

The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

DECEMBER 2014

Toms River, NJ

Don't Miss Our Holiday Party



Our Holiday Party is scheduled to start at **6:30pm** December 4. Please note that it's a half-hour earlier than our usual meeting time. We're asking each one to donate \$5 for the food. As you can see from the photo, it's a bring-the-XYL event. Grace Puccio will coordinate the food donations, so if you can bring some, please call her at 732-349-2950.

Your \$25* Dues Are Due January 1



Going South for the Winter? By paying Larry your \$25 dues before you leave, you can avoid having to mail him a check. However, if you prefer to pay by mail, send a check for \$25, payable to H.C.A.R.C., to Larry Puccio, 22 Sabinas St, Toms River NJ 08757.

***Yes, the dues have gone up. At the November meeting, the membership voted to up the annual dues to \$25. This is the only increase in 25 years.**

Great DXCC News

What is the world's second most difficult place to arrange to set up a ham station? It's Navassa Island, and the group that's been so tough to deal with is the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Only North Korea ranks higher on the DXCC Most Wanted list.

But a group has finally been given permission to set foot (and equipment) on the island. It will be for two weeks in January, using special call sign K1N, which will count as a prefix KP1, ITU zone 11, CQ zone 08, IOTA island NA-098, and grid square FK28mj.

It won't be easy. The island, 40 miles west of Haiti, has steep cliffs for a seashore, which make access by ship impossible, but small boats equipped with the right equipment can be used.

Bob Schenck, N2OO who told us about his Amsterdam Island adventure, is part of the team.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday to:

Helen Picciuti

Sandy Ottenberg



Happy anniversary to:

Ed & Helen Picciuti



No January Meeting

There will **not** be a HCARC meeting on Thursday, January 1, because the building will be closed for the holiday.

The February meeting will be a 7:00 pm Thursday Feb 5.



Dave Ottenberg WA2DJN (right) receiving Achievement Award in Recognition 55 years as a Licensed Amateur Radio Operator.

Minutes Of The November Meeting

7:05 pm: Meeting called to order

Flag Salute

Member Introductions

A Certificate of Achievement in recognition of 55 years as a licensed Amateur Radio Operator was presented to Dave Ottenberg, WA2DJN.

Secretary's Report : Minutes of the meeting held October 2, 2014 and distributed in "Skyhook" were unanimously approved without comment.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by the Treasurer and approved unanimously.

The Treasurer presented a cash flow analysis which showed a negative trend, and recommended raising the annual dues \$5.00 dollars per year. A motion to raise the dues was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business: The plans for the field day were discussed. It was generally agreed that the plans for a field day should go forward. The need for a coordinator was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that a coordinator was needed. The discussion on selecting the coordinator was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: A membership activity survey and a new form for experience and areas of amateur radio activities were distributed and filled out by the individual members. This information will be used for internal use and "Skyhook" purposes.

A reminder that annual dues are due prior to January 1, 2015. Members were requested to address this matter, especially if they will be leaving the area before that date.

Announcements: Our holiday party on will be held on December 4. As in the past few years, the party will start at 6:30 pm.

As the January meeting would fall on New Year's Day, the January meeting is canceled. The next meeting will be on February 5, 2015.

The big DX news is that a DXpedition to Navassa Island (40 miles west of Haiti) is being planned for two weeks in January.

A discussion on sunspot activity was held with special emphasis on the effects on amateur radio communication.

It was announced that the next Skywarn training activity will be held on November 12, 2014 at 7:00pm at the OC OEM at Miller Air Park.

It was announced that the next JSARS hamfest will be held at Riverside Park on Riverside Drive in Toms River. Buyers will be invited at 8:00am.

7:40 A break was called to allow for refreshments and attention to the 50/50 drawing.

8:00 The meeting was called back to order.

The evening's feature speaker was Frank Camposano, K2IYE, owner of Hometec LLC, better known as "cheapham.com". An outstanding presentation of the state of the art in amateur radio and discount availability of equipment was supplemented by a discussion on the difficulties and advantages of overseas purchases.

8:50 The meeting was adjourned.

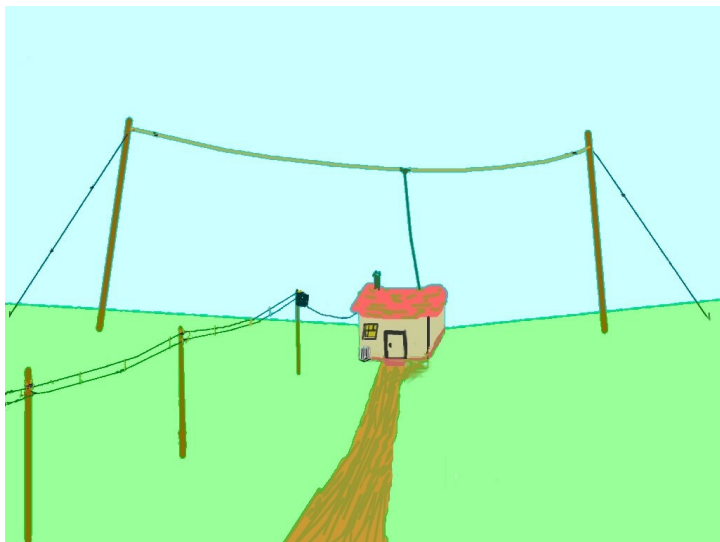
Submitted by

John Rogers, Asst. Secretary.



Frank Camposano K2IYE, of www.cheapham.com

Dear Elmer, I Can't Get A Good SWR



Dear Friend, I see that you have an HF transceiver, an HF antenna with balanced line (ribbon cable), and an MFJ antenna tuner that has a built-in SWR meter. If you didn't have a built-in SWR indicator, you would need one in the line between the transceiver and the tuner. Better yet, replace it with an automatic tuner. The first thing to do is visually and mechanically check your connections. Be sure you don't have any shorted or open cable.

Your transceiver should go to the TRANSMITTER or TX input of the tuner, and the antenna to the BALANCED LINE posts. On the rear panel of the tuner, you need to have a wire jumper connecting the WIRE terminal to one of the BALANCED LINE terminals. You also need to have the antenna ribbon connected to the BALANCED LINE terminals. Leave the COAX connector open, as it is for coaxial cable fed antennas. If you ever change from balanced line to coax, remove that jumper.

Check all connections, including where the antenna connects to the ribbon cable. If you didn't have a built-in SWR indicator, you would need one in the line between the transceiver and the tuner.

MFJ tuners used a C-L-C T-Section circuit that can be quite frequency selective. While listening to the frequency you want to tune up on, and with the ANTENNA and TRANSMITTER tuning capacitors set midway, flip through all the steps of INDUCTANCE. Rock the capacitor dials to try to find a combination that peaks the signals and/or background noise. There may be more than one inductance that works.

With your transceiver putting out a steady 10 watt signal in CW mode (key down) near the frequency you want to tune up on, but trying to avoid causing QRM, adjust the tuner's dials for minimum reflected power. The dials will interact with each other, but you should be able to get down to nearly zero reflection even with full power. You'll need to re-adjust for each new frequency.

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 internet 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:

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

Fund Raising: vacant

Membership: Doug [KC2TZC](#)

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcsrc.us

President	John Roberts	KQ4WR	732-350-1162 ext 33
Vice President	Tom Chicino	KC2RSE	732 240-7395
Secretary	John Hann	K2JWH	609-660-0985
Asst Secretary	John Rogers		732 269-5717
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732 349-2950
Executive Board	Larry Loscalzo	WA2VLR	732 431-9082
Executive Board	Doug Poray	KC2TZC	732-928-2316
Executive Board	Tony Kuzinski	KD2GSO	732-930-5779
Executive Board	Murray Goldberg	KD2IN	732-505-6860
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.

Editor and Publisher:

John Roberts [KQ4WR](#) 7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505

e-mail KQ4WR@arrl.net 732 350-1162 ext 33

Ocean County ARES® News

– December, 2014

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be the annual holiday party on December 17th at 7:00 PM at the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark. There will be no training net that evening due to the meeting. As in past holiday parties, all are welcome to attend and enjoy the food and beverages. There will be a brief presentation prior to the party on ARES business. Anyone desiring to bring food to the party, please contact WX2NJ at WX2NJ@comcast.net

A new Yaesu DR-1X repeater is soon to be shipped to us to replace the DR-1 that was furnished during the Yaesu Fusion beta test. Funding for the DR-1X was furnished by a group of Ocean County ARES members contributions, which includes KC2OON, KC2SPK, N2XW, W2SIM, W2KJS, N2QXB, W2PTZ, K2QDY, K3PMC, KC2MTA and WX2NJ. The new DR-1X is expected to be shipped to us at the end of December 2014. Contributors will be presented with a special WA2RES Yaesu polo shirt.

According to Pete, K2PSG, the state has approved 966 nuclear funding of several D-Star Go-Kits, which include Icom 880H transceivers, power supplies, custom iPortable cases, Low Loss PowerGate power distribution including backup battery, Kantronics TNC and Signalink, which will enable the Go-Kits to connect via D-Star or FM with Voice, Winlink or NBEMS. The Go-Kits are to be assembled by Ocean County ARES members as part of a workshop. Details will be discussed at the December meeting, as mentioned above. The finished Go-Kits should look something like the unit pictured below:



Ocean County ARES Go-Kit

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

HCARC Badge Ordering

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 put the official logo and club name on your personal badge.

There Is A Net For You

Ham radio has all kinds of nets.

Skywarn nets for reporting weather-related news.

A Maritime Mobile net.

A Hurricane Watch net.

National Traffic System Traffic Nets for message practice.

Early morning nets are great for chatting with friends.

Experimenter nets for exchanging technical ideas.

QRP nets for maximizing distance with minimim power.

Mountain-topping nets for climbers.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service nets.

Nets for retired employees of Bell System, GE, etc.

There's probably at least one net specializing in each mode.

The list goes on and on.

Check out the Net Directory at the www.arrrl.org website.

Some nets meet daily, some Monday Wednesday & Friday, etc.. Some meet weekly, or monthly, or only when needed.

Whatever your other hobby is, there's probably a net for it, so don't miss out on this wonderful side of ham radio.

Have You Considered Going Mobile?



One way to beat antenna restrictions is to put your antenna on your car. You can then drive to a nice quiet location on a mountain and have a great location as well. Hamming while driving may be distracting, but you could have someone else do the driving, or work your favorite bands while parked. I've worked DX SSB while waiting for my order at McDonald's. I've worked dx CW from my desk at home using an eight foot whip on my car in my driveway.

DX Reports

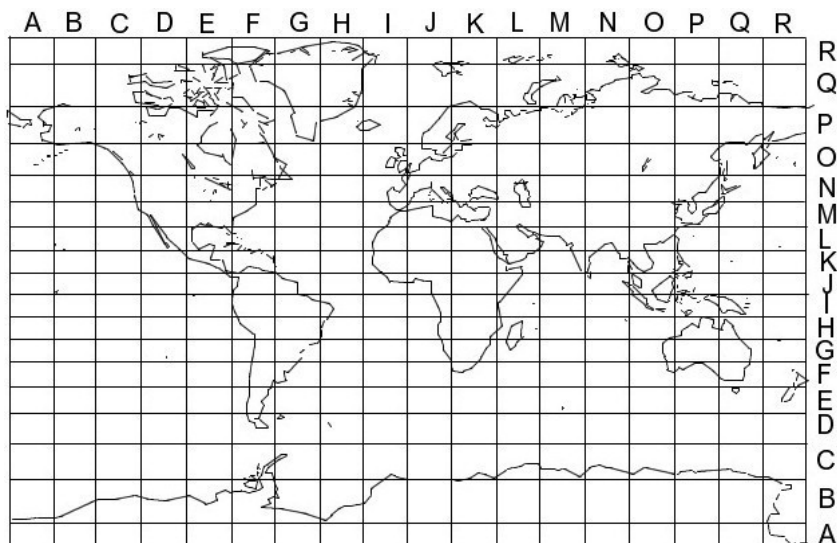
WA2VQV Worked the stations listed below

"The secret to working DX is listen, listen, listen."



Russ Young WA2VQV

CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	MODE	BAND	ENTITY	IOTA	GRID	MILES	DIR
VK9DLX	17-Oct-14	1124Z	CW	20M	Lord Howe Island	OC-004	QF98	9367	W
VK9DLX	19-Oct-14	1009Z	CW	30M	Lord Howe Island	OC-004	QF98	9367	W
VK9DLX	22-Oct-14	2333Z	CW	12M	Lord Howe Island	OC-004	QF98	9367	W
5R8M	24-Oct-14	1720Z	RTTY	12M	Nosy Be Is., Madagascar	AF-057	LH31	8777	E
CN2RY	25-Oct-14	2035Z	RTTY	17M	Morocco		IM63	3750	ENE
TX7G	26-Oct-14	0011Z	CW	12M	Marquesa Islands	OC-027	BI91	5290	WSW
GJ8DX	29-Oct-14	1711Z	CW	12M	Jersey	EU-013	IN89	3563	NE
PJ7/K5WE	29-Oct-14	1715Z	CW	12M	Sint Maarten	NA-105	FK88	1621	SSE
GU4CHY	29-Oct-14	1718Z	CW	12M	Guernsey	EU-114	IN89	3539	NE
W1AW/KP2	31-Oct-14	0131Z	CW	30M	U.S. Virgin Islands	NA-106	FK77	1595	SSE
W1AW/KP2	31-Oct-14	1445Z	CW	12M	U.S. Virgin Islands	NA-106	FK77	1595	SSE
W1AW/KP2	31-Oct-14	1905Z	SSB	15M	U.S. Virgin Islands	NA-106	FK77	1595	SSE
LI8OM	1-Nov-14	1243Z	CW	17M	Norway		JO28	3822	NE
UA4HBW	3-Nov-14	1305Z	CW	15M	European Russia		LO53	5294	NNE
UA4HBW	3-Nov-14	1307Z	CW	17M	European Russia		LO53	5294	NNE
E51NOU	3-Nov-14	1626Z	CW	10M	South Cook Islands	OC-013	BG08	6842	WSW
W1AW/KP2	4-Nov-14	0029Z	CW	20M	U.S. Virgin Islands	NA-106	FK77	1595	SSE
P4/KG9N	4-Nov-14	2316Z	SSB	17M	Aruba	SA-036	FK52	1859	SSE
VP8LP/100	4-Nov-14	2328Z	SSB	17M	Falkland Islands	SA-002	GD18	6348	S
TF3CW	5-Nov-14	2146Z	CW	15M	Iceland	EU-021	HP94	2759	NNE
F5BBD	6-Nov-14	1409Z	SSB	12M	France		JN19	3793	NE
4Z5AD	6-Nov-14	1417Z	CW	12M	Israel		KM71	5837	NE
OE3GCU	7-Nov-14	1502Z	CW	12M	Austria		JN88	4356	NE
OH0Z	9-Nov-14	1409Z	RTTY	10M	Aland Islands	EU-002	KP00	4105	NE
ZF35LC	12-Nov-14	2128Z	CW	12M	Cayman Islands	NA-016	EK99	1396	SSW



To locate Lord Howe Island, note from the chart above that it's in grid square QF98

Read across the top of the map to Q, then down to F.

On the map, QF98 is a tiny area 1/10 the width and 1/10 height of the QF box.

To locate the lower left corner of QF98, go left-to-right within that box 9/10 of its width, and bottom-to-top 8/10 of its height.

Dx Opportunities For December

Start	End	Entity	Callsign	C/IOTA	Grid	Dir	Bands	Modes	QSL via
Dec 28	Dec 30	Monaco	3A/EA5IDQ	EU	JN34	ENE	40-10	SSB RTTY	EA5IDQ
Nov 26	Dec 02	Rodriquis I	3B9JB	AF-017	MH10	ENE	HF	SSB PSK	SM6JBC
Dec 11	Dec 14	Lesotho	7P8NH	AF	KG40	ESE	HF	CW	G3RWF
Dec 01	Dec 09	Maldives	8Q7UX	AS/AF	MJ64	NE	HF	CW RTTY	IK0FUX
Dec 01	Dec 06	Niue	E6XG	OC-040	AH50	WSW	HF	CW ssb dig	JA1XGI
Nov 02	Dec 09	Ethiopia	ET3AA	AF	KJ99	ENE	HF	CW	N200
Nov 20	Dec 02	St Martin	FS	NA-105	FK88	SSE	160-6	SSB	LoTW
Nov 08	Dec 05	St Lucia	J6	NA-108	FK93	SSE	160-6	CW RTTY	DL7VOG
Nov 29	Dec 07	St Lucia	J6/SM7EQL	NA-108	FK93	SSE	20-10	CW	SM7EQL
Oct 15	Dec 15	Minami Torishima	JD1	OC-073	QL74	NW	HF	CW	JA8CJY
Dec 22	Jan 02	Ogasawara I	JD1BOI	As-031	QL07	NNW	80-6	SSB CW RTTY	J11LET
Dec 22	Jan 02	Ogasawara I	JD1BON	As-031	QL07	NNW	80-6	SSB CW RTTY	JD1LII
Dec 04	Dec 12	Ogasawara	JD1BOX	AS-031	QL07	NNW	80-6	SSB	F4HEC Dir
Nov 11	Dec 05	Ross Ice Shelf	KC4/K6REF	AN	RB91	SSW	20,15	SSB	K6REF
Dec 25	Jan 04	Palau	T8CW	OC-009	PJ77	NW	160-6	All	LoTW
Nov 28	Dec 04	Micronesia	V63DX	OC-010	QJ96	WNW	160,20,15	SSB rtty cw	JA7HMZ
Nov 28	Dec 04	Micronesia	V63ZP	OC-010	QJ96	WNW	160,20,15	SSB rtty cw	JA7ZP
Nov 26	Dec 03	Marshall Is	V73TM	OC-029	RJ39	WNW	HF	SSB	K8NA
Dec 26	Jan 01	Norfolk I	VK9N/G7VJR	OC-005	RG41	W	20-10	CW	M00XO
Dec 20	Dec 22	Norfolk I	VK9N/JA0VHQ	OC-005	RG41	W	HF	SSB	JA0JHQ
Nov 20	Dec 12	Falkland Is	VP8KF	SA-002	GD18	S	80-10	CW	LoTW
Nov 18	Dec 05	Burkina Faso	XT2AW	AF	IK92	E	40-10	SSB CW	M00XO

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Holiday Party 6:30 pm	5	6
7	8 HC Diner	9	10 Ham License Exams 7:00 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 Happy Hanukkah	17	18	19	20
21	22 HC Diner	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	(No January Meeting)		