



# The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

[www.hcarc.us](http://www.hcarc.us)

February 2016

Toms River, NJ

## The Nasassa Island Expedition



After the business meeting and coffee break, Bob Schenck N200 and Tony De Biasi K2SG will treat us to a DVD feature presentation about last year's Navassa Island Dxpedition.

Navassa contacts, as you may know, were at the top of the DXCC Most Wanted List, second only to North Korea.

Navassa's population consists of spiders, rats and birds. Over a century ago, guano (from bird droppings) was being mined as fertilizer. That's long past, but the droppings are still accumulating.

The only remaining symbol of human life is the long-abandoned lighthouse and associated structures in the middle of the island.

Strangely enough, the island is protected against intruders by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, although it's only 40 miles west of Haiti, which also claims it.

Access is by helicopter, as steep high cliffs make landing a boat impossible.

## Meet And Greet John Butler, KD2KEQ

We welcome another new member, John Butler. He lives in Whiting, and plans to attend our February 4 meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday February 4 at 7:00 PM**  
**Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1**  
**Holiday City South Clubhouse A**  
**Santiago Drive at Mule Road**  
**Toms River, NJ**

## Oh, Oh! The Duesy Is Back!



The Duesenberg photo reminds us that dues are due.

If that applies to you, please see our Treasurer, Larry Puccio, K2QDY, or send a check for \$25, payable to HCARC, to Larry Puccio, 22 Sabinas St., Toms River, NJ 08757-6153. Thank You.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

- From the HCARC Secretary:

On Dec 9, 2015, Paul Campanella resigned as Vice President and quit our club due to compelling medical concerns. With heavy hearts, we accepted his resignation. The club will greatly miss him and the motivating energy he brought with him. On the same date, I assumed the position of Secretary/Acting Vice President. At the 1/7/16 meeting, we held nominations for the Vice Presidency. The results of the nominations will be voted upon at the 2/4/16 meeting. The club needs your support. If I am elected, a new Secretary will have to be nominated & elected. Please consider volunteering for nomination. Without the required officers, we do not meet the Constitutional Requirements. Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board for any information.

[At the January meeting, Secretary John Rogers, who is the Acting Vice President, was nominated for Vice President, but if elected, we need someone to take his place as Secretary. Nominations are therefore now open for both offices. See page 4. ]

## Ocean County ARES News



Ocean County ARES® News – February, 2016

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark, Berkeley Township. The meeting will commence at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided.

This past month I invested in a DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) portable radio. There has been so much talk lately about DMR that I just had to investigate. The price was absolutely right and there is a local repeater in Manahawkin (448.075 MHz), which was/is part of the BEARS system and a short time ago was a regular FM repeater.

The radio must be programmed via a cable and PC. The program for this particular radio was free and I was able to obtain a "Code Plug" or simply a program file for my area from another ham already involved in DMR. New users of DMR have to sign up for a 7 digit ID, which identifies the operator across the entire system.

So far, my impression of DMR is like having an old phone line with several hundred "party lines". The DMR system and theory are very sound and I think the whole idea has tremendous potential, but the way it is currently being used is absolutely bizarre. After two weeks of monitoring, I don't even bother turning the radio on. Give me a stand-alone repeater any day!

For those do-it-yourselfers who turned to Ramsey kits after the closing of Heathkit, you have another letdown. Ramsey Kits will be calling it quits after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The Ramsey RF Test Equipment group will remain unchanged. The remaining hobby kit inventory has been relocated to Amazon.

As of January 17<sup>th</sup> we had our first snow in New Jersey. Most of Ocean County had just a dusting, but for some reason I measured 1.5 inches in Bayville with a liquid equivalent of 0.18 inches of water. Perhaps my location to the coast resulted in more snow. By the time this news is published in club newsletters, we should know if the predicted snowfall of January 22-24 was hype or reality. In any event, now is the time to make storm preparations, both for your family and ham radio needs. Any questionable antenna system needs to be repaired ASAP to prevent ice accumulation from weighing down elements resulting in structural failure.

The ARCC has published a new set of definitions and guidelines on their website as of the first of the year. They also sent out a newsletter in early January for Fall/Winter 2015. The most significant announcement in the newsletter is that as of January 1, 2016, only electronic e-Forms would be accepted by ARCC. This is very confusing since there is no direction or guidance on the ARCC website for submitting electronic forms and mail-in applications are still available. I think ARCC put the cart before the horse with this announcement. Additionally, they stated on their website that "Any application that have remained unprocessed; not approved for construction coordination for a period of 6 months or more are considered to be stale and eligible for dismissal without prejudice". In the case of Ocean County ARES, that has two coordination applications older than 6 months with no word of approval, this also becomes a very confusing issue. I guess ARCC feels that if they just ignore applications, then they are justified in canceling them. Why even have a coordination organization?

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

## Harvesting Silent Key Calls As Vanity Calls

by Urb LeJeune W1UL



An exciting ham radio development in the US was allowing current license holders the option of selecting a call sign of their own choosing. The desired call must be unassigned and it is subject to some rules. Calls acquired using this procedure are called "Vanity Calls."

The most common vanity calls contain the initial of the applicant as the suffix on their new call. Not quite as common are the calls of deceased Elmers or family members.

If you are searching for a call for vanity purposes don't overlook Silent Key (SK) calls. There is an ever increasing list of SKs in QST every month. Another source of harvesting potential vanity calls is QRZ.com. From the drop menu select "Biography". Next, enter "Silent Key" as the search string. This action produces a listing of about 1,000 calls. Many are non-US hams and many also have the call holder writing about an Elmer or friend who is now a SK. Let's assume you find several acceptable vanity calls where the holder is a SK but the call is still listed in the name of the holder in the

FCC database.

The FCC will not reassign a call sign that is presently licensed to an individual or club, unless they receive a signed written request to have the license canceled--or until two years have elapsed since the license has expired. Only one person or club can hold a single call sign at one time.

The FCC requires receipt of a signed request indicating that the current licensee is now deceased (include the deceased licensee's name and call sign in the letter). Either of the two following supporting documents are acceptable as proof:

1. Copy of a dated obituary (must include date of death)
2. Copy of a death certificate

Although not technically required, contacting the next-of-kin for permission to cancel a license is a nice gesture. Wherever possible I contact the next-of-kin and asked if any licensed family member would be interested in acquiring the call and offering help with the application.

Requests for cancellation of a deceased Amateur's license along with the supporting information can be submitted through the FCC website:

<https://esupport.fcc.gov/request.htm>, or by mailing the request to:

FCC - Attn: Amateur Manager

1280 Fairfield Rd

Gettysburg, PA 17325-7237

You can also fax the request to 717-338-2690. On the cover sheet address the fax to: Attn: Amateur Manager.

Allow the FCC one to two weeks to cancel the license. You can verify the FCC has canceled the license by looking up the FCC license call sign data at

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

If the license has been canceled, the FCC database listing shows the license status as "CANCELED".

Happy Hunting

Urb W1UL urb@w1ul.com 609-937-5487

## Back Issues Of The SKYHOOK

Check the [www.HCARC.us](http://www.HCARC.us) website for back issues of TheSKYHOOK newsletter.

If you received this issue of TheSKYHOOK as hard copy, and would like to be on our (free) e-mail list, please e-mail our editor, at [JOHNKQ4WR@verizon.net](mailto:JOHNKQ4WR@verizon.net).

### Our VE Crew

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

*License exams are given by appointment 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:** John Rogers & Tony Kuzinski  
**Webmaster:** Steve [N2WLH](#) N2WLH@yahoo.com  
**Publicity:** Paul [N2QXB](#) 732-279-3911  
**Programs:** Tony [KD2GSO](#) 732-930-5779  
**Sunshine:** Dave [WA2DJN](#) WA2DJN3@verizon.net  
**Field Day:** Larry [K2QDY](#) 732-349-2950  
**VE Sessions:** Larry [K2QDY](#) 732-349-2950  
**Membership:** Doug [KC2TZC](#) 732-928-2316

### Holiday City Amateur Radio Club Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site [www.hcArc.us](http://www.hcArc.us)

President	John Roberts	<a href="#">KQ4WR</a>	732-350-1162 ext 33
Vice President	open		
Secretary	John Rogers	<a href="#">KD2HWR</a>	732-269-5717
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	<a href="#">K2QDY</a>	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Doug Poray	<a href="#">KC2TZC</a>	732-928-2316
Executive Board	Tony Kuzinski	<a href="#">KD2GSO</a>	732-930-5779
Executive Board	Paul Hansen	<a href="#">N2QXB</a>	732-279-3911
Executive Board	Stan Stafiej	<a href="#">KB2PD</a>	732-270-5395
W2HC Trustee	Kevin Wagner	<a href="#">W2FA</a>	732-279-0532

**Membership** is open to all interested persons. Ham license is not required. Dues are \$25.00 per year, payable Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

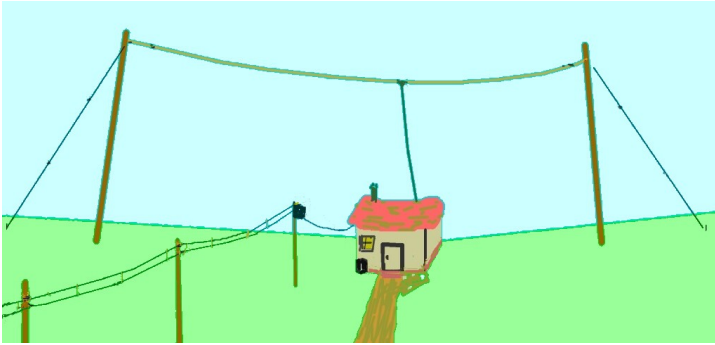
**Location:** Meeting Room #1 in the Holiday City South Clubhouse.

**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 street corner.-

The SKYHOOK is published monthly as the HCARC's official newsletter.  
Editor and Publisher:

John Roberts [KQ4WR](#) 7 Lincoln Ct. Whiting, NJ 08759-1505  
e-mail [KQ4WR@arrl.net](mailto:KQ4WR@arrl.net) 732 350-1162 ext 33

## Dear Elmer



Dear Elmer,

I just got my license. Now what do I need to get on the air?

Dear \*\*\*\*\*,

Congratulations and welcome to amateur radio. What you need depends on what kind of activity you want to do.

You surely should get copies of the ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook and the ARRL Operating Manual. These are updated annually, but even decade-old versions are far better than nothing, and will enhance your enjoyment of ham radio while saving you time, energy and money. The Handbook has all the technical info you need to prepare and maintain your equipment, while the Operating Manual details the art of making contacts. Both are available new from [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), and used back-issues are often available from HCARC members free for the asking.

The most basic station consists of an antenna, a transceiver, and of course you'll need some kind of user interface such as a microphone and/or computer. There are inexpensive VHF hand-held transceivers with 5-inch "rubber ducky" antennas, built-in microphones and speakers, for relatively local communications via repeater stations. They're inexpensive, but hardly more fun than CB or a cell phone. Amateur radio offers a lot more. Your license allows you to design, build, adjust, test, and operate ham stations, using just about every imaginable mode from Morse code to digital TV and more.

A traditional ham station capable of directly contacting other parts of the world would have an HF transceiver, an antenna tuner, and one or more rather simple wire antennas. You don't have to be traditional, but let's look at it.

For most of us, the antenna is the first consideration, because even for the ten-meter band, a half-wave antenna is roughly 5 meters long (because half of 10 is 5). Many hams have towers with rotatable directional antennas on them. For those of us who

have limits, there are other choices. You could buy an MFJ Ultra-High Q Loop antenna, which is only about three feet across and comes with its own built-in tuner. Or you might be able to put a wire antenna in the attic. Or you could put the transceiver in your car, and use a center-loaded whip antenna.

A very basic HF transceiver can tune from 1.8 to 29.7MHz, with adjustable receiver bandwidth, capable of receiving and transmitting CW, LSB or USB single sideband, and has a peak power output of at least 100 watts. Most can switch instantly from receiving on one frequency to transmitting on another frequency.

For used books, equipment and parts, as well as information, just ask at a club meeting, or visit a hamfest. What's a hamfest? It has nothing to do with BBQ pork. Checkout [www.hamfest.org](http://www.hamfest.org) for an example of one of the best.

73,

*Elmer*

## Minutes Of The January 7 Meeting

Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

7:04 Meeting called to order

Flag Salute

Member Introductions

Minutes from the last meeting were presented and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

New Business

Murray Goldberg KD2IN was presented with two awards. The first was for conducting 106 V-E sessions. The second was for completing 65 years in amateur radio. It was also noted that Murray is one of the original members of the HCARC.

7:25 A break was called and the meeting was moved outdoors where Carl Lee demonstrated Amateur Radio Satellite communications. This was accomplished with a hand held radio and a hand held antenna. Many of the members (the Secretary included) were amazed by hearing actual conversations relayed by a satellite.

7:50 The meeting was called back to order.

A presentation on the status and plans of Amateur Radio Satellite communications was given by Carl Lee W2PTZ and Tony Kuzinski KD2GSO. Many questions were answered.

9:15 The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

John Rogers, Secretary



## The 7J4AAL Jurassic 5-element Yagi



*That's a man standing on the boom, near the driven element*

The "Yagi" antenna is sometimes called a "Yagi-Uda" antenna, but that's not quite right either. It was originally designed by S. Uda and Yagi Mushiake, and published in 1954.

To understand how a Yagi works, first consider it as a transmitting antenna.

It consists of three or more half-wave antenna elements placed one behind the other, with only one of them actually connected to the feed line. The remaining ones just resonate and re-radiate the power they receive as receiving antennas.

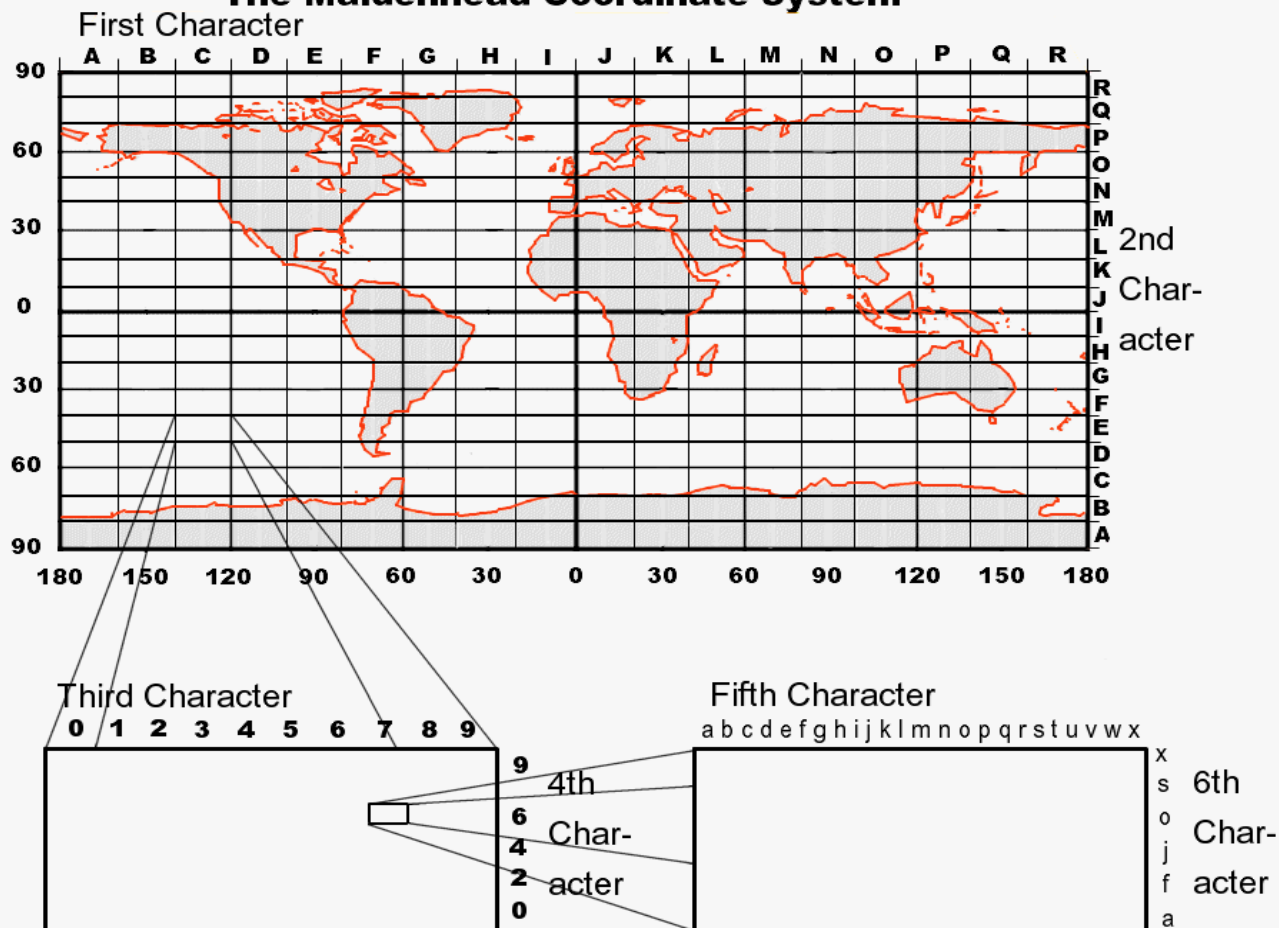
The catch is that, because there's a propagation time delay of a fraction of a cycle between them, the signals they send toward the receiving station would not normally be all in phase. To correct the phase, the "director" elements (the ones nearest the other station) are tuned slightly higher in frequency, while the "reflector" (rear) elements are tuned slightly lower in frequency. The de-tuning shifts the phase so that the radiated signals from all the elements arrive at the receiving station together. In the opposite direction, they cancel each other.

That neat focusing effect also improves reception, especially when there's interference from another direction.

A 5-element Yagi for 440 MHz looks much like a TV antenna, while the one for 3.5-3.8 MHz at 7J4AAL is enormous.

Check it out. Enter "34.636N, 132.624E" at Google Maps, and switch to "Satellite View". Also note his 3-element 160 meter Yagi next to it.

## The Maidenhead Coordinate System



**ARRL CW DX Contest**

**Some DX Opportunities For February**

Feb 20-21 ARRL International CW DX Contest. See [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for details.

Our usual DX reporter, Russ Young WA2VQV, because of an illness in his family, only worked Jamaica. We sincerely wish them all well.

**Thank You, Carl Lee W2PTZ**

START	FINISH	ENTITY	CALL	QSL VIA	C/IOTA	BANDS	MODES	GRID	MILES	DIR
Jan 23	Feb 08	Mauritius	3B8HC	NI5DX Direct	AF-049	80-6	S,c	LG89sq	9304	E
Feb 11	Mar 01	Mauritius	3B8HD	OE4AAC	AF-049	40-10	C	LG89sq	9304	E
Feb 13	Feb 19	Fiji	3D2PW	LotW	OC-016	30,17,12	C	RH93aa	7898	W
Feb 18	Mar 04	Guinea	3XY1T	LotW	OC-051	160-6	C,S,R	IJ39cl	4245	ESE
Feb 10	Feb 22	Togo	5V7TH	LotW	AF	40-6	C,S,R	JJ06sa	5202	E
Jan 23	Feb 07	Kenya	5Z4/DF3FS	DF3FS	AF	80-10	C,S	KI88sm	7433	ENE
Feb 10	Mar 01	Senegal	6W7/F6HMJ	F6HMJ	AF	160-6	C	IK15aa	3784	E
Feb 08	Feb 17	Lesotho	7P8C	TBA	AF	160-6	S,C,R	KG40am	8106	ESE
Feb 18	Feb 24	Tonga	A35T	M0URX	OC-049	160-10	C,S,R	AG29ma	7693	W
Feb 09	Sep 18	Gambia	C5DX	LotW	AF	40-10	C,S	IK13ma	3923	ESE
Feb 08	Feb 18	Bahamas	C6ABB	LotW	NA-001	80-10	D	FL15ga	1049	S
Feb 10	Feb 14	Easter I	CE0Y/W7YAQ	LotW	SA-001	40-15	C,R	FG04aa	4573	S
Feb 09	Sep 18	South Cook Is	E51RJR	ZL1BQD	OC-013	80-10	C	AH99mm	6884	WSW
Jan 28	Feb 09	St Barthelemy	FJ/N9SW	N9SW	NA-147	80-6	C	FK88ma	1660	SSE
Feb 06	Feb 07	French Polynesia	FO/W7YAQ	LotW	OC-046	40-15	C,R	BH52aa	6295	WSW
Feb 02	Feb 10	St Martin	FS/(8)	Home Call	NA-105	40-10	C,S,D	FK88ma	1660	SSE
Feb 10	Feb 26	St Martin	FS/F8ANN	LotW	NA-105	40-10	C	FK88ma	1660	SSE
Jan 16	Feb 06	Ecuador	HC1MD	LotW	SA	40-6	C,S,R	FI19at	2785	S
Feb 15	Feb 25	Honduras	HR8/AA4W	AA4W	SA	40,20	C	EK64ma	1952	SSW
Feb 17	Feb 23	Dominica	J7/WJ20	N2ZN	NA-101	160-6	C	FK95ij	1869	SSE
Jan 17	Feb 03	Dominica	J79M	LotW	NA-101	80-10	C	FK95ij	1869	SSE
Feb 19	Mar 04	Guantanamo	KG4WV	W4WV	NA-015	80-10	C,S,R,P	FL20ma	1379	S
Feb 19	Mar 04	Guantanamo	KG4HF	W6HGF	NA-015	80-10	C,S,R,P	FL20ma	1379	S
Jan 19	Feb 09	Curacao	PJ2/DL9NBJ	Club Log	SA-099	80-10	C,S	FK52ma	1958	S
Feb 16	Mar 12	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	AA9A	NA-105	40-10	S,C	FK88ma	1660	SSE
Feb 25	Mar 25	Sao Tome & Principe	S9BK	HB9BEI	AF-023	40-10	S,D	JJ30ah	5694	E
Jan 29	Feb 02	Palau	T88HK	JA9FIO	OC-009	80-10	C,S	PJ99cm	8442	NW
Feb 09	Sep 18	Iceland	TF/DF8AN	DF8AN	EU-021	80-10	C,S	HP94ac	2662	NNE
Jan 20	Mar 08	Guadeloupe	T06D/F6ITD	LotW	NA-102	80-10	S,D	FK97aa	1748	SSE
Feb 21	Mar 04	Antigua	V26IS	LotW	NA-100	40-10	C,s	GK07ca	1807	SSE
Feb 04	Feb 11	Belize	V31JZ/p	NN7A	NA-180	160-10	C	EK57um	1764	SSW
Feb 05	Feb 25	St Kitts & Nevis	V47KA	LotW	NA-104	80-6	S,C,J,P	FK87qh	1713	SSE
Feb 13	Feb 21	St Kitts & Nevis	V47TR	K8AQM	NA-104	20-10	C,S	FK87qh	1713	SSE
Feb 09	Sep 18	Namibia	V5/DC8QT	DC8QT	AF	160-10	C,S,R,P	JG87nj	7279	ESE
Feb 09	Sep 18	Namibia	V5/DD8ZX	DD8ZX	AF	160-10	C,S,R,P	JG87nj	7279	ESE
Feb 09	Sep 18	Namibia	V5/DJ9KM	DJ9KM	AF	160-10	C,S,R,P	JG87nj	7279	ESE
Feb 14	Feb 19	Falkland Is	VP8IDX	LotW	SA-002	160	C,S,R	GD08aa	6414	S
Feb 01	Feb 09	South Georgia Is	VP8SGI	LotW	AN-007	160-10	C,S,R	HD05oq	6848	SSE
Jan 12	Feb 06	Vietnam	XV3TH	SM3NFB	AS	40-6	C,S,P	OK30it	8933	N

MODES: C = CW, D = Digital, J = JT65, P = PSK31, R = RTTY, S = SSB, c = some CW

**For Your Calendar:**

- Feb 4 at 7:00 pm HCARC Meeting (see page 1)
- Feb 10 at 7:00 pm License exams by appointment (see page 3)
- Feb 17 at 7:00 pm ARES Meeting (see page 2)
- Feb 1, 15 & 29 at noon Get-together at the Holiday City Diner
- Feb 24 at 10:00 am HCARC Board Meeting

A special "thank you" to Carl Lee for the demonstration at our January meeting.

As always, we're looking for volunteer presentations of interest to amateur radio enthusiasts. Urb LeJeune W1UL is scheduled to present his "Ham Cram on Steroids" at our March 3 meeting.