

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 42, Number 4

April, 2002

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers:

President,

Chris Reed, KF4MMF
creed@hiwaay.net

Vice President,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
Duncant1@ds-s.com

Secretary,

Scott Worsham, W4SSW
emofficer@knology.net

Treasurer,

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 722-0250
heath.thorson@home.com

The club's address is Box 423, Huntsville, Ala. 35804. Meetings are held each Friday night at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross Building, 1101 Washington Street. Dues are \$12.00 per year, family memberships are \$15.00 per year. The club maintains a Web Site at "http://www.harc.net"

The North Alabama Repeater Association operates repeaters on 146.34 / 146.94, 147.78 / 147.18, 223.34 / 224.94 and 448.5 / 443.5. NARA dues are \$16.00 per year and may be sent to NARA at P.O. Box 18941 Huntsville, AL 35804-8941.

The club's packet radio interest group, HUNTSPAC, maintains an extensive packet network for the Huntsville area. Dues for use of this network are \$15.00 per year, and can be paid through the HARC Secretary-Treasurer listed above.

The club's ATV special interest group, TVATV operates an ATV repeater. It's input frequency is 439.25 MHz and its output is 421.25 MHz. A voice coordination repeater is operated with output frequency of 145.33 MHz, input 600 kHz down.

The Vox is published the third Friday of each month except for August. Editor of the Vox is Frank Emens, W4HFU, 3714 Lakewood Circle, Huntsville, Ala. 35811 or femens@hiwaay.net. Material of interest to the HARC membership should be submitted to the editor by the second Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 42, Nr 4, April '02
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL

From The Prez

Spring is here and no time like the present for getting back outside and getting those antennas repaired. Fortunately, Ole' man winter's wrath wasn't too bad with only small amounts of the winter precipitation and wind. Of course that's good news for amateurs because it means more time for operating. Operating means more fun so let's get on the air! Whether its a rag chew halfway around the globe on HF, participating in the local emergency net, or a QSO with an amateur via one of those heavenly birds (that's satellite for us highly technical folks), there's bound to be a way to get active.

I would like to take a moment on the topic of the ARRL. The ARRL has been fighting for PRB-1 legislation in several states. In short, they are working with legislators and local hams to get the laws past that would allow for "reasonable accomodation" on amateur towers and antenna structures. They are also working toward federal, (yes that's right) federal legislation at the congressional level to also address covenants and deed restrictions. The ARRL is also implementing training programs to promote further technical training and emergency communications capabilities. It's also the ARRL that fights for our spectrum against encroaching commercial interests. If you are not a member, I urge you to give thought to becoming a member. They need our support. If you would like more information about ARRL, visit them online at: www.arrl.org.

As I type this entry in our April Vox it is March 12, 2002. What's so special you say about this date? Well, it is the fact that it is six months and one day after our nation was victim to the terrorist attacks back on September 11, 2001. Life as we know it has changed and for that matter, will never be the same. We have survived. America has great resolve and we have continued on enjoying freedom that some nations will never know.

As an American, we must never forget this day. We must not forget the lives lost in the attacks nor the lives lost in the war on terrorism. We owe it to those who lost their lives to "seize the day" and enjoy life with our families and friends to the fullest. That is the true victory over terrorism. There are some things far more important than amateur radio.

Don't forget that this month HARC will turn 50 years young. I hope as many people that can will attend the Anniversary party. HARC has changed thru the years but is still the focal point for amateur related activities in the Huntsville area. A history of HARC program will be presented with plenty of snacks and refreshments on hand. It will be April 26 at the Red Cross on Washington at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you there! Happy 50th Anniversary to HARC!

73, Chris Reed, KF4MMF

HUNTSPAC

A HUNTSPAC meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, 11-MAY-02, at 11:00am at the Greenbrier Restaurant at Greenbrier Road and Old Highway 20 west of Madison. If you are a member of HUNTSPAC, you are invited to at-

CAVEC Amateur Radio License Exams

Exam sessions are held the first Saturday of each month unless a holiday causes the session to be delayed for one week.

Upcoming sessions are:
Saturday, April 6
Saturday, May 4

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-9154
KR4GU@bellsouth.net

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904
dtunstil@hiwaay.net

tend. If you are not yet a member or just interested in attending, come on out and join us. If you plan on attending, please let me know at least 1 week before the meeting so we can plan on having enough seats. Since it is a restaurant, you can eat your lunch at the meeting and we can use the room.

Packet Radio has taken on a new role in Amateur Radio. Many years ago, packet radio was at the forefront of electronic mail. Yes, we enjoyed many years of e-mail via packet radio. Messages were delivered via terrestrial radio links and satellite gateways spread around the world. The Internet has changed most of that activity with faster and easier systems. Many of the old packet users who relied on local BBS systems slowly moved to the Internet for e-mail. Digipeaters that many BBS systems relied for links to neighboring cities slowly pulled the plug.

While all this was taking place the ground rules for packet radio were changing with the surge of the Automatic Position Reporting System, commonly known as APRS. Nobody could have imagined what it would do for packet radio in the aftermath. Nobody, except the father of APRS, Bob Bruninga

(WB4APR) himself. Now we have a system that is inter linked by various means and continuing to show growing numbers every day.

Packet radio still lives and who would have believed it would fall off and then start growing in leaps and bounds once again. It is really amazing. Nonetheless, it is a great way to learn about the Internet, satellites, radio, weather stations, SKYWARN, and computers. It is the integration of many systems. With the new weather office coming to Huntsville there are endless possibilities on how we can help provide a great service from within our own hobby and provide a valuable service to our community.

We have several items to discuss during the meeting. I have heard several ideas for projects that seem to be very interesting and hope to hear a few more. Please bring some fresh new ideas to the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting:

1. Review old business
2. Discuss available funds for HUNTSPAC
3. Explain the current packet network status
4. Discuss equipment inventory

5. Discuss what to do with old outdated equipment (ie computers)

6. Discuss new packet radio projects

7. Assign duties as necessary (be prepared to be selected)

8. Assign action items for next meeting

We will not solve the worlds needs at the meeting and we will keep the agenda on track. Plan on meeting from 11:00am to 1:00pm, including lunch if you wish to buy your lunch at the meeting.

If anything changes on the meeting location, I will make every attempt to get the word out to those who have indicated an interest in attending. It is really going to depend on the number of people who indicate they will be attending.

If you need directions, use the 146.34/94 repeater.

73, Tim, N8DEU HUNTSPAC
Chairman n8deu@arrl.net

Learning about DSP

Digital Signal Processing technology is rapidly replacing everything past the final IF stage in receivers

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR April, 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting John Morris Tape #3 AC Circuits	6 CAVEC Amateur Exam: 0900 at Red Cross Bldg
7	8 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting Tim Cunningham, APRS software	13 Statesboro ARS Statesboro, GA
14	15 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting Vox Night and Fox Hunt	20
21	22 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	25 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 HARC Meeting HARC Birthday Celebration SE VHF Conference, Oak Ridge, TN	27 SE VHF Conference, Oak Ridge, TN Cherokee Capital ARS, Calhoun, GA
28	29 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	1 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting	4 CAVEC Amateur Exam: 0900 at Red Cross Bldg

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with a few chips and a lot of software. Transmitters are not immune to this change: you may not find the windings of a Hilbert transformer, but it's in that DSP-based SSB exciter somewhere. Where a few years ago audio DSP was an add-one or an optional feature, rigs of the Icom 756 and Ten-Tec Jupiter/Pegasus ilk perform demodulation, audio filtering, and noise limiting by DSP. There will be two 32-bit DSPs in the Ten-Tec Orion - perhaps one for each of the receivers.

Before many of the familiar pieces of your radio are subsumed into DSP, you may wish to look at some of the educational information on the web.

Theory

1. Steven Smith's "The Scientist and Engineer's Guide to Digital Signal Processing", in its entirety, is available at www.dspguide.com. In 33 chapters, this book covers all the core topics.

2. Stephan Spranger's "Audio DSP Pages" at www.dspdimension.com specifically targets audio, but covers basic DSP techniques before delving into special audio effects.

3. "The Magic of Digital Filters" by Ed Ramsden in Sensors Magazine's July 2000 issue at www.sensormag.com/articles/0700/34/main.shtml.

4. Recent editions of the ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook have a chapter on DSP.

Programming

1. Steven Smith's book, above, also has simple programming examples of classic time-and frequency-domain operations.

2. In an effort to show that DSP does not require a DSP chip, Intel's Signal Processing Library at support.intel.com/support/performance/tools/libraries/spl is a complete set of routines, callable from various languages and running on various platforms (not all Wintel). The supporting documentation contains examples and explanations useful in itself.

Hardware

DSP chip manufacturers have evaluation kits which allow you to try out a chip and its software development environment, typically in a some-

what reduced functionality mode, as an enticement toward using these chips in new product designs.

1. Analog Devices ADSP-2191 EZ-Lite Kit and related evaluation kits, one of several series of fixed- and floating-point DSP product lines offered by AD, with information at www.analog.com.

2. Texas Instruments' DSP Tools and Software, and their Embedded Edge on-line magazine, plus TMS320-series C2000, C5000, and C6000 DSP evaluation kits at dspvillage.ti.com.

The web is full of sound-card audio DSP programs - including, of course, support for all your favorite digital modes. See your HARC program schedules for presentations by Corry Smith and Tim Cunningham for more about this.

73 - Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

ISS and PCSat

The International Space Station recently had some new hardware installed on the Space Station for Amateur Radio operations. One

change was an upgrade to the packet radio equipment to eliminate the N0CALL callsign that appeared on the packet radio station for several months. The new call is RS0ISS and the digipeater is working very well.

You can digipeat signals via RS0ISS. The best way to do it is using any one of the APRS software packages with your TNC or one of the Kenwood APRS radios. The ISS digipeater can be heard on 145.800 MHz. We refer to this as the downlink. You should transmit your packet radio signal on 145.99 MHz. We refer to this as the uplink. Never transmit on 145.800 MHz, because ISS will never hear you since it listens for your signals to appear on 145.99 MHz. The digipeat path should be set for RS0ISS. Most APRS stations use something like RELAY,WIDE,WIDE or RELAY,WIDE2-2. While this may work for stations on the APRS frequency, it will not work well with ISS. Join the APRS crew using the ISS for a very wide coverage digipeater. It is very popular. Just listen on 145.800 MHz for that familiar 1200 baud packet radio sound and you will be hearing the digipeater on ISS very soon. It passes over Huntsville at least 6 times a day.

To view packet data activity that has been heard from ISS, visit the web site at <http://www.ariss.net>

Another popular packet radio satellite is PCSat. PCSat (object 26931) is now officially NAV-OSCAR-44 or NO-44. You can hear NO-44 on 145.825 MHz as it orbits over Huntsville about 6 times a day. To work PCSat you will need to set your path for W3ADO to successfully digipeat packets on this satellite. It is very easy hear NO-44, much like ISS. However, NO-44 uses 145.825 MHz for the uplink and the downlink. We refer to this as simplex operation. Keep in mind that the frequency will shift +/- 3 KHz due to Doppler. This should not cause too much trouble since most FM receivers are a little broad.

To view packet data activity that has been heard from PCSat (NO-44), visit the web site at <http://pcsat.aprs.org>

During your visit to the 2 web sites mentioned in this article, you might notice the callsign N8DEU-11 appearing in many of the packet paths. I have a full time automated satellite gateway station streaming packet activity from ISS

and NO-44 to the APRServer via the Internet. If you see N8DEU-11 in the path of any packet on these web sites, it signifies that my satellite gateway was the route the packet traveled from space to the Internet.

What is so interesting about these 2 space orbiting digipeaters is that APRS is virtually available anywhere on the Earth. If you are a remote traveler, this gives you one more way to beacon your location or send messages from anywhere on the Earth using a handheld radio.

It is all about adding value to HAM radio. The integration of satellites, computers, the Internet, radio modems, 2-way radio's, etc... Where does it end. Our hobby is really out of this world covering many disciplines.

73, Tim, N8DEU AMSAT Area Coordinator n8deu@arrl.net

THE GIGGLE BOX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN MARCH AND APRIL!!

By the time you get this, the Easter bunny will come jumping around. I hope everyone has their Easter eggs, baskets and frocks ready. I've had my granddaughter's basket and frock done for a while. Children and grandchildren really do make the holidays more fun. Enjoy those little ones now because they don't stay little for long. Also April Fool's Day will be a few days later. Play a few innocent, harmless jokes on someone.

A Joke or Two "Poor Donkey"

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours, as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway, it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. So he invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly.

Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his

back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Moral:

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

A lady in a grocery store bent over to pick up a head of lettuce, when she suddenly got a catch in her back. She froze in a stooped position and shrieked in pain. Another shopper nearby heard the shriek and soothingly said, "If you think the lettuce is

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high, wait until you see the price of potatoes."

Did you hear about the father who, when his daughter got her driver's license, put this bumper sticker on her car: "How is my driving? Call 1-800-CALL-DAD!"

The Thought for the Months of March and April.

Dyslexia means never having to say you're yrros.

If you are a senior citizen, chances are that you played marbles as a kid. Chances are equally good that you've lost most of them since then.

Did You Know...

Here is a tip on how to cook vegetables: Anything that grows under the ground, start off in cold water - potatoes, beets, carrots, etc. Anything that grows above ground start off in boiling water - corn, peas, green beans, etc.

Marion Donovan patented the disposable diaper in 1951.

Solve the puzzle:

KEMA A SHIW DNA SOTS A NEPYN
TNIO A GHNIISIW LEWL

AVEH A PGHONPI SEREAT

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Have a Happy Easter and April Fool's Day,

73, Peggy (Giggles) Bell, K4EGB

APRS and CWOP

Some of the APRS users may notice weather stations reporting information using call signs in the format of CWxxxx, where the x's represent a number. I was scratching my head on this issue and I discovered there is a program called the Citizen Weather Observers Program (CWOP).

The CWOP works much like personal home weather stations on the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), where the user transmits their weather station data automatically over the airwaves. The main difference is the CWOP participant may be an unlicensed Amateur Radio operator. This means they cannot transmit their weather information via the APRS Radio Frequency (RF) network that we use for APRS on 144.39 MHz. In order for

the non-ham weather station to place their information on the network and share it with NOAA, they must use a wired linked to the Internet such as a dial-up connection or other connection to access the Internet.

This real time weather information will be used in NOAA weather prediction models and displayed on the NOAA web site at: <http://www-frd.fsl.noaa.gov/mesonet/>

For additional information on CWOP, visit the web site at: <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/CWOP-Main.html>

This site will contain information on how to obtain your own personal CW number to participate. If you are a HAM, then you can use your APRS software, attach a weather station (Davis, Peet Brothers, etc...), and let the APRS software transmit your home weather station data over the APRS airwaves. Since we have a local Internet Gateway in our area, your weather information will automatically be placed on the weather net (no need for an Internet connection at your weather station). Whether you send your home weather station information via APRS or CWOP, your weather data will appear on the NOAA Mesonet Map Display at the NOAA web site mentioned earlier.

You will need to download the Weather Display Lite software to get started after you receive your CW number. That is, if you are not a HAM using APRS.

For more information on the APRS Weather network check the following web-site: <http://www.findu.com/aprswxnet.html>

It is always great to see Amateur Radio adding value to our communities. If you have not seen APRS in action, you are missing one of the hidden jewels in the hobby.

Mark your calendars for the club meeting on 12-APR-02 (no APRS pun intended). We will be demonstrating APRS+SA, WinAPRS, APRSdos, and UIView at the club meeting that evening to help you understand some of

the basic differences between APRS software that is available.

73, Tim, N8DEU n8deu@arrl.net

Have we met?

It was fifty years ago this month that HARC began its journey as a club. From its humble beginning, with only 16 members, it has continued to grow and prosper with a membership now into the hundreds. Although some are active and some are not, the many members that make up the HARC family continue to provide fellowship and interest in the activity of amateur radio in such ways that it makes HARC a very special club. In 1952, when John Garrison (W4FOG) became the club's first President, could he have imagined that today this same club would sponsor one of the best Hamfests in the entire country? Is it by mere chance that this same club has grown to become a major contender on Field Day, with scores so impressive that other clubs set their "sights" on us?

Could it be that by mere happenstance that one of our members (and those that help) has gone on to organize one of the best VE programs in the region, allowing tremendous numbers to obtain a license or to upgrade? It wasn't fate that allowed these things to happen, rather it was the result of committed effort and a strong vision on the part of many people. Whether we are talking about some of the founding members, such as Marion Gibson (W4LHR), H. B. Overton (W4WOF), and Jim Campbell (W4YFN), or just those who have joined in recent years, at the very core of our existence as a club is the desire to "make it happen!" The lasting friendships that have developed over the years should serve as reason enough to want to continue another half century, but we all know that without the effort and participation to go with it, the HARC of the future will be a poor imitation. As we spend the time to reflect on our clubs past history and accomplishments, let us also envision the future, built upon the same simple principles that allowed the club to become what it is today. Only a few amateur radio clubs have the opportunity to embrace the future as well as this club can. Are we ready for the next fifty years?

One of our current club members somewhat typifies the "ham" of the next fifty years. I once saw him wearing a

shirt that read, "Amsat - Amateur Radio for the 21st Century," and it caused me to think of what it has to offer those living in the modern world. I've often wondered how many people see amateur radio today with the same appeal as in years past. Many years ago, when amateur radio was a new and novel idea, some people regarded this technological activity in a way similar to how many see the personal computer and the Internet today. While using somewhat crude but useable AM and CW transmitters and the like, "hams" of yesterday could impress just about anyone with their ability to talk to the world around them. Needless to say, this "cutting edge" technology of the day sparked an interest in many people and they too wanted to be a part of this thing called amateur radio. Over time the level of activity in amateur radio has grown while trying to stay in step with the trends of technology, and over the years our "hobby" has advanced many methods of communicating that have served both the amateur service and others. However, it would seem that for some people today, the things that were of interest many years ago are about as appealing technologically as a rotary dial telephone. With people now having access to a World Wide Web, cell phones, pagers, PDA's and the like how does amateur radio appeal to the people of this century? I'm not certain where amateur radio will be in fifty years, but it seems that it would be people such as this member who will be the ones that enjoy it most. His routine involvement with AMSAT, APRS, and such places him in that group that does not shy away from changing technology. Oddly enough, he has actually been a "ham" all his life and still is to this day. But I've been told he is a rather cunning "ham." That's right. I'm talking about Tim Cunningham (N8DEU). Let's take some time to learn more about him.

"I was licensed in 1981 starting with a General Class license taking the exam at Monroeville, PA (near Pittsburgh, PA) that was visited by the FCC every 6 months. I spent 1 month learning the code using the Wayne Green Code tapes and the ARRL code broadcasts to increase my speed from 0 to 18 words per minute before taking the exam. Monroeville, PA was about a 2 hour drive from my home in WV. When I passed my first test, the General Class, it was not possible to take the Advanced exam for an-



Tim Cunningham, N8DEU

other 6 months since the test had to be requested in advance.

The biggest problem I faced was trying to find a HAM who could help put me in the right direction in studying for my test. I was convinced there were no HAM's in the area or they were in hiding. Finally, about a week before I was about to take my test I got a call from my Uncle' father in-law. He was a HAM! Finally, I found somebody who could give me some encouragement and tell me what to expect at the testing site. What a relief"

(Tim later upgraded to the Advanced Class in 1983, and then Extra Class in 2000.)

"Having lived most of my life in rural WV, there weren't many things one could do without getting into trouble. I became fascinated by electronics at a young age and vowed to learn how all this electronic stuff worked. I recall talking to a CB station in Louisiana with a walkie talkie I got on Christmas Day as a child. That was simply too amazing for me to handle at the time. Later I remember watching the Olympics from a station in Canada using rabbit ear antennas and wondering how that could possibly happen. The local Postmaster, was into electronics and owned a local Cable Television business he started. He was an inspiration and full of stories about radio propagation. My first Amateur operating radio was a President Washington CB that I modified for 10 meters. It was also modified to include CW as an operating mode by simply injecting a pure 800 Hz sine wave tone in one of the side bands. It worked perfectly and nobody could tell the difference. I Built a 4 element mono band yagi for 10 meters to

use with the QRP radio for a bigger signal. This exercise quickly taught me to concentrate on the antenna system for a better signal"

(This paid off well for Tim, as he has finished 1st in several QRP contest.)

"Within a few months after getting my license I built a 10 meter FM mobile radio with programmable repeater offsets from a PolyPak special on HyGain CB boards that were being dumped at \$3.00 a board. The board worked great for AM, but you had to wire all the controls to the board. Radio Shack and Lafayette were a great source of parts for building my channel selector using a diode switching matrix to program the binary channel information. A simple transistor switch in the matrix allowed for a 100 Hz offset for repeater operation. I recall the first contacts on 10M FM to be in the Virgin Islands with Mike, WD4EXH. He later put up a 10M FM repeater on the island that had great coverage into the USA. The only problem was he was one of the only few I could work at that time because 10M FM was not very active since FM was not available on many Amateur radio's."

How did you get involved with AMSAT, APRS, and the many other "high tech" aspects of amateur radio?

"I believe that the so called "high tech" aspect of Amateur Radio is really our future. Let's face it, we live in a world of digital communications using satellites everyday. Since I like to work on anything new, that is where you will find me. Old technology does not hold my interest if it has no future. My first Amateur Satellite contact was actually made by accident. I was tuning around the 10 meter band with a modified CB radio looking for activity when I heard a station down in South Carolina calling "CQ RS-7". Not know much about Amateur Radio Satellites I gave the guy a call on 10M instead of the 2M uplink. Amazingly, he heard me somehow on 10M. I am still not sure if the band was open or how in the world he heard my signal. Later I read some books about RS-7 and Amateur Radio Satellites. That was enough to get me hooked. In 1993, I took on the responsibility of operating a Packet Satellite Gateway Station. I had the station completely automated in no time so that it would track the necessary satellites 24 hours a day, download traffic for the SEUSA and upload BBS mail ready to be sent around the world. Since the LEO satellites circle the earth every 90 minutes, you could move BBS mail traffic pretty quickly. I performed this task for about 7 years before moving on to switching over to

APRS satellite tracking and relay activities. Now I track ISS and APRSAT to link data to the Internet from spacecraft orbiting the globe. What a blast!"

When did you join HARC and what, if anything do you have to say about the club? How does it compare to other clubs you have belonged to?

"Moved to Huntsville, AL in 1985. I have belonged to the Mountain State Amateur Radio Club in WV and the Panama City Amateur Radio Club in Panama City, FL. Each club has a unique interest and level of activity. I have enjoyed being a member of the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club and all the opportunities to learn and be a part of the teaching process in advancing the art of Amateur Radio. There are so many things we can learn in Amateur Radio that it seems like there is never enough time to work it all into the schedule."

I was impressed to learn that Tim is also a contester, and he has racked up some pretty good scores with his "high tech" equipment. He has had many 1st place finishes in QRP contest and he has helped the HARC finish 1st in the AMSAT Field Day three straight years. This is only a very brief look at this club member, but I hope that it will encourage you to get to know him better.

When you come to the meetings each Friday be sure to get to know some of these members as well. Don Tunstill W4NO, John Morris K4XH and his lovely bride Nancy K4JD, Heath Thorson KC4HRX, Hal Scofield W4YNG, and the many others that attend each week.

73, Don Wade K4DRW k4drw@yahoo.com

April Hamfests

April 13, 2002:
Statesboro ARS, Statesboro, Georgia.

See <http://www.cs.gasou.edu/stars/> or contact Dr. Brian Koehler, KE4TYQ, 912-764-5183 (home) , 912-486-7890 (work) or bkoehler@gasou.edu.

April 26 and 27, 2002:
Southeastern VHF Conference,
Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

See <http://www.svhfs.org> or contact Greg Robinson, KB4NVD at 423-725-2149 or rover@wireco.net.

April 27, 2002:
Cherokee Capital ARS,
Calhoun, Georgia.
See <http://www.qsl.net/k4woc> or con-

tact Felton Floyd, AF4DN
at 706-629-0369 or af4dn@arrl.net.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

The Editor's Wastebasket

Monte Sano Marvin (our local groundhog) promised us six more weeks of Winter and it seems he knew what he was saying. His prediction runs out this week though, and I hope Spring gets with the program and comes along without any delay. I suspect we're all ready.

Carol Blair's presentation on hummingbirds was really interesting and well put together. I think she proved the point that programs for HARC don't have to be confined only to ham radio technical topics. We've had programs on blacksmithing, painting and hummingbirds. We have a couple of active bee-keepers in the club and I'd like to see a presentation by them on the art of keeping those little stingers happy and productive. Corry Smith has posted some very intriguing 360 degree panoramic images on his web site (www.unclaimedmysteries.net). If it wouldn't be revealing one of his secrets, I'd also like to see how he does them.

It's good to see the voltage level of Allie Stone's grin increasing each week as she recuperates from their accident last month.

Don't forget we're starting in on one of our severe weather seasons. Consider what you need to do to be ready for whatever may come. We've had some 'interesting' interactions with stormy and tornadic weather activity over the years and it sure helps to be ready. Are you ready for a few days without power? I remember one episode that involved driving North up the Parkway after leaving the EOC when EVERY light in the whole city was out and nobody was on the road but me. Spooky! I also remember meeting the AENB and RN5 CW nets the next night using battery power and candlelight. The next day there were shingles in my back yard that didn't match shingles on any house in the neighborhood. No telling who lost them.

Be sure to show up for the 50th anniversary meeting of HARC in April. The club has had a great 50 years and looks like it will continue its activity and vigor well into the next 50. I've seen a lot of

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the club's activity over that period, though HARC had been up and running for a little over four years when I first moved to Huntsville.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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