40 watt range, and DX contacts are very possible. I would like to invite any of the members to start a column called PSK 31 news.

## How's DX By Russ Young

WA2VQV, Russ, worked:

**ON 20 Meters CW:** S51LGT Slovenia, SN70NMW Poland, YL3FT Latvia, YU1DW Serbia, VY00 NA-230 Canada.

**ON 20 Meters SSB:** 4L/UU0JM Georgia, 5N0OCH Nigeria, EI9O Ireland, KH7Y Hawaii, OH0X Aland Islands, VY00 NA-230 Canada, Z35X Macedonia.

**ON 20 Meters PSK31:** GA0DBW Scotland, OX3DB Greenland, PZ5RA Suriname, VE1CDD/P Canada.

Also 26 SSB QSOs in the DARC Worked All Europe Contest.

K2QDY, Larry worked:

**ON 30 Meters CW:** F6ARC France, OX3XR Greenland,

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TF3Y Iceland, OX3FTD Denmark, OK6DX Czech Republic, E77YZ Bosnia,

**ON 40 Meters CW:** TF4M Iceland, RZ3QZ Russia, CT1ZQ Portugal, DJ6CM DL0DG Germany, OM5MZ Slovak Republic, HK4CZE Columbia, G3XGC England, S52AW Slovenia, I2VRN Italy, HG1SHungary, LX7I Luxembourg

**ON 20 Meters CW:** Z30V, Macedonia, RA3UT Russia, EA2IF Spain

Here's hoping DX will improve with the fall months.  
73 & Good Hunting !  
Russ, WA2VQV

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