

The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

OCTOBER 2014

Toms River, NJ

ELECTION NOTICE

The October meeting is when we elect officers for the coming year. They are all one-year terms starting immediately after the meeting, and ending at the conclusion of next year's October meeting.

Nominations are still open.

Program for Our October 2 Meeting



After the elections and refreshments, Bob Murdock WX2NJ (<http://www.wx2nj.com/>) will demonstrate various ARES Go-Kits amateur radio operators can build.

Some Dates for Your Calendar

Oct 2 HCARC General Meeting 7pm (see below)

Oct 4 Yom Kippur

Oct 4 NJ QSO Party <http://www.k2td-bcrc.org>

Oct 8 Chinese Luncheon (see notice at right)

Oct 8 License Exams 7pm (see page 3 column 2)

Oct 12 North American RTTY Sprint www.ncjweb.com

Oct 13 Noon Lunch at Holiday City Diner

Oct 22 Straight Key Sprint <http://www.skccgroup.com/>

Oct 25-26 SSB DX Contest <http://www.cqww.com/>

Oct 27 Noon Lunch at Holiday City Diner

Oct 29 Executive Board meeting

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday to:

Ray Lauterbach KC2GKN

Larry Puccio K2QDY

Bill Rafalski

Bob Wilson KA2WPL

Harriet LeFevre

Charlotte Militano



Happy anniversary to:

Joe & Charlotte Militano



Chinese Buffet Luncheon

We'll be going back to the Fusion Buffet again on October 8 at noon. Cost is only \$10, which includes tax, tip, and hopefully a little left over for our treasury.



It's located in the shopping center at the intersection of Route 571 and Route 9, between the Home Depot and the Pathmark.

It's one of those times when the XYLs get together, so bring yours.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday October 2 at 7:00 PM

Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1

Holiday City South Clubhouse

Santiago Drive at Mule Road

Toms River, NJ

Buying an HT?



If you're in the market for a Handy-Talky (hand-held FM transceiver), there are some features you should look for.

First, of course, on what bands can it transmit?

2-meters (144-148MHz) is most popular, but 70cm (420-450MHz) is a close second.

Many models do both, and one or two other bands may be included as well.

On the 2-meter band, you should be able to set the receive frequency in steps of 2.5 kHz or closer.

Second, does it have all the features you need to work the local repeaters?

You have to be able to listen on one frequency, and transmit to the repeater on another (offset frequency).

You need to be able to generate the proper CTCSS ("PL") background tone for each repeater.

To use a repeater's special features such as Autopatch (to make a telephone call), you'll need DTMF ("Touch Tone") and keypad.

You'll need "channels" of memory to store the frequencies, frequency offsets, and PL tones for several repeaters,

including those which you may want to use while travelling.

The memory should be "static" (not wiped out when you change battery).

You'll need at least two watts of output. Many newer models put out five on 2m, and 4.5 on 70cm.

You'll need a rechargeable battery that can run the HT for several hours.

Some HT's now use lithium ion batteries, which are lighter in weight and store more energy than Nickel-Metal Hydride ones.

See that a charger is included.

Buy a spare battery, so you can use one while charging the other.

It should preferably have connectors for headphones, external mike, outdoor (or mobile) antenna, and external power.

A frequency scan mode is useful.

Some HT's even have a built-in GPS.

Finally, you must consider whether you want one that has a digital

mode.

Currently, about 5% of HT owners have a digital mode.

Of those few HT's that have a digital mode, Icom HT's can only use D*Star, and Yaesu HT's can only use C4FM.

Those modes are not compatible, so Icom users and Yaesu users can't use digital mode to talk to each other.

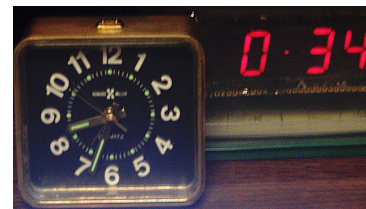
Although digital is free of background noise, if the signal strength is weak, it goes completely dead, where FM would still be readable. Fortunately, all the digital models easily switch to FM.

Most repeaters only work on FM.

Another problem is that digital processors use power, even when only receiving, so battery time is shorter.

There are several brands of HT's to choose from, including Alinco, Kenwood, Icom, Wouxon, and Yaesu, but this should help narrow the search.

"Falling Back" to Standard Time



At 2:00 AM Sunday November 2, we go back to Standard time. To convert to UTC time, just add 5 hours or post this handy chart.

EST	UTC
12:00 AM	0500 Z
01:00 AM	0600 Z
02:00 AM	0700 Z
03:00 AM	0800 Z
04:00 AM	0900 Z
05:00 AM	1000 Z
06:00 AM	1100 Z
07:00 AM	1200 Z
08:00 AM	1300 Z
09:00 AM	1400 Z
10:00 AM	1500 Z
11:00 AM	1600 Z
12:00 PM	1700 Z
01:00 PM	1800 Z
02:00 PM	1900 Z
03:00 PM	2000 Z
04:00 PM	2100 Z
05:00 PM	2200 Z
06:00 PM	2300 Z
07:00 PM	0000 Z next day
08:00 PM	0100 Z next day
09:00 PM	0200 Z next day
10:00 PM	0300 Z next day
11:00 PM	0400 Z next day
12:00 AM	0500 Z

Minutes of the September Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7pm by VP John Roberts KQ4WR. The Pledge of Allegiance taken by the attendees. Introductions and call identification were made.

John began the New Business portion of the meeting with the annual election preparations (nominations) and annual audit initiation: John Roberts KQ4WR and Larry Puccio K2QDY have volunteered to be the de facto nominating committee. Doug Poray is the membership chairman. Fred Franizzo K2KHH and Murray KD2IN have volunteered to perform the annual audit.

After a polling on who would fill officer positions, the following positions were accepted:

Executive Board at large: Tom Chicino KC2RSE and Larry Loscalzo WA2VLR.

Vice President: John Roberts KQ4WR, Treasurer: Larry Puccio K2QDY.

The office of club President and Secretary still need to be filled.

Technical Program of the meeting was developed and presented by Tom Chicino KC2RSE.

Tom took us through the whys of his choice of an HT, a Yaesu VX6R. He has had the HT for a few years and feels it is still a superior rig. He has an assortment of antennas for different situations. One of the features that matters to Tom is that it is water resistant. Being a kayaker, this is a crucial requirement for safety. An aside note: the radio now sells for more than when he purchased it. The talk was comprehensive in its detail of repeater use and experience. Tom has "hit" many distant towers with minimal output.

This was a good look in to how we use our equipment.

A hands-on demo of CW by Larry Puccio K2QDY and Ira Dechowitz K2RKV: With a set up by John Roberts, Larry and Ira each sent and received a "text book" conversation. It was a very informative session seeing how these two hams communicated. Ira is quite good, and in spite of distractions, did a very good job.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Ed Picciuti W1EAP

Internet and e-Mail Address Links

Internet addresses and most call signs in The SKYHOOK are now 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. Call Larry Puccio, K2QDY, at 732-349-2950 for information.

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](#)

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	Kevin Wagner	W2FA	732 279-0532

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.

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Ocean County ARES® News



On Sunday, September 14th, Ocean County ARES provided communications support for the 6th annual Bike to Build (B2B) bicycle tour to benefit the Habitat for Humanity of Northern Ocean County. I would like to thank Glen, KD2FFR, for referring Ocean County ARES to Habitat for Humanity and allowing us to demonstrate our capabilities. The event also provided good training for all the operators involved, which included:

KC2OON, WX2NJ, N3IE, KD2FFR, N2QXB, K3PMC, WB2ALJ, WA2EYV and KC2MTF.

Also, a special thanks to Keith, KC2OON for acting as Net Control for the event. He impressed some of the onlookers with his Go-Kit and solar panel. We all look forward to helping out in the event again next year.

As I previously announced, the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) for 2014 is supposed to take place between 1200 Noon on Friday, October 3rd until 1200 Noon on Sunday, October 5th. This does not mean that all groups in SNJ will be activated during this period, but that this is a window of opportunity for all SNJ ARES operators to hold SET activities. Obviously, one would much rather use a time frame during the day to hold communication drills rather than in the middle of the night. Details are still very sketchy and in my opinion, this is going to be a "seat of your pants" exercise for all of us. I ask if you have NBEMS software/hardware that you upgrade to the newest version. Ensure your batteries are charged for portable equipment and your ready-kit and/or go-kit is checked and ready for service. I plan on holding at least one NBEMS training net after the normal Wednesday ARES net before the SET.

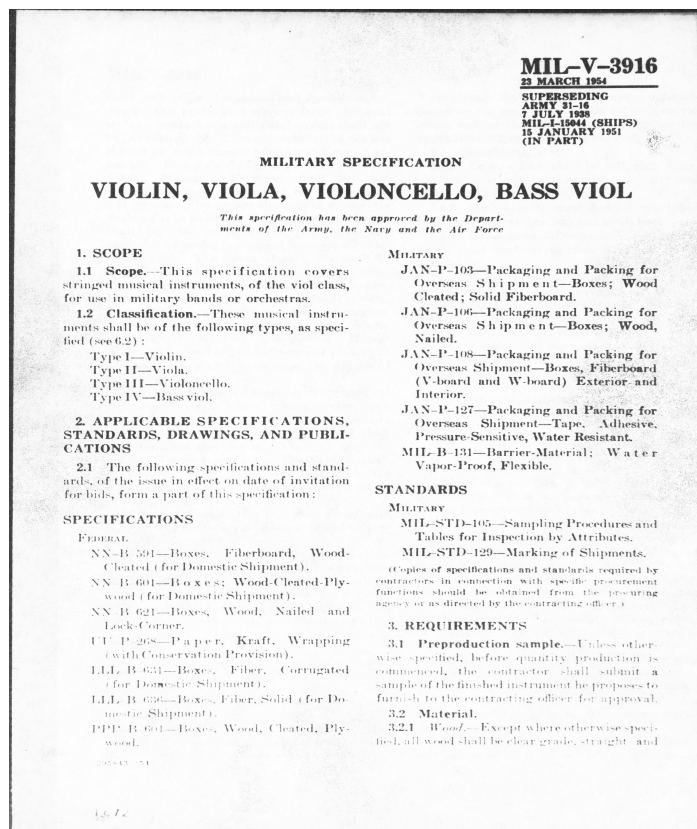
The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be Wednesday, October 15th at the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark, Berkeley Township. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. We will be discussing/debriefing the SET and the B2B Bike Tour. There will be no training net that evening due to the meeting.

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

Ever Hear of MIL Spec Violin?



Seems like there's a MIL spec for just about anything, but this one, dating back to the 1930s surprised me when I ran across it many years ago. The spec goes on for nine more pages, specifying not only the instruments of the string quartet, but their bows and cases, and how they are to be made, packed and marked. This spec has been obsolete since around 1950. I also found one for an oboe which even attempted to verbally describe how it should sound. I wonder if any were available on the war surplus market.

Lists of Local Repeaters

For a list of coordinated local repeaters in Southern New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, see www.ARCC-inc.org, and for Metropolitan New York and Northern NJ, see www.metrocor.org.

There are also some un-coordinated repeaters. One large group of these is linked together so that accessing any one of them activates all of them throughout the state. They are primarily for use by mobile stations on New Jersey's highways. See W2NJR.

Coordinated repeaters have "right of way" over uncoordinated ones.

DX Reports

by Russ Young WA2VQV

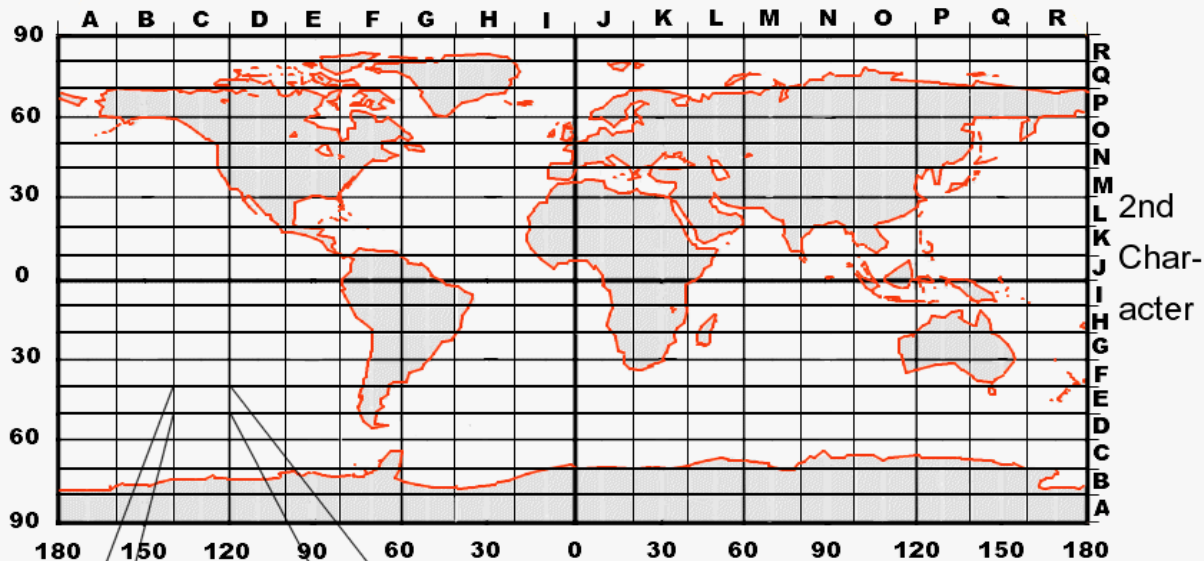


Russ Young, WA2VQV, worked:

Russ Young, WA2VQV, worked:						Grid	Miles	Dir
FY/DL3LUM	19-Aug-14	2025Z	CW	15M	French Guiana	GJ45aa	2763	SE
S57DX	24-Aug-14	2150Z	SSB	17M	Slovenia	JN84em	4492	NE
EC7CW	24-Aug-14	2159Z	CW	17M	Spain	IN80dj	3707	ENE
DK8YY	24-Aug-14	2205Z	CW	17M	Germany	JO31aa	3863	NE
UX1HW	24-Aug-14	2212Z	CW	17M	Ukraine	KO50gj	4817	NE
IK2WZM	25-Aug-14	2221Z	RTTY	12M	Italy	JN61gv	4417	NE
VP2ETE	25-Aug-14	2227Z	SSB	12M	Anguilla	FK88mh	1607	SSE
OE8SKQ	25-Aug-14	2234Z	CW	12M	Austria	JN88de	4362	NE
EA5BYP	25-Aug-14	2301Z	SSB	17M	Spain	IN80dj	3707	ENE
IK3TPP	26-Aug-14	1551Z	RTTY	12M	Italy	JN61gv	4417	NE
TG9AJR	26-Aug-14	1907Z	RTTY	12M	Guatemala	EK44so	1912	SSW
YO3FGO	2-Sep-14	2139Z	RTTY	20M	Romania	KN34bj	4898	NE
5E7R	3-Sep-14	2229Z	CW	20M	Morocco	IM61ap	3754	ENE
ZD7FT	5-Sep-14	1948Z	SSB	12M	Saint Helena	IH74ba	5869	ESE
II0IAML	6-Sep-14	0142Z	RTTY	30M	Sardinia	JM49ne	4354	ENE
CY0C	8-Sep-14	1456Z	SSB	20M	Sable Island	GN03at	869	ENE
AM03EGB	8-Sep-14	2130Z	RTTY	12M	Spain	IN80dj	3707	ENE
IY1GMS	11-Sep-14	1528Z	CW	10M	Italy	JN61gv	4417	NE
HA1AG	11-Sep-14	1834Z	CW	17M	Hungary	JN97nm	4498	NE
5E7R	11-Sep-14	1904Z	RTTY	17M	Morocco	IM61ap	3754	ENE
EG7SFC	12-Sep-14	2216Z	CW	17M	Spain	IN80dj	3707	ENE
ZL2AGY	13-Sep-14	1114Z	CW	30M	New Zealand	RE66am	9017	WSW
9K2MU	13-Sep-14	2332Z	CW	20M	Kuwait	LL49aa	6502	NE
TK5MH	14-Sep-14	2056Z	CW	17M	Corsica	JN42ma	4256	ENE

The Maidenhead Coordinate System

First Character



Third Character

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Fifth Character

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x

9

6

4

2

0

4th
Char-
acter

x

s

o

j

f

a

6th

Char-
acter

Some Really Hot DX Opportunities

Begin - End	DX Entity	Callsign	Bands	Modes	MCS Grid	Dir
Oct 08 - Oct 20	Timor Leste	4W	80-10	C	PI21mm	N
Oct 19 - Oct 31	Timor Leste	4W	80-10	S C	PI21mm	N
Oct 03 - Oct 13	Tonga	A35RT	80-10	?	AG29ma	W
Sep 28 - Oct 14	Nauru	C21GC	160-10	C S r	RI39kl	WNW
Oct 30 - Nov 10	Tromelin	FT4TA	?	?	LH74gm	E
Oct 21 - Oct 27	American Samoa	KH8	160-10	S	AH55aq	W
Oct 02 - Oct 15	West Kiribati	T30D	160-6	C S R	RJ61mj	NW
Oct 03 - Oct 13	Austral I	TX5Z	80-40	C S D	BG56aa	WSW
Oct 10 - Oct 14	Micronesia	V6	80-6	S C R	QJ98aa	NNW
Sep 18 - Oct 02	Christmas I	VK9AN	80-10	C S D	OH29mm	NNE
Oct 10 - Oct 12	Lord Howe I	VK9DJ	?	S R C	QF98mj	W
Oct 13 - Oct 29	Lord Howe I	VK9DLX	?	S	QF98mj	W
Oct 18 - Oct 31	Christmas I	VK9XSP	160-6	C S R	OH29mm	NNE
Oct 22 - Nov 01	Macao	XX9	?	S C R	OL62me	NNE
Oct 03 - Oct 15	Vanuatu	YJ0X	80-6	C S R	RH42ah	WNW
Sep 09 - Oct 03	Tristan da Cunha	ZD9	?	C S	IF32uv	SE
Oct 08 - Oct 29	Tokelau	ZK3	80-10	S C	AL41ao	W

Making Your HT Work For You

OK, so maybe you have a new 2-meter FM rig and you want to put it to work. Try checking into a traffic net. ("Traffic" is an old telegrapher's term for the flow of messages). Try creating or

delivering a message, or just mention when you call in, or after the net, that you'd like to talk to someone about --, well about whatever interests you. Just try to remember that other people may be listening. Here's some data to get you started.

Some Local 2-Meter Repeaters

State / County / Location	Output	Input	Tx Call	Sponsor	Op Codes
NJ / Ocean / Manchester	145.17	-	WA2RES	OCARES	o (t=3B=131.8) WX e R A O
NJ / Burlington / Medford Twp.	145.29	-	K2AA	SJRA	o (t=ZZ=91.5) (ca) e
NJ / Burlington / Chatsworth	145.47	-	KC2QVT	BURLCO OEM	o (t=3A=127.3) L e R A O
NJ / Ocean / Toms River	146.445	+	KC2GUM	O.C.R.G.	o (t=3B=131.8) WX a e A 147.445 input
NJ / Atlantic / Egg Harbor	146.64	-	W3BXW	BEARS	o (t=3B=131.8) L RB WX e R A O
NJ / Ocean / Toms River	146.655	-	WA2JWR	HCARC	o (t=3A=127.3) RB WX
NJ / Ocean / Tuckerton	146.7	-	N2NF		o (t=7A=192.8) e R A O
NJ / Middlesex / Sayreville	146.76	-	K2GE	RaritanBayRA	o (t=5A=156.7)
NJ / Ocean / Manahawkin	146.835	-	N2OO	835UserGrp	o (t=3A=127.3) (ca) e R A O
NJ / Ocean / Toms River	146.91	-	W2DOR	JSARS	o (t=3A=127.3) e Bi
NJ / Ocean / Lakewood	146.955	-	W2RAP	EARS	o (t=1A=103.5) e
NJ / Burlington / Robbinsville	147.075	+	KX2D	Robbinsvil	o (t=XA=71.9) L (ca) e R
NJ / Burlington / Westampton	147.15	+	KC2QVT	BURLCO OEM	o (t=3A=127.3) L WX (ca) e R A O

Op Codes:

o = open; t = PL tone reqd; c = closed; a = autopatch; L = linked; e = emerg pwr;

Affiliations: R = RACES; A = ARES; O = OEM; WX = weather-related services

Some Local Nets

Jersey Shore Traffic Net	146.91	-	W2DOR	7:30 pm daily	PL=127.3
Central Jersey Traffic Net	146.76	-	K2GE	8:00 pm daily	PL=156.7
South Jersey Traffic Net	145.47	-	KC2QVT	8:00 pm daily	PL=127.3
Ocean Co ARES Net	145.17	-	WA2RES	8:30 pm Wed. *	PL=131.8

* except third Wed. of month