The SKYHOOK

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us | December 2023 | Toms River, NJ

Our President's Message

As the year draws to a close, we have many reasons to be thankful. Our club participated in two (2) Fox Hunts, visited the InfoAge Museum in Belmar, NJ and most importantly staffed our monthly meetings with the knowledge of our members. Our meetings were enhanced by having volunteers present specific topics at our meetings. This generated a lot of interaction with the membership. The members left the meetings with the usual camaraderie along with the knowledge of an amateur related topic.

Our December meeting will be a Holiday Party at the Italy's Best Restaurant located in Lakehurst, NJ. There will not be a meeting at the Holiday City Clubhouse in December.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous and safe Holiday Season.

Doug Poray, President, HCARC

Dues Are Due

The Duesy reminds us that our dues are due. Please have a check or cash for Larry our Treasurer for the January meeting.

Happy Birthday To:

Carl Grabala WA2CEY

No Regular December Meeting

As usual, our plan for December is to not have a regular meeting, but to have a luncheon instead.

It will be at Italy's Best restaurant, next to the Dollar General store in Lakehurst. (If you didn't see Larry about making a reservation, we're sorry but it's too late now.)

Please note that our next regular meeting is January 4th, see the insert below.

OUR NEXT "REGULAR" MEETING:
Thursday January 4th at 7:00 PM
Holiday City South Clubhouse A
Santiago Drive at Mule Road

Ocean County ARES® News

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be December 20, 2023. This will be a virtual Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM. Specifics will be sent out via email a day or two before the meeting.

The 2023 Skywarn Recognition Day is December 2nd from 0000z to 2400z. The event honors all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions to the National Weather Service (NWS) during severe weather. Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication to the NWS and emergency management when normal communications fail.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website is now updated with the SKYWARN registration form, mapping form, and rules and information you'll need to check in for this year's event.

If you have any questions regarding Skywarn, contact the Ocean County Skywarn Coordinator, K2MDW.

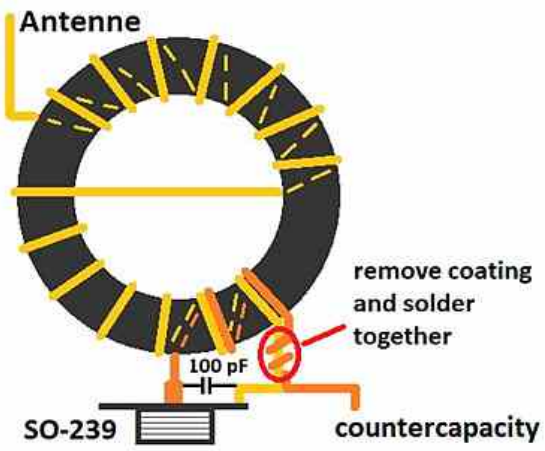
January 13, 2024 (Saturday) there will be a Go-Box Expo in Monmouth County. Its purpose is to introduce newer operators to the various types of Go-Boxes or Go-Kits that amateur radio would use in shelter operations. The expo is being hosted by Monmouth County ARES and Ocean County ahs been invited to participate. You may display and/or observe as you see fit. The time is 2:00 pm at the Tinton Falls Red Cross building, large training room.

KD2FFR and WX2NJ will be presenting the Dover Township Police Department an overview on how amateur radio and CERT can work together on December 5th at 7:00 pm. Our goal is to brief Emergency Management on the various communication methods available to CERT teams and explain how Ocean County ARES may assist them. I'll publish the results in the next newsletter.

A couple of weeks ago I sent out an email regarding an ARRL end fed HF antenna kit. It can be found at:

https://www.arrl.org/end-fed-half-wave-antenna-kit

I ordered the unit and it took about a week to arrive. The unit is actually made by HFkits, which appears to be in Great Britain. The kit contains no written instructions and you have to refer to the link above for assembly instructions. The ARRL page has instructions and so does the HFkits website and there are several You Tube videos on the project. It was not difficult or time consuming to build, but the instructions are not very clear. For example, the toroid winding diagram and photos of the completed toroid are completely different. The photo appears to be wound in total reverse of the diagram and I think either will work as long as you are consistent with either diagram.



Also be very careful when drilling holes in the box. It's easy to rotate the box 90 degrees and not have the toroid connections line up with connectors. To make it worse the front panel label is rotated 90 degrees so you may think the wrong side is the top.

When you are done it is easy to check your work before connecting an antenna. Connect a 2500 ohm non-wire-wound resistor from antenna to ground and check the coax connector for SWR at 20 and 40 meter frequencies. You should have low SWR near 1:1.

I used a 66 foot long wire and the unit tunes well between 10 and 40 meters. I will be using a tuner on the unit.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

November 2023 VE Session

At our November 8th VE session we had one candidate. The one candidate took and passed the Technician Class test. She said she would study the General class material and would be back.

The VEs in attendance were John Roberts, Steve Jackson, Michael Larkins, and Larry Puccio. Out next VE session is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th, in the Holiday City South Clubhouse, Building A, Conference room 1 at 7:00 PM.

HCARC License Exam Sessions

If you know someone who wants to be a "ham", or you want to upgrade your ham license, we can help.

See "Our Volunteer Examiner Crew" (below) for information.

Our Volunteer Examiner Crew

Larry K2QDY (Liaison) 732-349-2950,
John KQ4WR, Stan KB2PD,
Steve N2WLH, Michael WA2CWX

License exams are given by appointment at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday after each HCARC meeting at Holiday City South Clubhouse Bldg A, which is at the corner of Mule Rd. and Santiago Dr. ***Call Larry Puccio, K2QDY, at 732-349-2950 for an appointment.***

Directions: From either Route 37 W or Davenport Road, take Mule Road to Santiago Drive. Clubhouse A is the building nearest the street corner.

Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	**Doug Poray**	**KC2TZC**	**732-928-2316**
Vice President	**Steve Jackson**	**N2WLH**	**732-255-7916**
Secretary	**John Perry**	**KD2NDY**	**732-349-2705**
Treasurer	**Larry Puccio**	**K2QDY**	**732-349-2950**
Executive Board	**Carl Lee**	**W2PTZ**	**732-575-7558**
Executive Board	**John Roberts**	**KQ4WR**	**732-350-1162**
W2HC Trustee	**Larry Puccio**	**K2QDY**	**732-349-2950**

Membership is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required. Dues are $25.00 per year, payable Jan 1st. Members joining during the year will have the dues prorated. Family membership $30.00 per family.

Meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of every month except December.

Location: Meeting Room #1 in Holiday City South Clubhouse.

Directions: From either Route 37 W or Davenport Road, take Mule Road to Santiago Drive. Turn into the parking lot from Santiago Drive, park near the pool. Enter Building A (the building nearest the street intersection}.

Newsletter: The SKYHOOK is the HCARC's official newsletter, circulation about 75. Original articles and photos are appreciated. Editor is John Roberts, KQ4WR, 732-350-1162.

The Morris Code

No, I don't mean the Morse Code. I mean the

MAIDENHEAD LOCATOR SYSTEM, usually referred to as

"Grid squares", which are not really squares. In Morse and text messages, the code may be preceded by "LOC ". The code consists of two capital letters, then two numerals, and usually two lower-case letters.

I call it the Morris Code because it was devised by John Morris G4ANB, who proposed it at a conference in Maidenhead, England.

Here's how it works: The location of the southwest corner of the specified rectangular geographical area is represented by a string of 4 or 6 characters, although more characters could be used for finer precision.

A six-character string represents a area of less than 17 square miles, even at the Equator, but a four character string may represent over 9500 square miles.

The Even-numbered characters indicate the amount of Latitude Northward from the South Pole, and the odd-numbered ones indicate Half (1/2) The Amount of Longitude Eastward from the 180 Degree Meridian.

Capital Letters A, B, C, In Morse and text messages, the code is often preceded by "LOC".etc. (to O), represent 0, 10, 20, etc. (to 170).

Numerals represent themselves.

Lower Case letters a, b, c, etc. (to x), represent 0/24, 1/24, 2/24, etc. (to 23/24).

For example,

AB34ef means the grid square area starting at the Latitude of the sum of 10 + 4 + 5/24 degrees Northward from the South Pole, by the Longitude of 2 times the sum of 0 + 3 + 4/24, also in degrees, Eastward from the 180 Meridian.

That defines the area's Southern and Eastern borders. The Northern and Eastern borders of the area are defined by the adjacent areas.

But you can save yourself the trouble by looking up the callsign at QRZ.com, which has most station's LOC code listed.

The Real Inventor Of Morse Code?

From: Quarter Century Wireless Association

February 23, 2007 “Alfred Vale, SK”

Alfred Vail (1807-1859) is the true inventor of Morse code, as we know it today. The invention of the Morse code is generally attributed to Samuel F. B. Morse. Have we been mislead by historians?

Samuel Finley Breeze Morse was born in Charlestown, Mass. on 27th April 1791. He was not a scientist - he was a professional artist. Educated at Phillip's Academy at Andover, he graduated from Yale in 1810 and he lived in England from 1811 to 1815, exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1813. He spent the next ten years as an itinerant artist with a particular interest in portraiture. He returned to America in 1832 having been appointed Professor of Painting and Sculpture at the University of the City of New York. It was on this homeward voyage that he overheard a shipboard discussion on electromagnets. This was the seed out of which the electric telegraph grew. Morse is remembered for his Code, still used, and less for the invention that enabled it to be used, probably since landline telegraphy eventually gave way to wireless telegraphy.

From 1837 Morse gave the telegraph his full attention, having set up in partnership with Alfred Vail, Professor Leonard Gail, and congressman F. O. J. Smith. Vail provided funds and facilities at the family ironworks, and Smith legal expertise. There's an irony, therefore, that disagreements with Vail led to litigation; Vail provided funds for lawyers, too. The telegraph was eventually patented in Morse's name alone, an event granted by the US Supreme Court in 1854. Morse's decision to abandon painting was possibly due in part to his failure in 1836 to secure a commission to paint the Rotunda of the Capitol building, a commission he had expected.

The telegraph invented by Morse in 1832, and described in his caveat of 1837, has nothing in common with the essentials of the modern system of telegraphy which is known in the United States as Morse's; nor is the code of alphabetical signs now

universally used in telegraphy throughout the world the same, either in principle, or in construction.

It is also important to remember that the code of conventional signals which had been devised by Morse, and which, in connection with his machine, he proposed to use for the transmission of intelligence, were numerical and not alphabetical. According to his scheme, a specially prepared dictionary was required in which every word in the English language was represented by an arbitrary number. A separate type represented each numeral, having a corresponding number of projections or teeth. We reproduce a specimen of telegraphic writing by this numerical code. The numbers refer to words in the telegraphic dictionary. They are translated by counting the points at the bottom of the line, and then, by referring to the dictionary, the corresponding words are found and the communication translated.

On the 29th, Morse went to Speedwell for a few days, partly to observe the progress of the new machinery, and partly with the intention of painting the portraits of the members of Judge Vail's household, in fulfillment of a commission which had been given him. Where he met Alfred Vail.

Alfred Vail had planned to join the Presbyterian Church on graduating from New York University, until illness forced him to change plans and invest his future in the telegraph instead. He bought a stake in Samuel Morse's telegraph, and agreed to build the system's hardware and secure the American and foreign patents. After Morse returned to New York, Alfred Vail and his young assistant, William Baxter, were engaged night and day in pushing forward the construction of the new machinery.

Alfred was singularly modest and unassuming, while Professor Morse was very much inclined to insist on the superiority of his own plans and methods - if for no other reason; because they were his own. As we all looked upon him with the respect due to a professor, we were at first quite willing to defer submissively to his dicta. It resulted from this, that the first machine which was constructed at Speedwell was substantially a copy of the original model, although constructed of metal, in a more symmetrical and practical form.

As we become acquainted with Morse it becomes evident to us that his mechanical knowledge and skill were limited, and his ideas in matters relating to construction of little value. As the weak points in the apparatus were one after another developed, Alfred began to draw upon the resources of his own wonderful power of invention in substituting practical and commercially valuable mechanical combinations for the more or less impracticable designs of Morse.

The system had some problems printing out messages clearly, so Vail devised improvements. They didn't solve everything, and he was forced to create a completely new printing mechanism - and a new code to make it work. Alfred's brain was at this time working at high pressure, and evolving new ideas every day. He saw in these new characters the elements of an alphabetical code by which language could be telegraphically transmitted in actual words and sentences, and he instantly set himself at work to construct such a code. His general plan was to employ the simplest and shortest combinations to represent the most frequently recurring letters of the English alphabet, and the remainder for the more infrequent ones. For instance, he found upon investigation that the letter e occurs much more frequently than any other letter, and accordingly he assigned to it the shortest symbol, a single dot(.). On the other hand, j, which occurs infrequently, is expressed by dash-dot-dash-dot (-.-.) After going through a computation, in order to ascertain the relative frequency of the occurrence of different letters in the English alphabet, Alfred was seized with sudden inspiration, and visited the office of the Morristown local newspaper, where be found the whole problem worked out for him in the type cases of the compositor.

This was the first time 'Morse' code was created using dashes and dots, which actually wasn't much like Morse's original code at all. So in fact the true inventor of Morse Code was Vail, but Morse - being the better-known partner and personality - kept the glory himself!This was the first time 'Morse' code was created using dashes and dots, which actually wasn't much like Morse's original code at all. So in fact the true inventor of Morse Code was Vail, but Morse - being the better-known partner and personality - kept the glory himself!

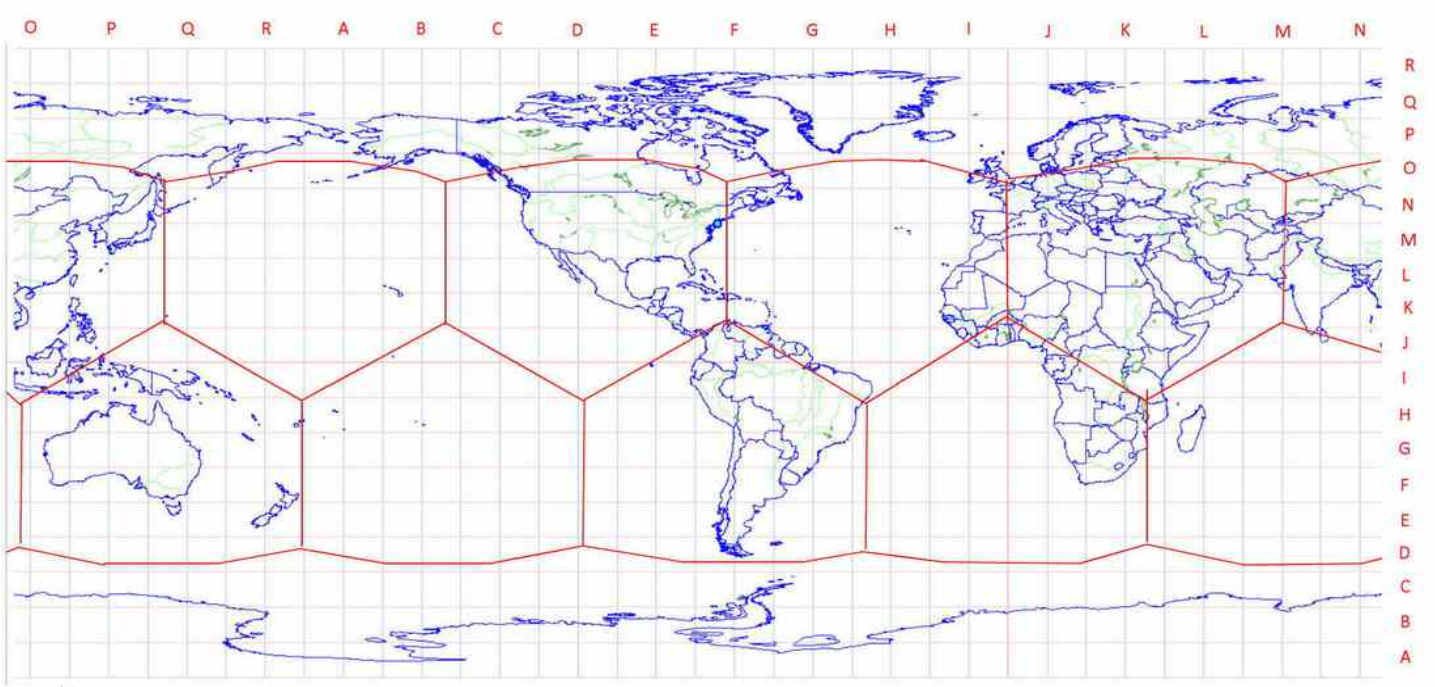
Larry Puccio K2QDY Worked:

DATE (UTC)	TIME	FREQ	MODE	CALLSIGN	ENTITY	LOC	MILES	DIR
10/20/2023	15:09	14.011	CW	E70Y	Bosnia-Herzegovina	JN83tj	4492	NE
10/20/2023	20:22	28.032	CW	T2C	**Tuvalu OC-015**	RI91ol	7475	W
10/20/2023	20:38	28.005	CW	VK3CWB	**Australia OC-001**	QF15bq	10416	W
10/20/2023	20:57	10.114	CW	4U24OCT	Italy	JN80xp	4609	NE
10/20/2023	21:18	10.109	CW	GM0OPS	Scotland EU-005	IO75vs	3270	NE
11/15/2023	01:14	7.026	CW	I1MMR	Italy	JN44kk	4078	NE
11/15/2023	01:30	7.010	CW	F5PLC	France	JN37jp	3891	NE
11/15/2023	01:54	7.015	CW	FY5FY	French Guiana	GJ34uw	2780	SE
11/16/2023	01:13	10.105	CW	AC6XT/6Y	Jamaica NA-097	CM97tq	2462	WNW
11/16/2023	01:31	7.026	CW	I1MMR	Italy	JN44kk	4078	NE
11/17/2023	00:18	21.033	CW	TX7L	Marquesas Is. OC-027	CI00le	5375	WSW
11/18/2023	01:10	7.012	CW	NP3K	Florida, USA	EM90fd	793	SSW
11/18/2023	14:20	21.017	CW	OH8WW	Finland	KP24ho	4012	NNE
11/18/2023	14:25	21.021	CW	CT7BJG	Portugal	IM57pn	3455	ENE
11/18/2023	14:27	21.025	CW	ON6NL	Belgium	JO21ue	3750	NE
11/18/2023	14:30	21.023	CW	LZ1ND	Bulgaria	KN22id	4837	NE
11/18/2023	14:37	21.018	CW	LZ8E	Bulgaria	KN33hl	4860	NE
11/18/2023	14:40	21.025	CW	YU5R	Serbia	KN04pf	4614	NE
11/18/2023	14:43	21.026	CW	IK5MEP	Italy	JN53ou	4199	NE
11/18/2023	14:58	21.032	CW	HG5D	Hungary	KN06qr	4522	NE
11/18/2023	15:02	21.004	CW	LZ8R	Bulgaria	KN22dq	4798	NE
11/21/2023	00:06	14.014	CW	CT9ABV	Madeira Is.AF-014	IM12mr	3174	E
11/21/2023	00:11	14.015	CW	XQ6CF	Chile	FE39kl	5564	S
11/21/2023	16:15	28.025	CW	GW4LPB	Wales EU-005	IO81ln	3385	NE
11/21/2023	20:10	14.007	CW	M0RQX	England EU-005	IO90jt	3476	NE
11/21/2023	20:30	28.026	CW	NP3DM	Cayey, PR, NA-099	FK68wd	1584	SSE

Some DX Opportunities

Callsigns shown in alphanumeric order *Italics if DX > 8000mi*
Mode codes: 8 = JT8, C = CW, D = Digital, J = JP4, P = PSK31, R = RTTY, S = SSB, T = SSTV.
Bands: "Low" usually means 160, 80 & 40m.
Many thanks to Bill Feidt NG3K for ADXO. Also to Wikipedia, Google Maps, the ARRL, the RSGB, DX World, The Daily DX & QRZ.com for the data

START	FINISH	ENTITY & Ranking	PFX	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC	MILES	DIR	INFO by
2023 Dec27	2024 Jan06	Rodrigues I	3B9	3B9AT	AF-017	40-10m	C S 8	LoTW via IV3JVJ	*LG89sw*	*9294*	*E*	DXW.Net
2023 Nov30	2023 Dec09	Vietnam	3W	3W9C	AS-130	20-6m	S 8 c	LoTW SP5APW	*OK54mm*	*8662*	*N*	*OPDX*
2023 Nov06	2023 Dec05	Timor Leste	4W	4W8X	OC-148	160-6m	C S R 8	LoTW via DJ4MX	*PI21vc*	*9967*	*NW*	TDDX
2023 Nov24	2023 Dec05	Tanzania	5H	5H3FM	AF-032	80-10m	S F 8	LoTW, HB9DSP	KI93sq	7757	E	DXW.Net
2023 Nov08	2023 Dec08	Tanzania	5H	5H3MB		80-10m	S C R 8	LoTW or IK2GZU	KI71gc	7609	E	DXW.Net
2023 Nov21	2023 Dec03	Madagascar	5R	5R8VE	AF-057	20-10m	S 8	F4EZG	*LH41rw*	*8788*	*E*	TDDX
2023 Jul16	2023 Dec17	Mexico	XE	6E0G		80-10m		XE1EE LoTW	DL90tn	2043	WSW	DXNews
2023 Nov23	2023 Dec06	Sierre Leone	9L	9L5M		80-6m	8 C S	LoTW or G3SVK	IJ38il	4316	ESE	DXW.Net
2022 Decem	2023 Dec15	Antarctica	AT4	AT42I				VU2CRS	*JB52uf*	*8852*	*SSE*	DXNews
	2032 Dec31	Taiwan	BV	BM0QSO	AS-020	80-10m	8 d	BM2JCC	PL04nf	7897	NNW	QRZ.com
2023 Nov18	2023 Dec10	Easter Island	CE0	CE0YHF	SA-001	30-6m	8 c s	CE0YHF	DG52hf	5199	SSW	ARLD046
	2023 Dec31	St. Barthelemy	FJ	FJ4WEB	NA-146	40-10m		K2LIO	FK87ov	1672	SSE	ARLB044
	2023 Dec31	Wallis & Fortuna	FW	FW1JG	OC-054			LoTW F4CIX	AH16vq	7439	W	ARLD003
2023 Nov20	2023 Dec04	Honduras	HQ	HQ9X		160-10m	C 4 8	KQ1F	EK64im	1928	SSW	W1UE
2023 Dec26	2024 Jan05	St Vincent &Gren.	J8	J87TT	NA-109	40-6m	S C D	LoTW PA2LO	FK92ho	2047	SSE	DXW.Net
2023 Dec05	2023 Dec19	Ogasawara Japan	JD1/O	JD1YCE	AS-031			OQRS or JA3AVO	QL17bq	7215	NNW	ARLD025
	2023 Dec31	Luxembourg	LX	LX90RTL		80-10m+sat	C S D	LoTW	JN29vw	3786	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Czech Republic	C	OL300SANTINI		80-10m		per opr instr	JN99he	4324	NE	ARLD029
2023 Dec07	2023 Dec14	Suriname	PZ	PZ5NH		80-10m	C S 8	JA8JHQ or LoTW	GJ25it	2638	SSE	DXW.Net
	2024 March	**Antarctica**	*RN*	RN1ON	AN-016		C S D	RI1ANC	*OB31km*	*9782*	*S*	ARLD052
2023 Dec01	2023 Dec21	East Kiribati	T32	T32TT	OC-024	160-6m	8 4 c s	LoTW	BJ11hu	5776	W	DXW.Net
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100TA				TRAC QSL buro	KM69kv	5267	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100TC				TRAC QSL buro	KM69kw	5265	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100TR				TRAC QSL buro	KM69kv	5267	NE	425dxn
	2023 Dec31	Turkey	TC	TC100YEAR				TRAC QSL buro	KM69kv	5267	NE	425dxn
2023 Dec29	2024 Jan16	French Guiana	FY	TO3FY	SA-020	80-10m	S	eQSL F4GPK	GJ35pe	2752	SE	DXW.Net
2023 Nov26	2023 Dec08	St Martin	TO9	TO9W	NA-105	160-6m	C S 8 4 R	LoTW	FK88lc	1652	SSE	K9EL
2023 Nov16	2024 Apr30	Namibia	V5	V51WH		160-10m		DK2WH	JG88ap	7171	ESE	DXW.Net
2023 Dec04	2023 Dec16	Micronesia	V6	V6EU	OC-011	160-10m	S C R 8	OQRS or DL2AWG	QJ96cv	7794	WNW	DL2AWG
2023 Nov21	2023 Dec05	Christmas I	VK9	VK9XGM	OC-002	80-10m	S C 8 4	LoTW or N3SL	*OH29tm*	*10406*	*N*	DXW.Net
2023 Nov29	2023 Dec07	Cocos (Keeling) I	VK9X	VK9XY	OC-003	169-10m	C S 8	LoTW	*NH87kv*	*10443*	*NNE*	*DXW.Net*
2023 Dec04	2023 Dec12	British Virgin Is	VP2	VP2VMM	NA-023	20-10m	C S D	LoTW	FK78tr	1581	SSE	TDDX
2023 Dec06	2023 Dec19	Burkina Faso	XT	XT2AW		80-10m	**C S 4 8**	M0OXO OQRS	IK92fh	4765	E	TDDX
	2024 Feb15	Cayman Is.	ZF	ZF9CW	NA-016	80-10m	C s	K5GO	FK09cr	1437	SSW	ARLD025



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 SKYWARN Recognition Day
3	4	5	6 7:30pm ARES digi net 145.170MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 449.825MHz	7 HCARC PARTY Noon, see page one	8 First full day of Hanukkah	9
10	11	12	13 7:00pm License Exams at HCARC by appoint. 7:30pm ARES digi net 449.825MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 145.170MHz	14	15 Last day of Hanukkah	16
17	18	19	20 ARES Zoom meeting see page two.	21	22	23
24	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Tomorrow: HCARC Board Meeting Nov 29	27 7:30pm ARES digi net 449.825MHz; 8:30pm ARES voice net 145.170MHz	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve					Updated on	11/24/2023

Many Thanks To Our Writers And Reference Sources:

Doug Poray KC2TZC, Larry Puccio K2QDY, Bob Murdock WX2NJ, The Quarter Century Wireless Association, QRZ.com, and The ARRL.

We Wish You All A Very Happy Christmas Season