

The SKYHOOK

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

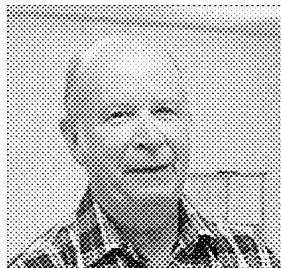


www.hcarc.us

MARCH 2014

Toms River, NJ

Program for Our March 6 Meeting



Your New Radio



From spark to SDR's, ham radio never stops changing. For those of us who have 2300MHz transceivers and high gain antennas, there's even an EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contest scheduled for March 8-9.

So come and share with us "How We Keep Up-to-Date" in Amateur Radio, led by Our President Carl Lee W2PTZ.

Mark Your Calendar

Sat-Sun March 1-2 ARRL Int'l Phone Contest (1.8-28 Phone)

Monday March 3 Get-together at Holiday Diner at noon

Thursday March 6 HCARC Regular Meeting 7pm

Sunday March 9 RTTY Sprint (3.5-14 RTTY)

Wednesday March 12 FCC License Exams 7pm

Saturday March 15 North American Sprint (3.5-14 Phone)

Monday March 17 Get-together at Holiday Diner at noon

Wednesday March 26 HCARC Board Meeting 10am

Monday March 31 Get-together at Holiday Diner at noon

Thursday April 3 HCARC Regular Meeting 7pm

Wednesday April 9 Chinese Luncheon 12 noon

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Thursday March 6 at 7:00 PM

Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1

Holiday City South Clubhouse

Santiago Drive at Mule Road

Toms River, NJ

Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

Ira Dechowicz N2RKV

Fred Fanizzo K2KHH

Susan Graber

Sarah Punderson

John Roberts KQ4WR

George Waked



Chinese Buffet Luncheon



April 9th will be the date for our Club's Spring Luncheon.

By popular demand, it will again be at the Fusion Chinese Buffet.

This an opportunity for us to share a meal with wives, friends, and lots of other club members.

Located between the Home Depot and the Pathmark Supermarket, at the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 571, it is easy to find.

Mark your calendars for the date, April 9 at 12 noon.

The cost is only 10 dollars, which includes tax and tips, and a little left over for the club treasury.

We always have a great time at these events. Don't miss it!



History of Skywarn



by Rex Free KN4CI

[An excerpt from the <http://nalsw.net/> website]

In 1989 [the year the business district of south Huntsville [Alabama] was wiped out by a November tornado], no off-the-shelf amateur radio equipment existed to link repeaters together and there were no computer type repeater controllers (except for the very expensive ACC brand controllers in a few large cities that still could not link repeaters). During this time, Harlie Henson-amateur radio call sign KB4CRG in Huntsville, envisioned a link across north Alabama all the way to Memphis, Tennessee. He wanted a link where anyone in north Alabama could talk to each other. He talked with John Hain-N4AZY, an engineer at TV station WAAY-TV in Huntsville and an amateur radio operator. John liked the idea and begins designing a circuit that would do just that..... Link repeaters together across the state. John produced a schematic diagram to Harlie, and Harlie then spent about 15 hours "hand building" and "hard wiring" a circuit board to produce the first link board.

With the help of Ron Mott-W4RDM, who lived in Huntsville at the time, promoted the link system to all area hams, telling them of an upcoming link system across north Alabama. Harlie contacted the Jackson County Amateur Radio Club about linking their repeater into Huntsville. They agreed and were anxious to become a repeater on the linked system. Harlie also contacted Ed Weatherford-N4GKE (now KS4B), President of the Bankhead Amateur Radio Club in Moulton, along with myself-N4WBT (Now KN4CI), Secretary of the club about linking to us. We were excited as well. Harlie then proceeded to spend another 50-70 hours HAND building (hard wiring) the link boards using John Hain's schematic diagram and design. Equipment was collected for a total of 4 repeater sites to link together.

John Hain's repeater-147.140 on the Channel 31 TV transmitter tower in Huntsville, Harlie's own 147.240 repeater south of Huntsville in Morgan County, the 147.360 repeater that was on a water tank in Scottsboro, and the 146.960 repeater 4 miles southwest of Moulton in Bankhead National Forest. As luck would have it (and Harlie and John's planning), all of the repeaters were just about on a straight line with each other from west to east. This made it perfect for the two outside repeaters (Scottsboro and Moulton) to use beam antennas and the two repeaters in the middle would use omni antennas. The repeaters would use a simplex 440 frequency to communicate to each other.

The beauty of the system (and still is today) was that with these links in place, an amateur radio operator with a handie-talkie on low power in Jackson county, could talk to another ham radio

operator on the west side of north Alabama in Lauderdale county using low power as well. The idea of hams talking so many miles on low power HT's was exciting!! After testing was complete, all 4 repeaters were up and running.

The net could not have functioned any better in those beginning years. A person could sit at home, listen on ham radio or a police scanner (which many citizens did) and track every severe weather event in real time across the North Alabama area, even severe thunderstorms with NO big tornado threats (we activated for a severe thunderstorm watch or a tornado watch).

The NWS staff at the airport had not ever seen anything so good in all of their careers. For a NWS staff member to sit at a radar screen and call out areas they need reports from (while sitting beside an amateur radio operator), and receive those reports back direct from the spotter while listening real time via amateur radio...well, it hasn't been matched even today! Emergency Management Agencies used this net for real time reports and direct real time communication to the weather service. TV stations were listening to every word said on the net, and in many times, relaying it on the air to viewers.

It was at times comical to hear the report given on the amateur radio frequency of NAS, and then 2 seconds later hear the exact message repeated on a television station's channel to the public by their weatherman. All TV station weathermen listened to every word said on NAS, and they still do!

[Read more at: <http://nalsw.net/>]

Minutes of Our February Meeting

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes of Date Feb 6 2014. [Edited]

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm o'clock by the President Carl Lee W2PTZ. Pledge of Allegiance was given by those present.

Introduction of attendees 18 members present.

Secretary's Report was submitted by Ed Picciuti W1EAP after the reading of minutes of previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report was given and approved as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Skyhook Report by John Roberts KQ4WR. Polled those present for preferences for content. Unanimous support for John's direction, content and dedication.

John asked about UHF & dx news, ARES newsletter, articles concerning antennas.

Membership Chairman Doug Poray KC2TCZ gave his report.

Program report by Larry Loscalzo WA2VLR, discussed "D Star".

President's Concerns:

Dayton trip was commented upon.

ARRL anniversary information spoken about, what to expect, accommodations, transmitters.

Our Club needs a volunteer to Chair Field Day.

Reminded membership of 25th Anniversary of HCARC meeting to bring members and significant partner.

Larry Loscalzo's suggestion of a free membership for NEW licensees taking their test here at HCARC is now in effect.

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

Suggestion by Paul to have the Township issue a Proclamation in honor of (our club's 25th) anniversary was offered.

Lunch at Chinese Buffet, April 9 at noon, cost \$10.00 tip included.

Adjourned business portion of meeting at 7:35 pm o'clock.

Commenced the Program portion of meeting; John Roberts presented "Understanding Schematics" which proved a very professional and informative presentation.

Closed meeting at 9:00pm o'clock.

Ocean County ARES Report



On Wednesday, February 19th, approximately 20 operators attended the bi-monthly meeting of Ocean County ARES. WX2NJ presented a Power Point presentation on Lithium Ion batteries and explained the various safety considerations of these types of batteries, especially in regard to Amateur Radio use. Pete, K2PSG, announced that the annual Nuclear Drill practice exercise would be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Also, the graded exercise would be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM. The primary mode of communications is telephone, but all municipalities are reminded to keep radio communications active should there be a failure of the phone system. [continued on page 4]

Internet and e-Mail Address Links

Internet addresses and most call signs in The SKYHOOK are hyperlinks to web sites or email addresses. If clicking on the link does not bring up what you want, copy the address and paste it into your search box.

Our VE Crew

Murray [KD2IN](#), John [K2JWH](#), Ed [W1EAP](#), Larry [K2QDY](#), John [KQ4WR](#), Stan [KB2PD](#), Steve [N2WLH](#), Kevin [W2FA](#), Walter [KC2LFD](#), Paul [N2QXB](#), Larry [WA2VLR](#).

License exams are given at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Holiday City South Clubhouse, Bldg A, which is at the corner of Mule Rd. and Santiago Dr.

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

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ed Baranowski

Webmaster: Steve [N2WLH](#), Carl [W2PTZ](#)

Publicity: Ed [W1EAP](#)

Programs: Lawrence [WA2VLR](#)

Sunshine: Dave [WA2DJN](#)

Field Day: Larry [K2QDY](#)

VE Sessions: Larry [K2QDY](#) 732-349-2950 & the crew

Skyhook: John Roberts [KQ4WR](#) 732-350-1162

Fund Raising: vacant

Membership: Doug Poray [KC2TZC](#)

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732 237-2421
Vice President	John Roberts	KQ4WR	732-350-1162
Secretary	Ed Picciuti	W1EAP	732 736-0955
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732 349-2950
Executive Board	Larry Loscalzo	WA2VLR	732 431-9082
Executive Board	Tom Chicino	KC2RSE	732 240-7395
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 \$30.00 per family.

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

The SKYHOOK is published monthly.

Editor and Publisher:

John Roberts [KQ4WR](#) phone: 732 350-1162 E-mail KQ4WR@arri.net

Send all newsletter items to: John Roberts

7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505, or e-mail KQ4WR@arri.net

K2PSG will also be conducting RERP 2014 training on April 16, 2014, at the next Ocean County ARES meeting at the Ocean County EOC. Refreshments such as soft drinks, coffee and snacks will now be served at each meeting.

Components for the Harvey Cedars D-Star 70 cm repeater system have been ordered and some have already been received. The project is on schedule to have the antenna and feed-line installed this Spring during water tank painting/maintenance. The frequencies are still unknown and will be assigned by the ARCC in the near future.

As was promised in earlier announcements, the Ocean County ARES website has been overhauled so it is easier to navigate and provide feedback. Check it out at www.wa2res.com/ and if you are a Facebook user, please click on the Facebook link and join us or just "like" us. The current issue of Ocean County ARES News in PDF format can always be found at the bottom of the "Welcome" page of the Ocean County ARES website and will normally be updated on the 20th of each month.

Several members have also requested regular simplex nets along with repeater training nets and these will be worked into the schedule. Simplex net announcements will be made during the regular repeater nets and the Yahoo Group email distribution.

For all the Skywarn observers and rain gauge watchers, keep up the reports. It has been one busy Winter and who knows what March will bring. As the days grow longer, the storms grow stronger!

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

FCC License Exams

If you know someone who wants to become an Amateur Radio Operator, or want to upgrade or renew your present license, please call Larry Puccio at 732-349-2950 for information. Our ARRL-VEC certified Volunteer Examiners give an FCC exam session on the second Wednesday of each month, at 7pm, at the Holiday City South clubhouse, Building A, located at the corner of Mule Road and Santiago Drive. For those not familiar with the area, Mule Road runs southward from Route 37 West, (west of the Garden State Parkway), just east of the Walmart. Although walk-ins are always welcome, it's better to call first.

UNCLASSIFIED

Got ham stuff to sell, or need some? Advertise in the Skyhook; it's free, for all HCARC members. Just call John Roberts KQ4WR 732-350-1162 or send an e-mail to kq4wr@arrl.net. A photo is usually helpful.

How's DX?



Russ Young

From: January 15th through February 14th:

Russ Young, WA2VQV worked:

ZM90DX	18Jan14	2129Z	CW	12m
New Zealand	RF80lf	8770 miles	WSW	
N4D	18Jan14	2134Z	CW	12m
Puerto Rico	FK68ol	1550 miles	SSE	
EW8O	23Jan14	1609Z	CW	17m
Belarus	KO52fi	4630 miles	NE	
F5NTV	23Jan14	1622Z	CW	12m
France	IN94lr	3620 miles	ENE	
I5REA	23Jan14	1646Z	SSB	12m
Italy	JN54ab	4150 miles	NE	
CE2AWW	24Jan14	0001Z	CW	17m
Chile	FF47fa	5030 miles	S	
EA8CYQ	24Jan14	2149Z	PSK31	20m
Canary Is	IL28gc	3400 miles	E	
FT5ZM	07Feb14	0259Z	CW	20m
Amsterdam I	MF81sg	10940 miles	E	
5C2P	07Feb14	2250Z	RTTY	20m
Morocco	IM62na	3720 miles	ENE	
T77C	10Feb14	1403Z	CW	12m
San Mareno	JN63fw	2450 miles	NE	
FT5ZM	10Feb14	1654Z	CW	12m
Amsterdam I	MF81sg	10940 miles	E	
PJ2/WI9WI	11Feb14	0143Z	CW	30m
Curacao	FK52mc	1950 miles	SSE	
PJ5/K5WE	12Feb14	2134Z	CW	15m
Saba&StEust	FK87mm	1700 miles	SSE	
PJ2/N1ZZ	12Feb14	2140Z	CW	15m
Curacao	FK52mc	1950 miles	SSE	
HA7GN	14Feb14	2006Z	CW	20m
Hungary	JN97mi	4400 miles	NE	

[All contacts listed above were using an MFJ three-foot diameter loop antenna in his attic. No, he doesn't live on a mountain.]

Field Day is Coming

Yes, Field Day is coming, and that means we need to think about working HF with emergency power, putting up portable antennas, picnicing in the park, and a lot of fellowship. It's a time when we really get to appreciate each other by working together at having fun. Yep, Field Day is FUN.

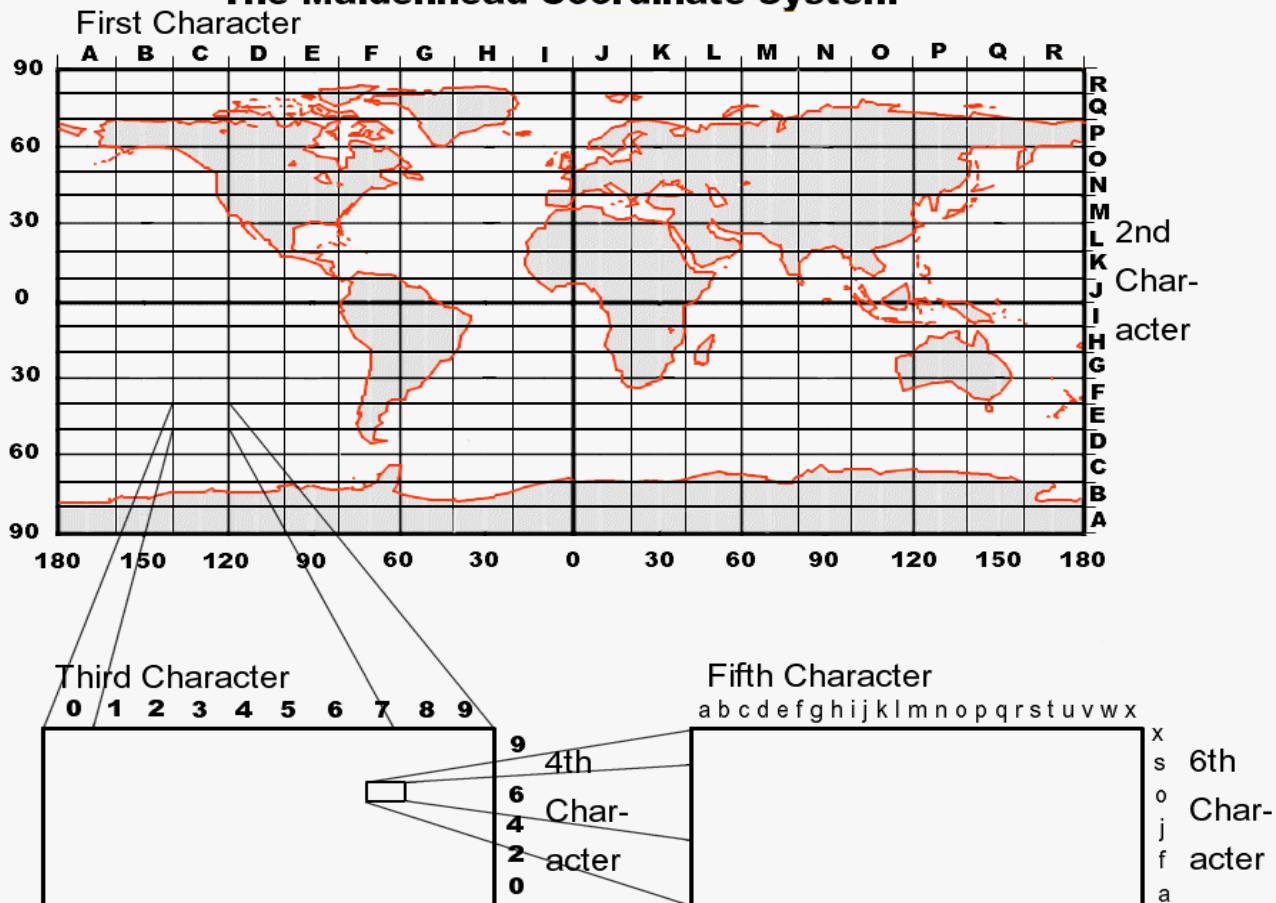
Field Day is not a contest, but it's sort of like one. You get a chance to work real HF rigs with real HF antennas. That's something many of our members have not had much of an opportunity to do. You even get a chance to work a crowded band, and see how many stations you can work per minute. On a normal Field Day, we easily work stations from Maine to Florida, and out West to California. And, of course, there's refreshments.

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June. We're reserving the picnic shelter area of the park at the end of Selkirk Ave for Saturday June 28.



Tell us if you're interested in helping to plan this event, and what ideas you have. Please telephone or e-mail Larry Puccio k2qdy@arrl.net 732-349-2950, or any of the club officers listed on page 3.

The Maidenhead Coordinate System



DX Opportunities for March 2014

ARRL DX Contest, Phone (Mar 1-2)

Straight Key Weekend, QRP Contest (CW) and North American RTTY Sprint (Mar 8-9)

North American Sprint (Ph 80-20m Mar 15)

CQ WPX Contest (SSB Mar 29-30)

March DX Opportunities - Note that 10 of the 100 Most Wanted stations are on this list

Begin	End	Entity*	Call	QSL	Info	C/IOTA	ITU	CQ	Grid	Miles	Dir	Bands	Modes*
02/26-03/08		Annobon I #39	3C0BYP	EA5BYP	425DXN	AF-039	52	36	J128	5745	E		SRC
03/23-03/31		Fiji	3D2FJ	LotW	VA3RJ	OC-016	56	32	RH92	7847	W	80-10	C
03/10-03/23		Sri Lanka	4S7..	LotW	DXW.Net	AS	41	22	NJ07	8828	NNE	160-6	CSRP
03/14-04/11		Tanzania	5H3MB	LotW	425DXN	AF	53	37	KI71	7610	E		
03/23-03/31		Togo	5V7BJ	F5AOW	PA3CWN	AF	46	35	JJ06	5183	E		
03/23-03/31		Togo	5V7MP	F5MVB	PA3CWN	AF	46	35	JJ06	5183	E		
02/25-03/16		Uganda	5X1XA	G3SWH	G3XAQ	AF	48	37	KG60	7000	E		C
02/28-03/17		Zambia	9J2T	LotW	IK7JWY	AF	53	36	KH44	7557	E		
03/03-03/12		Rwanda	9X0NH	LotW	OPDX	AF	52	36	KI58	7066	E	HF	CS
02/24-03/07		Tonga #99	A35AX	OQRS	DK1AX	OC-049	62	32	AG28	7712	W		CSR
02/24-03/07		Tonga #99	A35AX	OQRS	DK1AX	OC-064	62	32	AH31	7542	W		CSR
02/27-03/10		Gambia	C5/MITKA	LotW	DXW.Net	AF	46	35	IK13	3925	E	20-10	
03/06-04/02		Madeira	CT9/DL3KWF	DL3KWF	425DXN	AF	36	33	IM12	3187	E	WARC	CD
03/06-04/02		Madeira	CT9/DL3KWR	DL3KWR	425DXN	AF	36	33	IM12	3187	E	WARC	CD
03/16-04/08		Reunion	FR/F5MNV	F5MNV	DXW.Net	AF-016	53	39	LG78	9220	E	HF	C
02/24-03/03		St Martin	FS/KB8RJ	KB8RJ	OPDX	NA-105	11	8	FK88	1658	SSE	HF	
02/24-03/03		St Martin	FS/WD8KUR	KB8RJ	OPDX	NA-105	11	8	FK88	1658	SSE	HF	
03/03-03/10		Grenada	J34G	G3PJT	G3PJT	NA-024	11	8	FK92	2077	SSE		
02/21-03/10		Dominica	J7Y	K1LI	K1LI	NA-101	11	8	FK95	1867	SSE		
03/02-03/17		Aruba	P4/WA2NHA	WA2NHA	DXW.Net	SA-036	11	9	FK52	1918	S	HF	C
03/13-03/18		Aruba	P40JH	JR3QFB	DXW.Net	SA-036	11	9	FK52	1918	S	160-6	
03/13-03/18		Aruba	P40R	JS6RRR	DXW.Net	SA-036	11	9	FK52	1918	S	160-6	
03/12-03/29		Curacao	PJ2/DK5ON	DK5ON	DK5ON	SA-099	11	9	FK52	1948	S	80-6	SRPC
03/04-03/19		Saba & StEust.	PJ6/KB8RJ	KB8RJ	OPDX	NA-145	11	8	FK88	1656	SSE	HF	
03/04-03/19		Saba & StEust.	PJ6/WD8KUR	KB8RJ	OPDX	NA-145	11	8	FK88	1656	SSE	HF	
02/22-03/16		Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	AA9A	AA9A	NA-105	11	8	FK88	1656	SSE		
03/01-03/28		Surinam	PZ5VC	ON4AVT	DXW.Net	SA	12	9	GJ25	2642	SSE		P
03/10-03/20		W. Sahara #81	S0/3Z9DX	3Z9DX	DXW.Net	AF	46	33	IL35	3614	E	40-10	S
03/21-04/04		Mayotte #89	TO7BC	DL7BC	DXW.Net	AF-027	53	39	LH27	8366	E	40-10	
03/20-04/01		Austral Is #42	TX6G	LotW	G3XTT	OC-114	63	32	BG57	6526	WSW		CSR
03/23-03/30		Andaman I	U4K	W4VKU	DXW.Net	AS-001	49	16	NK62	8714	NNE	HF	SR
02/26-03/26		Antigua	V21ZG	DL7AFS	425DXN	NA-100	11	8	FK77	1681	SSE	high	PRSI
03/10-03/18		Belize	V31SQ	KC1SQ	KC1SQ	NA-073	11	7	EK57	1801	SSW		
02/19-03/25		StKitts&Nevis	V47JA	LotW	W5JON	NA-104	11	8	FK87	1717	SSE	160-6	S
02/25-03/04		Marshall Is#94	V73MW	LotW	N6MW	OC-029	65	31	RJ57	7157	WNW	80&30	C
03/01-03/11		Christmas I#67	VK9X/K7CO	K7CO	K7CO	OC-002	54	29	OH29	10411	N	160-10	SCP
03/28-04/09		MellishReef#25	VK9MT	M0URX	425DXN	OC-072	56	30	QH72	9067	WNW		
03/15-03/22		Norfolk I #98	VK9NF	K8NF	DXW.Net	OC-005	60	32	RL39	6224	NW		D
03/19-04/01		Br Virgin Is	VP2V/..	HomeCall	SP9FIH	NA-023	11	8	FK78	1585	SSE	160-6	SRC
02/25-03/21		Cambodia	XU7ACQ	KF0RQ	KF0RQ	AS	49	26	OK21	8884	N	40-10	SPR
03/15-03/22		Cayman Is	ZF2MT	LotW	DXW.Net	NA-016	11	8	EK99	1486	SSW	HF	CP
03/13-03/26		Chatham Is #71	ZL7/OE2SNL	OE2SNL	OE2SNL	OC-038	60	32	AE15	8580	WSW	80-10	RC
03/20-04/01		Chatham Is #71	ZL7AAA	VE7NY	VE7NY	OC-038	60	32	AE15	8580	WSW	HF	SCR

*Mode codes: C=CW, D=Digital, I=Image, P=PSK, R=RTTY, S=SSB.

*The number after the '#' mark indicates rank in the Fall 2013 Most Wanted list