



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
duncant1@ds-s.com

Vice President:

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khensley@gamewood.net

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 489-1240
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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 44, Nr43, April, 2004
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

From The President

Use the Shack

Thanks to the big shack clean-up a year or more ago, K4BFT's Red Cross digs now comfortably seat two operators. With the door moved so as to use much less space, Friday night shack packing has become a latter-day version of stuffing as many people as possible into a Volkswagen beetle. Alas, often as not, this is with radio power switches firmly in the off position.

Here are some benefits to using the HARC shack, equipment and all:

- By using the equipment, we ensure it works when needed.
- Those who have used the equipment know how it works, if needed during an emergency or a drill.
- There are some nice rigs and antennas, covering 80m through 10m, 2m, and 440 MHz, at your disposal. And the tribander even rotates! (Thanks Ron, WB7VDN).
- New members and potential members interested in knowing what ham radio is about can listen in on the cornerstone of ham activity: real, on-the-air QSOs.
- K4BFT's call will be heard on the air some time in addition to Field Day, that is, more often than 2 days/365 days = 1/2% of the time.

The shack is regularly open at 6:30 pm Friday nights, and beginning about 8:45 am, just before test sessions, on the first Saturday of each month.

There are two things the shack still needs. The first is a standalone shelf to replace the wall mounted shelves which are about to fall off the walls from overloading. And the second is operators. Donations of both are welcome.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Hamography

One recent morning I was monitoring the South Cars Net on 7.251, pondering what I could do with the next "HAMOGRAPHY" to add something different and colorful. About that time, one of the most recognizable "Ham Voices" of the South came on the air. The response was immediate with a dozen "Howdy Charlie's ringing the air waves; followed by as many "Contacts" from all over the southern part of the U.S., wanting to say Hi to one of the most distinctive and well known Ham personalities in the South. My pondering ended: I had my "HAMOGRAPHY" for the next VOX issue; I had found the "Color" I was looking for!!!

N4OKL, Charlie Emerson: There is a problem in interviewing someone with a personality like Charlie's. You can get wrapped up in the "Public" persona, and fail to see the true value and sub-

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 3
Saturday, May 1*

For information contact:

*Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154
kr4gu@hamfest.org*

Or

*Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904
dontunstill@hamfest.org*

Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. In even numbered months they are held at the Athens EOC. In odd numbered months they are held in Madison at Intergraph, Building 15

*For information contact Bob Hudson,
W4RKH, 461-7905*

stance within. So I chose not to interview him directly; and instead go to the source that is most familiar with the very unique individual he is — his wife. Nina Emerson and I work for the same company. One day I told her I had ordered a Lap Top computer for my apartment because with all my Ham gear I did not have room for a Desk Top. Her reply was: "I know what that entails; I used to have a dining room, but it quickly became Charlie's Ham Shack !!! He would probably move me out before he got rid of the radio gear !!!!"

On first impression of Charlie, one tends to view him as the epitome of the "Good Old Boy, Alabama Redneck", complete with pickup truck and Bass Boat. Charlie is a very good old boy and he is a Redneck in the best and most positive connotation and sense of the term; and he does have the pickup truck and bass boat. But, Charlie, as a

person and as a HAM, is much more than the first impression.

N4OKL has been a Ham for 3 years. Since entering the avocation, Charlie quickly progressed to his General and Extra Class Tickets. He can be heard on most of the bands, HF through UHF. Charlie is currently involved with the Internet Radio Linking Project, using Node number 3890 from his home in Huntsville. He is an avid visitor to the Hamfests in the southern region, as well as being involved with the Huntsville Hamfest. At 0630 on weekday mornings, the 24 machine is relatively quiet, until Charlie comes on the air to jumpstart the Huntsville repeaters, prior to checking into the South Cars Net. N4OKL is a solid and welcome participant on South Cars. One morning the propagation was perfect for a Bermuda Maritime Mobile Station to check into the net. His first contact attempt was for N4OKL. The disappoint-

ment that Charlie had not yet checked in was evident. Such illustrates the visibility and popularity N4OKL has with the Ham groups in the South, the Eastern U.S. in general, and the territories adjacent to our shores.

Except for a tour in the U.S. Air Force; Charlie has lived in the Huntsville area all his life. Between the two of them, he and Nina have 3 children from previous marriages. Charlie retired from 30 years with PPG Industries, and involvement with the production of aircraft windshields of all kinds. These days his interests are Ham Radio and Bass fishing. He does get involved with Bass Tournaments and enjoys competitive fishing; but is glad he does not have to do it for a living.

HARC..Give a solid and strong "RR" to N4OKL..!!!

73, Fred Kersey, WB0UCI

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR April, 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Meeting Alabama Section Manager, W4OZK	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg
4	5	6 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	7 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	8 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	9 HARC Meeting	10 *TWIAR
11	12	13 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	14 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	15 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	16 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night	17 *TWIAR
18	19	20 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	21 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	22 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	23 HARC Meeting HF Digital Modes, Corry Smith, K4DIH	24 *TWIAR SE VHF Conf, Atlants GA Cherokee Capital ARS Calhoun, GA
25 SE VHF Conf, Atlants GA	26	27 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	28 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	29 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	30 HARC Meeting Auction	1 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg

*TWIAR -- This Week In Amateur Radio, +442.775 PL203.5 Hz 8 PM Every Saturday
 ATV Net @ 20:00, Check in on 145.33, Tuesdays
 Southeast Linked Repeater Net on +442.775, PL 203.5 Hz @ 20:00, Wednesdays
 Madison County Emergency Net on 34/94 @19:30, Thursdays
 SkyWarn Net on 147.24 @ 20:00, Thursdays

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The Giggle Box

Happy Birthday To Everybody That Was Born In April!!

A note from Giggles: I am so glad that Winter is just about over. How do you like all those blizzards that we had in Huntsville, AL. The "snow" was so pretty and white. Oh, well, maybe we'll get some white stuff next year. I enjoy the snow, but not the ice. I can't believe that the Field Day weekend is just a few months away. I hope that we have a great Field Day and all the stations beat their own records.

A Joke or Two

An unemployed man is desperate to support his family of a wife and three kids. He applies for a janitor's job at a large firm and easily passes an aptitude test. The human resources manager tells him, "You will be hired at minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour. Let me have your e-mail address so that we can get you in the loop. Our system will automatically e-mail you all the forms and advise you when to start and where to report on your first day."

Taken aback, the man protests that he is poor and has neither a computer nor an e-mail address. To this the manager replies, "You must understand that to a company like ours that means that you virtually do not exist. Without an e-mail address you can hardly expect to be employed by a high-tech firm. Good day."

Stunned, the man leaves. Not knowing where to turn and having \$10 in his wallet, he walks past a farmers' market and sees a stand selling 25lb crates of beautiful red tomatoes. He buys a crate, carries it to a busy corner and displays the tomatoes. In less than 2 hours he sells all the tomatoes and makes 100% profit. Repeating the process several times more that day, he ends up with almost \$100 and arrives home that night with several bags of groceries for his family.

During the night he decides to repeat the tomato business the next day. By the end of the week he is getting up early every day and working into the night. He multiplies his profits quickly.

Early in the second week he acquires a cart to transport several boxes of tomatoes at a time, but before a month is up he sells the cart to buy a broken-down pickup truck. At the end of a year he owns three old trucks. His two sons have left their neighborhood gangs to help him with the tomato business, his wife is buying the tomatoes, and his daughter is taking night courses at the community college so she can keep books for him.

By the end of the second year he has a dozen very nice used trucks and employs fifteen previously unemployed people, all selling tomatoes. He continues to work hard. Time passes and at the end of the fifth year he owns a fleet of nice trucks and a warehouse that his wife supervises, plus two tomato farms that the boys manage. The tomato company's payroll has put hundreds of homeless and jobless people to work. His daughter reports that the business grossed a million dollars.

Planning for the future, he decides to buy some life insurance. Consulting

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with an insurance adviser, he picks an insurance plan to fit his new circumstances. Then the adviser asks him for his e-mail address in order to send the final documents electronically.

When the man replies that he doesn't have time to mess with a computer and has no e-mail address, the insurance man is stunned. "What, you don't have e-mail? No computer? No internet? Just think where you would be today if you'd had all of that five years ago!"

"Ha!" snorts the man. "If I'd had e-mail five years ago I would be sweeping floors at Microsoft and making \$5.15 an hour.

*** Just ponder this ... When you mix water and flour together you get glue. But... when you add eggs and sugar... you get cake. So where did the glue go? Here is the answer! You know all too well where it went! It's what makes the cake... Stick to your Body!!!! HA, HA, HA!!!

*** During a wedding rehearsal, the groom approached the preacher with an unusual offer. "Look, I'll give you \$100 if you'll change the wedding vows. When you get to the part where I promise to 'love and honor' and 'forsaking all others, be faithful to her forever,' I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that part out". He passed the minister a \$100 dollar bill and was satisfied.

On the wedding day, the bride and groom got to the part of the ceremony where vows are exchanged. When it came time for the groom's vows, the preacher looked the young man in the eye and said: "Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life and promise eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will never even look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?"

The groom gulped, looked around, and said in a tiny voice, "Yes." He then leaned forward and hissed, "I thought we had a deal."

The preacher put the \$100 into his hand and whispered back, "She made me a better offer."

*** I Bet You Didn't Know Some Of These !! (Me Either)

If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"? One thousand

*** What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, dishwashers, and laser printers all have in common? All invented by women.

*** What is the only food that doesn't spoil? Honey

*** There are more collect calls on this day than any other day of the year? Father's Day

*** What trivia fact about Mel Blanc (voice of Bugs Bunny) is the most ironic? He was allergic to carrots.

*** What is an activity performed by 40% of all people at a party? Snoop in your medicine cabinet.

*** In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "good-night, sleep tight".

*** It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month. We know this today as the honeymoon.

*** In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. It's where we get the "mind your P's and Q's."

*** Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

*** In Scotland, a new game was invented. It was entitled Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden.... and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language. (This is the last of the Mohicans. I hope you enjoyed them.)

Did You Know: Onions Making You Cry? When you have to cut up onions,

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put them in the freezer about 15 minutes before chopping. It will lessen the spray of onion oils that vaporize and make you cry.

The Thought for the Month of April "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." - Unknown

Solve the puzzle: KATE A FHIWF FO GNRISP DAN ELIMS

73, Peggy (Giggles) Bell, K4EGB SEW LONG!

April Hamfests

- April 23-24, 2004. Southeastern VHF Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. See <http://www.svhfs.org> or contact Dick Hanson, K5AND at k5and@arrl.net or (770) 751-1461.
- April 24, 2004. Cherokee Capital ARS, Calhoun, Georgia. Details at <http://www.qsl.net/k4woc> or contact Felton Floyd, AF4DN at af4dn@arrl.ga.org or (706) 629-0369. Gates open at 8:00 AM. Admission is \$5.00 with free parking. Talk-In Frequencies are 146.745 - / 443.675 (PL 100). A Testing Session will be held at 11 AM.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

NARA Notes

Wound you believe, I had a NARA notes drafted last month and forgot to send it to Frank? Whew too busy & forgetful : ^) Looks like at least two paragraphs are still useful with an edit or two

There is not much new to report this month in the continuing saga of '94 recovery. The busy schedule, cold weather and sick repeater runners have slowed the pace but there have been some things happening in the RF world on the hilltop which may effect us in a positive way. Let's hope that is true. We may know for sure soon when we attempt to move '94 back to its normal home down the street. We'll let you know ! In the mean time, we're still thinking & planning for remote receivers. More on that in the months ahead as well. I think we're about done processing checks & updating the database from the kickoff meeting. Todd and Charlie have been busy busy!

I'm starting the draft of the 2004 NARA news so look for it perhaps

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sometime in April -- maybe May. Couple of miscellaneous things in this month's thinking Ralph and I are slated to get 145.23 (His machine for AICN linking) back on the air any day now, so look for it. There has been an upsurge in statewide RF linking with a new group of folks fanning the fires.

We're thinking about repair activity on 443.500 and the thoughts are along the line of a need to take it down for a while so if it disappears well ..

As always, my plate is more than full (The repeater council has consumed my time lately) so if you feel inclined to help out in any capacity, shoot me an e-mail (I'm good on QRZ) and lets have lunch & talk! (Because these things really do need planning and coordination.) If you volunteered at the meeting, don't assume I remembered everyone. I did speak with some & got some good help but I fear I may have forgotten someone : ^)

With spring WX comes opportunities to fix things up but also opportunities to enjoy our families -- Read it gets done better and faster when you help! What's it worth to you? The satisfaction of accolades from fellow hams on the repeater thanking you for making it better? Romeo speaking your call? or just the satisfaction of knowing you're a part of a good thing? It's a hobby remember? It's supposed to be Fun!

73,.. Ron / W4VM NARA President

From The Editor's Wastebasket

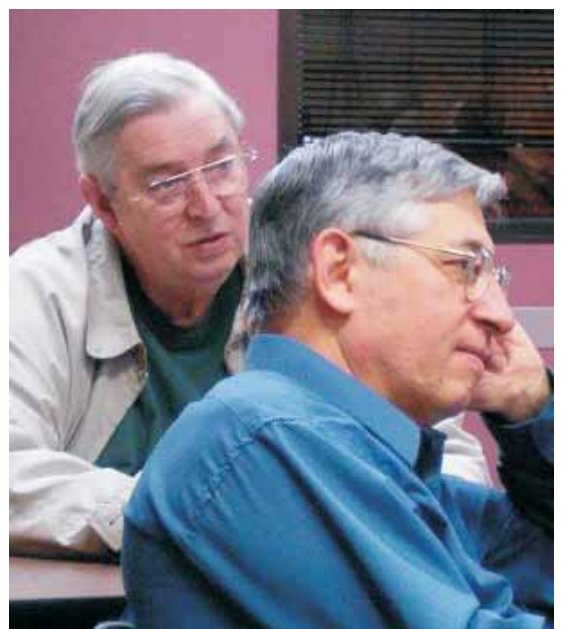
I've got to agree with Miz Peggy. I'll be glad to see the end of all the blizzards and bad weather. Spring will be met eagerly here on Lakewood Circle. Actually I've been swapping some emails with a resident of the Great North Country and the descriptions of long-standing snow cover, the difficulty the puppy has in navigating the back yard snow, cold temperatures, and snowstorms even in the last week have made me very happy to be here in the (usually) Sunny South where the

daffodils in my back yard have been blooming their little hearts out for a couple of weeks. Live TV coverage of snow and such in the Northeast has done nothing to make me want to move.

Fred has done his usual good job again with this month's Hamography. He has mentioned in the past having trouble hemming folks up long enough to get an interview. I hope if he asks you, you'll find time to sit down and let him have the info he needs to immortalize you.

This Vox package includes a 5-pager from Greg Sarratt, W4OZK. Our new Alabama ARRL Section Manager. We also inaugurate an ad (see top of this page) by Alicia Hilliard, K4ADH. Check it out and give her a visit if interested.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



HARC members listened raptly to Prez. Tom's presentation on Binaural Audio.



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