



The SKYHOOK



HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.hcarc.us

April 2008

Toms River, NJ

Program for our April Meeting Heathkit Equipment

This month's program promises to be interesting and educational. We will see and hear how some of our club members learned how to build and repair their equipment and at the same time learn electronics. In the early days of ham radio everyone constructed transmitters and receivers. The Heath company of Benton Harbor Michigan originally started out building airplane kits. The company blossomed into a large full scale kit business when Heathkit started to produce various electronic kits. You could build meters, receivers, transmitters, television sets and many more interesting projects. Our April meeting will provide some newer hams an insight into a world that was. Today another company, Elecraft, has started to provide kits that have already proven to be world class equipment.

Dates to Remember

April 3	Regular Membership Meeting
April 5	Cherryville Hamfest
April 7	Members lunch at the diner
April 12	JSARS Hamfest (At their club location)
April 21	Members lunch at the diner

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Joe Cuff 04/02
 Bob McGuirk 04/04
 Audrey Murin 04/13
 Grace Puccio 04/08
 Doris Salisbury 04/25
 Joe Savarese 04/29
 Marjorie Stafiej 04/01



The President's Corner By Larry K2QDY



This month's presentation will be about Heathkit equipment. Many of us will remember when we first got our licenses the thoughts of building your own rig was paramount. I would read QST from cover to cover and marvel at the articles written by hams that would be pioneering areas of HF and VHF and describing a transmitter or receiver they had built. My first rig, a transmitter, was a project out of the QST magazine and it was a one tube oscillator-amplifier. It contained an RCA 6146 tube and had a crystal for frequency control. The transmitter only operated on 80 or 40 meters. As time went by I began building multi-band rigs that were VFO (variable frequency oscillator) controlled. The highlight of my life was when I ordered my first Heathkit receiver an SB301. I was so anxious to get that package I could hardly wait. Finally the box was delivered by Federal Express and came after about three weeks wait.

There was an instruction book that might have been 1/2 inch thick and had detailed instructions that started with opening the parts packages and identifying and counting each capacitor, resistor inductors, nut and bolt etc. After inspection of the listed items, and I never found any parts to be missing, the construction phase started. Step by step the Heath technical writers described each part and included pictures where parts needed to be soldered onto a particular circuit board.

Sections of the unit would be constructed, and sometimes tested before moving on to the next section, but at the conclusion of the project it usually worked right out of the box. When there was a trouble there was a section that described problems and where to look for the trouble. Voltage readings were provided and there were test points installed at strategic places in the circuit and on the printed circuit board. If you could not find the trouble you could ship the unit back to Heath and they would fix the problem which usually turned out to be a poor solder joint.

After building the SB301 receiver I ordered the Heathkit SB401. This was the mate unit and was an all band, 80 through 10 meter, SSB and CW transmitter. I was able

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NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2008

Thursday 7:00PM

**Meeting Rm. #1 at Holiday City South
Clubhouse**

Mule Rd. at Santiago Drive

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once again to put it together from the exacting instructions and got it to work right out of the box. This combination rivaled the Collins S-Line in quality and operation. The radio is still in operation at my son's house and if I had the room here I would have kept it for myself.

The other projects I made from Heathkit were the SB 101 Transceiver which I will be displaying at our club meeting this month, VTVM (Vacuum Tube Volt Meters), SWR bridges, Power Supplies and a Grid Dip. My neighbor across the street built a Color TV and it also worked right out of the box.

It will be interesting and nostalgic to journey back in time to those days at our club meeting this month when the club members bring in some of their remaining Heathkit products.

Grace and I took a vacation in February. We visited England with two of our grandchildren. The boys age 11 and 13 were very impressed with the history and sights that we visited. It was interesting to see them straddle the prime meridian at Greenwich. We also visited Stonehenge with the interesting huge stone block circular formation and on to the city of Bath which was constructed by the Romans during their conquest of England. At Bath they constructed temples and hot spring baths. From there we went on to Windsor Castle the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world, the home of Queen Elizabeth II. We also visited Buckingham Palace and saw the changing of the guard, Big Ben, and Westminster Abby where the Kings and Queens and the nobility of England are buried. There are many other notable people such as Charles Dickens buried there. The museums in London rival those in New York City. We visited the British Museum that houses a huge Egyptian display including the Rosetta stone which was the key to decoding and interpreting the hieroglyphics used by the Egyptians, the museum of Natural History and the Science Museum with its many hands on displays and the Imperial War museum with its displays of the various wars and the war machines. Of course we also visited the Tower of London where the Beef Eaters escort the visitors through the fortification. This is the location of massive beheadings, we were told over 1000, including one of Henry the Eight wives, Ann Bolin. Also the Tower houses the crown jewels of England. There were many other sights we visited and ate meals in some fine Pubs. Everyone had a very memorable time.

Our club luncheon at the Fortune Buffet was a huge success with 25 people in attendance. Look in this issue for a full narrative.

Don't forget Thursday evenings, 7:00 PM, on the 146.880

repeater. Also, club members access the repeater each day at 10:00 AM for some good rag chew and technical discussion.

Well that's all for this month's column and I am looking forward to seeing you at our April 3rd 2008 meeting .

73
Larry
K2QDY

Our VE Crew

John W2LKS, Murray KD2IN, Bill AC2F, John K2JWH, Ed W1EAP, Larry K2QDY, Jamie W2QO, John KQ4WR, Jack KC2FS, Stan KB2PD Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA Ed WA2NDA.

CLUB COMMITTEES

Refreshments: Ray KC2GKN John K2WJH, Carl W2PTZ

www.hcarc.us Webmaster: Steve N2WLH, Kevin W2FA

Publicity: Ed W1EAP

Programs: Bob KC2QMZ

Sunshine: David WA2DJN

Event Food Committee: Grace-Marie (K2QDY)

Field Day: Larry K2QDY

VE Sessions: Bill AC2F, Larry K2QDY plus the 'crew'

Skyhook: Larry K2QDY

Funds Raising: Irv N2BHS

Membership: Bill AC2F

HOLIDAY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Toms River, New Jersey

Web Site www.hcarc.us

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Executive Board	Ray Lauterbach	KC2GKN	732 244-8176
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 \$10.00 additional.

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: Go to Mule Rd. and to the corner of Santiago Drive. Turn into Santiago Dr., then into the parking lot in front of the pool. Enter bldg. on right.

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John K2JWH Hann's House Fire

Or Lightning's Mysterious Ways by Murray KD2IN

John and his wife Lucile were enjoying their visit to Rhinebeck, NY's Classic Car Rally when their cell phone rang. John was surprised that it rang at all. It was a new cell phone and hardly anyone had the number- except their neighbor back home in Barnegat, NJ. "Bad news, John" he said. "Your house had a bad fire and you better get home as soon as you can". That was in 2000. His house was only 3 years old at that time. Little did they know that when they left on that trip to Rhinebeck, that that would be the last time they would ever return to that house.

When they arrived home, they discovered that the house and contents were declared a total loss by their insurance company. Their insurance would cover the replacement of both the house and it's contents. Fortunately a few pieces of furniture and some personal things were salvaged and put in storage.

John and Lucille had to find another place to stay while the house was cleared out and then rebuilt. Fortunately there was a nearby new vacant house in their retirement community that was for rent. That was where they stayed for the 7 months it took to rebuild their house. The entire house from the ground up, except for some of the outer walls, had to be rebuilt. The Fire Dept. investigator showed John the sprinkler control box where the fire broke out. But why? Further tracing back along the sprinkler system outside revealed the culprit: lightning!

A lightning bolt had struck a tree in the backyard of the house. It then moved underground a few feet to a sprinkler head, which then exploded! Continuing it's travel via the water filled sprinkler pipes, it reached the house, and the control valve wiring. Continuing, it entered the house, finished up in the inside control unit, and started the fire.

Some time after the Hanns were back in their rebuilt house, an agent for a lightning arrester company called on them. "You're getting a free lightening arrester installation" he told them. How come? "Well" he said, "the example of what a lightning strike did to your house enabled me to sell installations to most of the homes in the community". In appreciation, he was happy to donate one to them- gratis! A happy ending story to an otherwise unhappy beginning.

P.S. All this happened before John K2JWH was into Ham Radio. So no damage was done to any radio equipment. (I wonder what could be done to our sprinkler systems to prevent such lightning damage to our own homes. As yet I can't think of anything. Any ideas?

Murray kd2in@arrl.net

How's DX

Russ had some new band contacts on CW during February: VP6DX, Ducie Island on 17 and 20 Meters, TI9KK, Coco's Island on 17 Meters, T32OU, East Kiribati on 17 Meters and A45XR, Oman on 30 Meters.

Additional CW contacts were:

On 30 Meters: VP5/WJ2O Turks and Caicos Island, KP2/K3CT U.S. Virgin Islands, ON4AEK Belgium, LZ130LO Bulgaria, HB0/DJ2MX Liechtenstein, TI7/DJ7JC Costa Rica and 8P9RY Barbados HB9CVQ Switzerland, H7/IV3IYH Nicaragua. S58MU Slovenia and YU8AU Kosovo.

On 20 Meters: H7/NP3D Nicaragua, PJ2/W8AV Curacao, VQ9LA Diego Garcia, Chagos Archipelago, PZ5DD Surinam, 6Y1LZ Jamaica, C6AGU Bahamas, HB0/DK4YJ Liechtenstein, YT8TY and YU8A Kosovo, 8R1PW Guyana and J6/W0SA St. Lucia on PSK31 EA3NI Spain, on CW HI9/DL2RVL NA-122 Dominican Republic, V25OP Antigua/Barbuda and VP5/W5SL Turks & Caicos.

On 17 Meters: KH7Y Hawaii and PJ2/W0NB Curacao. H7/IV3IYH Nicaragua, HI8/DL2RVL NA-096 Dominican Republic, HQ8R NA-035 Swan Island, Honduras and V25OP Antigua/Barbuda.

Increased activity in February can be attributed to DX stations operating on the weeks before and after the ARRL DX Contest on 16/17 February. WA2VQV operated the contest making 120 CW QSOs in 50 DX entities. Every time Russ heard TX5C it was "dit dididah, dit dididah" ("EU, EU", meaning TX5C wanted to work only European stations) so Russ didn't get to work him. The above contacts were made from Russ's attic mounted MFJ Mini-loop.

Larry K2QDY had some good DX from his QTH in Holiday City South during the month of March.

On 80 Meters ZF2AH Grand Cayman Islands, J8/DJ7ZG St Vincent,

On 30 Meters "CW" P4/WA2NHA in Aruba, SV2AVP Greece, EA6SX Spain,

On 20 Meters VP6DX Ducie Island, J6/W0SA St Lucia, 8P1A Barbados, VP5/K4IVS and VP5H Turks and Cacos, T90T Bosnia and Herzegovina,

On 17 Meters VP6DX Ducie Island, TX5C Clipperton Island, VQ9JC Chagos,

On 12 Meters VP6DX Ducie Island.

Please try to send me you DX contacts by the 15th of the month so that I can compile this column in time for publishing in the Skyhook.

73, Russ, WA2VQV

Club Luncheon

We had our quarterly club luncheon on March 12th at the Fortune Buffet. The luncheon was attended by 25 members, wives and relatives. We arrived just before 12:00 noon and sat in a private section of the restaurant where we were for the most part by ourselves. The group was able to hold good conversation with one another and delighted to the many tasty items in the buffet. I always have a problem at that restaurant because I can't control myself. Thank goodness we don't do that too often as I would surely blow up like a balloon. There were the traditional Chinese soups, egg drop, wonton, sweet and sour etc. After the soup you could have had cold shrimp, clams, oysters and mussels. There was the various Chinese meals such as chow mien, lo mien, beef and broccoli, shrimp both fried, honey glazed and sautéed, combinations of chicken, spare ribs and a complete desert table. You could also scoop out whatever flavor ice cream you liked. In the evening you can also select various vegetables and meats to have custom cooked on a Mongolian barbeque. Everyone had a good time and are looking forward to the next event.

Repeater misuse

Reprint from ARRL. FCC action for one hams misuse of a repeater

Travis L. Maltese, AD5CT, of Edna, Texas, received a Warning Notice from the FCC to stay off of the W5DSC and K5SOI repeaters, both licensed in Victoria, Texas. The Warning Notice stated, "The trustees of the W5DSC and K5SOI repeaters have requested in writing that you refrain from use of the repeaters. The letters were issued as a result of your failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater systems for their users. You were previously requested verbally to refrain from using the system, but have apparently ignored both verbal and written requests." Maltese was told that he was expected to "abide by the requests to stay off the W5DSC and K5SOI systems and any other such requests by repeater licensees, control operators or trustees. If you use these repeaters again after receipt of this letter, we will initiate enforcement action against your license, which may include revocation, monetary forfeiture (fine) or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which you may operate

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