<u>www.hcarc.us</u> December 2019 Toms River, NJ

Message From Pres. Carl Lee W2PTZ



Nov 21 at 2:12 PM

I want to thank everyone who came to the November meeting for your input as to what you want to see the club do.

Please do not hesitate to let me know whatever it is that you would like to see done to help the club grow stronger.

We will be having a club meeting on Dec 5th since the Holiday Party will be on Dec 12th. Please let Larry K2QDY know if you are coming and your dinner selection.

The next meeting presentation will be by Matt K3MR on DMR and writing a code plug for it. We will also have a question and answer session and Tony KD2HIT will be bringing a radio for help in understanding the menus and different controls.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable safe Thanksgiving. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

73,

Carl W2PTZ

Holiday Party December 12 At 2:00 PM

Our annual Holiday party will be at the "Italy's Best" Italian Restaurant, in the Lakehurst Circle Mall. Be sure to see our treasurer, Larry Puccio, to reserve seating and pay in advance, as **reservations are required**.

Happy Birthday To:

Urb LeJeune W1UL & Pat NJ4DV

Anthony Liperti KD2HIT
John Sawina NA2R
Eric Schwab K2EDS
Elkaine Morton



And Happy Anniversary To

Dave and Sandy Ottenberg

If we missed your birthday or wedding anniversary, see Doug Poray to add it to our personal events list.

Our November Chinese Luncheon



Members and guests of the Holiday City Amateur Radio Club attended a luncheon at the Fortune Buffet Restaurant in Manchester on November 13. A good time was enjoyed by all with discussions dealing with amateur radio, memorable trips taken by individuals, and other noteworthy conversation. We welcome visitors and will help them obtain and use their Amateur Radio Licenses.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday December 5th at 7:00 PM

Bldg A, Meeting Rm. #1
Holiday City South Clubhouse
Santiago Drive at Mule Road
Toms River, NJ

Ocean County ARES® News

December, 2019

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on December 18th at 7:00 pm, Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark, Berkeley Township. This will also be our annual holiday party so bring your significant other/guest and appetite. There will be no training nets that evening due to the meeting.

Ocean County ARES will begin conducting VE Test Sessions in January 2020. The schedule can be found on the ARRL website at:

http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session

Just enter your zip code to do a search.

The test location is the Ocean County EOC, Robert J. Miller Airpark, Berkeley Township. We will be able to use the small room behind the EOC for more privacy. The 2020 schedule is:

January 21, 2020

March 17, 2020

May 19, 2020

July 21 2020

September 15, 2020

November 17, 2020

You need to make an appointment to take an exam. No walk-ins permitted. To schedule an exam, contact the VE team at VE at WA2RES.com

The Lead VE is John, N2LD. The Team Members are: KD2FFR, WX2NJ, N2LD, K2JSS, WB2ALJ, N2XW, KB2RUV, N2RPQ, N2QXB, and KC2SBR.

As you know, the 145.170 repeater had to be temporary relocated due to tank painting/maintenance in Manchester. The output has been limited because of the move. Starting this December, an ARES Team will be designing and planning the re-installation of 145.170. We plan on being done with the install in early 2020 and hopefully we will be able to once again share the nets between 449.825 and 145.170. The temporary repeater will remain active until the transfer. I ask that you refrain from using the temporary repeater unless necessary since the range is limited and it confuses users. That also means stop keying it for no reason with no ID.

We will continue to hold at least one Skywarn training net each month just prior to the ARES Training Net on the second Tuesday of each month. Anyone can participate, but if you are not a current Skywarn member, I ask that you look into getting certified by taking a basic Skywarn class. Training schedules are on the Mount Holly website. The ARES Taskbook generally requires a re-certification every two years. If you have an older Skywarn number (ABC-XXX), then you are probably due for training, after which you will be issued a new number, OCNJ-XXX.

KUDOS to WB2ALJ and NJ2N for providing communications support in Washington, DC on October 27 for the Marine Corp Marathon (MCM) in the soaking rain. They had a four hour ride to the event and arrived in the middle of the night. Some of the lessons learned by our team was:

- 1. CHIRP was used by the MCM organizers to distribute frequencies to the teams.
- 2. USNGapp was used for determining locations versus latitude and longitude.
- 3. Headsets were a must due to background noise and NJ2N suggests the Heil HTH-K, which fits Kenwoods, Baofeng and Wouxun HT radios.
- 4. New, inexperienced operators were also paired up with old salts to learn the public service event routine and elmer them through the process without the new guy getting discouraged and never wanting to return.



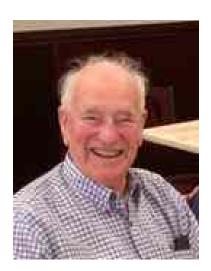
WB2ALJ and NJ2N at Marine Corp Marathon, 2019

73 de WX2NJ Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC

Something For Everyone

By Urb LeJeune W1UL



Prologue

During a recent training session, my friend John Zaruba, K2ZA, started his presentation with the statement: "Ham Radio is a thousand hobbies within a hobby." Despite the hyperbole all the attendees got the point.

Background

When I received my class B license (W2DEC) in 1949 my operating options were limited to CW, Phone 10m & above starting at 10 meters through the microwave bands. When I received my class A license a year later, I could operate AM phone on 75, 40 and 20 meters. It didn't make a lot of difference because my rig didn't have a modulator. There was also Civil Defense. Does anyone remember the little Gonset with the green eye? If you promised to participate in weekly drills your municipality would lend you a Gonset.

The Times are Changing

How times have changed. The operational options may not be a thousand, but they are a lot closer now than back when I was first licensed. Two of my bucket-list options are moon bounce (EME) and satellite, both require a large investment.

However, there are options available that require only a General License and a rig capable of operating on the HF Bands which you probably have. I tend to accomplish tasks more quickly when I have a goal, my suggestion pursuing a Worked All States (WAS)

certificate. If you are relatively new to HF you will learn much about propagation while pursuing your WAS.

Excellent tools are available when pursuing WAS, and an introduction to contesting the North America QSO Party. It is a low pressure contest. You can only run 100 watts. Check it out at https://ncjweb.com/nagp/

There are two events per year for CW, SSB and Digital.

Our VE Crew

Larry <u>K2QDY</u> (Liaison) 732-349-2950, Urb <u>W1UL</u>, John <u>KQ4WR</u>, Stan <u>KB2P</u>, Steve <u>N2WLH</u>, Larry <u>WA2VLR</u>, Tony <u>KD2GSO</u>. Matt <u>K3MR</u>

License exams are given by appointment at 7:00pm 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 an appointment.

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

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments:	Marge <u>KD2LNT</u>	pearl1122@comcast.net
Webmaster:	Steve N2WLH	N2WLH@yahoo.com
<u>Programs</u> :	(open)	
Sunshine:	Dave WA2DJN	WA2DJN3@verizon.net
<u>Field Day</u> :	Larry <u>K2QDY</u>	732-349-2950
VE Sessions:	Larry <u>K2QDY</u>	732-349-2950
<u>Membership</u> :	Doug KC2TZC	732-928-2316

Holiday City Amateur Radio Club

Toms River, New Jersey
Web Site www.hcarc.us

President	Carl Lee	W2PTZ	732 575-7558
Vice President	Billy Locke	KD2MHA	732 281-0151
Secretary	John Perry	KD2NDY	732-349-2705
Treasurer	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950
Executive Board	Doug Poray	KC2TZC	732-928-2316
Executive Board	John Roberts	KQ4WR	732-966 4665
W2HC Trustee	Larry Puccio	K2QDY	732-349-2950

 $\underline{\text{Membership}}$ 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.

 $\underline{\text{Meetings}}$ are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:00 pm, except December.

<u>Location:</u> Meeting Room #1 in Holiday City South Clubhouse A. <u>Directions</u>: 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 KO4WR 7 Lincoln Ct Whiting NI 08759-1505

The exchange is your name and state. My first name is Urb. During my first NAQP SSB version, more than half of my contacts requested a repeat on my name. During my second SSB event I became Bill, and there were no requests for repeats of my name.

Emergency Communications

Have you ever wondered why ham radio exists? We certainly have choice bands that many commercial enterprises would pay large amounts of money to acquire. The answer is quite simple: During times of emergencies when commercial communications are not available, ham radio fills the gaps.

Make Emergency Communications preparedness part of your station activities. Look into ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency System) or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.)

73, Urb, W1UL, urb@ham-cram.com

Computer Logging Programs

By Urb LeJeune W1UL

Introduction:

If you are currently using a paper log, consider the following:

- 1. It is disaster prone.
- 2. Paper deteriorates over a period-of-time.
- 3. No way to search your paper log other than manually.
- 4. I've been using AC Log by Scott Davis, N3FJP, for years.
- 5. You can evaluate it for free for 45 days.
- 6. Life-time registration of \$24.99 after trial period.

Amateur Contact Log Features

- 1. Very easy and intuitive to use.
- Tracking of Worked All States, Worked All Counties, Worked All countries, DXCC, VUCC, Grids, Worked All Zones, IOTAs, Lighthouses and many other achievements.
- 3. The use interface is customizable! You can choose to display any of the data fields you

- want and decide where you want them. The DX Spotting window can be set to any size you like! You can also change the font sizes of all the fields, list and text boxes.
- 4. Includes a database of countries and counties.
- 5. Query by band, mode, or power level to easily track your accomplishments by individual and multiple criteria.
- 6. Lists previous contact data with the station being worked including name, dates of previous contact(s), QTH, etc., just by typing the call field and hitting the Tab key.
- 7. A bearing and distance calculator from your QTH for DX contacts and grid squares.
- Full support for standard Amateur Data Interchange (ADIF) format. Export you whole log or selected records in ADIF for applications such as eQSL and the ARRL's Logbook of the world (LoTW).
- Easily manage your log and Logbook of the World (LoTW). AC Log will sign and upload your contacts to LoTW and download your confirmations from LoTW.
- 10. Upload QSOs directly to eQSL and Club Log.
- 11. Interface with most Elecraft, Icom, Kenwood, Ten Tec and Yaesu radios.
- 12. A Net Manager form, used for logging with multiple stations, whether you are managing a formal net or just joining in on a casual roundtable, this form makes logging with a group quick and easy.
- Provides DX spotting on Telnet, your packet TNC or AGW Packet engine. Audio alert for needed spots.
- 14. Send keyboard CW via your com port or Winkey and play wave files via your sound card.
- 15. Quickly print basic QSL label and address labels (does not support label printers, and labels are not customizable through AC Log.
- 16. Interfaces with the QRZ and Ham Call Internet lookup service, as well as several free options.

- 17. Interface with many digital programs and other software via API including Fldigi, jTAlert, PSK Express & more.
- 18. Optionally displays your call sign when the program loads.
- 19. Fully networkable. Whether you want to use AC Log for a DXpedition, or you just want to access your log from multiple PC's simultaneously at your home or club station,
- 20. AC Log supports sources updating a single database.

Epilogue:

If you've never used a computer logging program, try one, you'll never go back.

There are literally over a hundred computer logging programs. I've been using AC Log for years and think it offers the most features for a minimal cost.

The topic of next month's article is Log Book of the World (LoTW).

Many hams think LoTW is only for DXers. Not so, it is good for any ARRL award.

I recently was awarded the Triple Play Award which required LoTW conformation with each of the 50 states using CW, SSB and digital.

Speaking of Software,

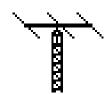
try out W1UL's license preparation software at hamcram.com.

- 1. We only study the questions most likely on the actual test.
- 2. We only study correct answers.
- 3. It is the fastest and most reliable path to a license or upgrade.
- 4. It's free.

73 Urb W1UL

urb@ham-cram.com 609 937-5487

Cycle 25 Has Started



Sunspot Cycle number 25 has started. World-wide ham radio communication, known as DX, depends largely on the number and size of spots of activity on the exterior of the sun. Sunspot activity has an eleven year cycle.

Scientists began numbering the cycles around 300 years ago, after several years (1645-1715) of unusually cold weather, which seems to have been related to an unusual period of 60 years without sunspots. That is known as the Maunder Minimum.

Sunspots are darker areas on the sun's surface which seem to be caused by great magnetic storms. Radiation from them causes a significantly greater ionization of the Earth's upper atmosphere, resulting in enhanced long distance (DX) high-frequency wave propagation.

Solar Cycle 24 has virtually ended, and Cycle 25 has just begun. There's an 11 year cycle of sunspot activity, so for the next few years, we should experience more and more DX.

Actually, because the activity alternates between the Sun's Northern and Southern hemispheres, it's really a 22 year cycle.

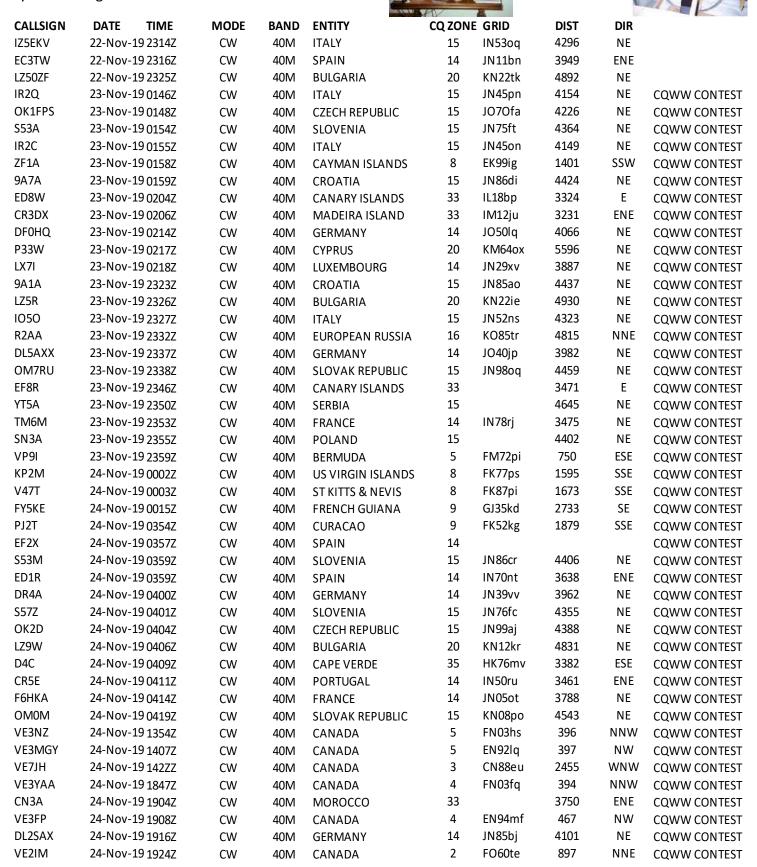
I noted the prediction by Simon J. Shepherd, Sergei I. Zharkov and Valentina V. Zharkova published in The Astrophysical Journal back in November 1, 2014. So far, it seems to working out as they predicted.

Their prediction was that Cycle 25 will be only 80% as strong as Cycle 24, and that Cycle 26 to be only 40% as much as Cycle 24, and Cycle 27 may even be the start of another great Minimum.

But while Cycle 25 ripens, I predict a generally continuous improvement for the next four or five years, followed by a much slower general decline.

How's DX?

by Russ Young WA2VQV



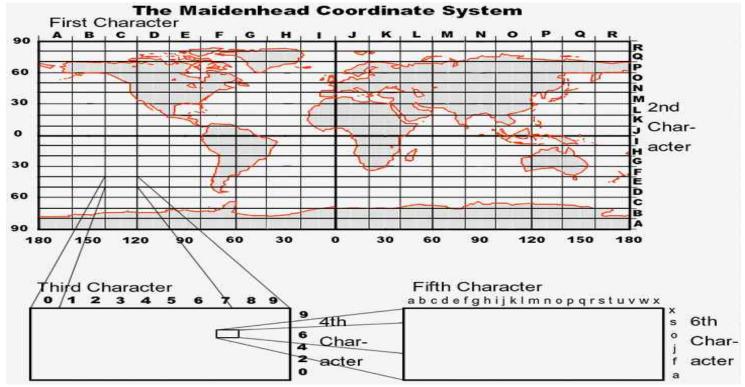
Some DX Opportunities

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 NG3K and to the RSGB, DXW, TDDX & QRZ for the data.

START	FINISH	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	IOTA	BANDS	MODES	QSL via	LOC	Miles	Dir
Nov 27	Jan 05	3D2AG/p	Rotuma	OC-016	160-60m	C S R 8	ClubLog	RH92ma	7886	W
Dec 13	Dec 20	4L/TA1HZ	Georgia		Low	8 4	LoTW	LN21mm	5646	NE
Nov 12	Dec 25	5R8KU	Madagascar	AF-013		S R 8 4	JA8VE	LH31mm	8678	Е
Nov 12	Dec 25	5R8VX	Madagascar	AF-013		S R 8 4	JF10CQ	LH31mm	8678	Е
Dec 13	Dec 15	6V1A	Senegal	AF-045	HF	S C	LoTW	IK15aa	3784	E
Nov 18	Dec 06	7Q7W	Malawi		40-6m	S 8 C	DK2WV	KH75ma	7898	E
Dec 10	Dec 23	8Q7XY	Maldives	AS-013	40-10m	8 S	DF3XY Dir	MJ64qj	8752	NE
Nov 26	Dec 28	9G5GS	Ghana	AF-084	160-20m	8 S	LoTW	IJ95vm	5132	E
Nov 24	Dec 31	A35JP	Tonga	OC-049	160-10m	C S 8	LoTW	AG29ma	7693	W
Nov 28	Dec 13	C56PIS	Gambia		HF		SA6PIS	IK13ma	3923	ESE
Dec 21	Dec 28	HB0/DL2SBY	Liechtenstein		80-10m	SCD	LoTW	JN47sa	4026	NE
Dec 02	Jan 05	HC3/EA5RM	Ecuador		40-10m	S D	EA5RM	FI19at	2785	S
Dec 15	Dec 21	HC5JLT	Ecuador		80-6m	SCD	W9HT	FI19at	2785	S
Nov 12	Dec 31	HS0ZME	Thailand	AS-053	40-10m	C	SM6NT Buro	NK92xm	8797	N
Dec 14	Jan 08	HS0ZNR	Thailand	AS-053	80-10m	S 8	LoTW	OK03gt	8711	N
Dec 31	Jan 02	TF/MM00KG	Iceland	EU-021			LoTW	HP94ac	2662	NNE
Dec 31	Jan 02	TF/0J0Y	Iceland	EU-021			LoTW	HP94ac	2662	NNE
Dec 04	Dec 13	T09W	St Martin		160-6m	C 8	LoTW	FK88ma	1660	SSE
Oct 01	Dec 15	TR8CR	Gabon		HF	C	F6AJA	JJ40rj	5871	E
Dec 10	Dec 19	V47JA	StKitts&Nevis	NA-104			LoTW	FK87pf	1717	SSE
Dec 02	Dec 09	V6K	Micronesia	OC-059	160,80m	С	JA1XGI	RJ15lh	7655	WNW
Dec 02	Dec 20	XT2AW	Burkina Faso		160-60m	C S R 8	M00X0	IK92dh	4756	E



	December							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
1	9:00 Brunch at HC DIner	3	4	5 HCARC MEETING See page 1	6 160-meter Contest (ARRL) starts 5pm	7 160-meter Contest continues		
8 160-meter Contest ends at 11am	9 Noon Lunch at Lisa's	10	11 VE Exams by appointment See page 3 column 2	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at 2:00 pm See page 1	13 10-meter Contest (ARRL) starts 7pm	14 10-meter Contest continues		
15 10-meter Contest ends at 6:59pm	9:00 Brunch at HC Diner	17	18 Ocean County ARES Party See page 2	19	20	21		
22 Hanukkah begins at sundown	23 Noon Lunch at HC Diner	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28		
29	30 9:00 Brunch at HC Diner	31 New Year's Eve						

Amateur Radio License Exams



The Holiday City Amateur Radio Club holds VE testing (FCC license exams) at the Holiday City South clubhouse located at 139 Santiago Drive (at Mule Rd), Toms River, NJ on the **second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM** in room 1 of building A, **except when there are no applicants**. The testing is done on a scheduled basis only (no walk-ins).

Two items of identification are required, and at least one must be a photo ID such as a driver's license. The fee is \$15.00 by check payable to the American Radio Relay League. Cash will also be accepted.

The fee is for the exam session and the paperwork, not the FCC license, which is free. If you are successful in passing a test, you are eligible to stay and take a test for the next higher grade at no additional cost. So a person could advance from unlicensed to Extra for only \$15, by passing the exams for all three grades at the same session.

It's been done.

If you currently have an amateur radio license, bring the original and a copy. If you have a CSCE from a previous testing session please bring that also.

To confirm a seat, you must **contact Larry Puccio**, **K2QDY**, at **732 349-2950**.