

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 45, Number 4

April, 2005

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeiglerjr@bellsouth.net

Vice President:

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k4jch@aol.com

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgeg@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 489-1240
hthorson@knology.net

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

"Vox", Vol 45, Nr. 4, April, 2005

A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL

From The Prez

The tour of the 911 center and of the EMA were quite interesting. We thank both agencies for their efforts and for their service to the community. We should all think about taking the CERT training being offered by the EMA.

On a different note the Madison/Marshal County Chapter is finishing up their Heroes Campaign to support local operations. It would be good to have club members and or the club make contributions. Last year the chapter assisted 188 families after fires or other disasters. They also served 29,400 Local school children at school first aid rooms. Additionally they provide services to our armed forces members and provide volunteers at local hospitals. Contributions can be made by check. Make Checks payable to: Madison/Marshal County Chapter American Red Cross. The address is 1101 Washington Street. Indicate "Heroes" on the memo line. Putting your Call under the address on the check will give credit to the club. You will still get to take the deduction on your taxes.

73, Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM

From The Veep

I would like to thank Chris KF4MMF for having us at the EOC/EMA. We got to see the new things that were implemented there and how the person in the radio room no longer has to yell out the door to get his information out to everyone else

If you're an old-timer to amateur radio and would like to share a story with us or if you're not an old-timer and have a good story to tell, please come out on Friday April 1st and tell us about it.

Would you like to help Alabama when disaster strikes or in any other times of need with your radio skills?

Come see Robert Patterson talk about the Alabama State Defense Force on April 8th. There is no PT involved in joining, but you must be at least 17 years of age. If you are already a member of Army MARS, you're already half way there. From what Robert has already sent me about this, I believe this is one program you don't want to miss.

73, John Hilliard, K4JCH

NARA Notes:

I want to thank everyone that attended the second repeater training on March 4th. I hope it was informative and gave you a better understanding of the GE Master II hardware we use. I covered a whole bunch of material in one sitting, so there was a lot to digest. As I mentioned, we'll be making up some CD's that contain both presentations, plus a wealth of knowledge per-

CAVEC License Exams

Exam sessions are held at 9:00 AM the first Saturday of each month unless a holiday causes the session to be delayed for one week.

Upcoming sessions are:
Saturday, April 5
Saturday, May 7

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244
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

taining to repeaters. This CD will serve as a reference material for the technical group.

We've made a preliminary stab at making assignments for which repeater(s) we need your help with. Each site will have a main coordinator, control op(s) and assistants. We tried to post people according to the interest level on the sign-up sheets we collected. We will start coordinating some field trips for each group to familiarize you with the repeater site you'll be assisting with.

I know one trip that is coming up soon will be to implement the 147.18 emergency power battery backup system that Gary has been working on. This might be a good time for the 147.18 group to see the site and give a helping hand.

We created an email distribution list for the technical group and sent out the first email. It was a reminder of the March 4th training meeting. It looks like the message got out to everyone that was intended. If you signed up but didn't see that email, please send me your email address to W4XE@qsl.net. We will use this email list to announce the tech group postings to particular repeater sites.

On the NARA 'cable kit' construction projects, I want to again thank those that stepped forward to build some of them. We received two more of the wiring kits for our repeater systems at the March meeting. They all looked great and will certainly help out!

Bill KC0ONR finished up the rework on the 220 repeater. I talked to him at length at the March meeting. He pretty much rewired the whole repeater in-

cluding power, audio and RF cabling. He also modified the receiver circuitry for correct squelch action. He certainly went the extra mile and we should all let him know how much we appreciated his efforts! If you have a 220 rig, fire it up and try it out.

We are getting close towards negotiating a remote receiver site on Green Mtn for our first .94 voter project. Now that the testing/burn-in phase is over at Ron's QTH, we need a high site to maximum the benefit to fill in some .94's RF 'black-holes'. Ron is also ordering the next set of GE Master 2 crystals for beginning the second voter hardware buildup.

I just received a set of 6 meter 'duplexer' cavities from Charlie that we had all chipped in to purchase. This is really a novel approach using 6 lengths of 1 5/8" hard-line as the tuned cavities.

| HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR April, 2005 | | | | | | |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 27 | 28 | 29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 | 30 SE Linked Repeater Net at 2000 on +442.775 PL203.5 | 31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000 | 1 HARC Meeting Old Timer's Night Come share some of HARC's history | 2 TWIAR* |
| 3 | 4 | 5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 | 6 SE Linked Repeater Net at 2000 on +442.775 PL203.5 | 7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000 | 8 HARC Meeting Alabama State De- fense Force - Robert Patterson | 9 TWIAR* |
| 10 | 11 | 12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 | 13 SE Linked Repeater Net at 2000 on +442.775 PL203.5 | 14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000 | 15 HARC Meeting Vox & Ragchew Night | 16 TWIAR Hamfest: Tailgate Swap & Swindle, Macon ARC, Byron, GA |
| 17 | 18 | 19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 | 20 SE Linked Repeater Net at 2000 on +442.775 PL203.5 | 21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000 | 22 HARC Meeting | 23 TWIAR* Calhoun GA Hamfest I-75 Corridor Hamfest, Lake City, TN |
| 24 | 25 | 26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 | 27 SE Linked Repeater Net at 2000 on +442.775 PL203.5 | 28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000 | 29 HARC Meeting | 30 TWIAR Birmingham Hamfest, BARC Saturday & Sunday |

*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 Gallery Shopping Center 10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!

They still need the interconnect cables made up. We need six BNC to BNC jumpers about 36" of RG-58 each. If anyone out there is a BNC connector install expert and wants to help out, please drop me an email to discuss the exact dimensions required (has to be precise!) and we can buy the materials. Since we've temporarily lost the south half of the 'split-site' of our six meter repeater, this will allow us to get the repeater back on the air full-duplex at a single site.

73's NARA President *Ralph Hogan W4XE*
W4XE@qsl.net

Elevation is Everything

Janet and I had the opportunity to visit Maui several weeks ago. Difficult as it may be to believe, non-radio-related distractions were a-plenty on this, my first DXpedition - maybe that's a little overblown, so let's say the first time I had a transmitter with me outside the country.

A little over 3 watts is as much as I can hope for from my KX-1. A vertical clamped to our balcony drew in only the strongest signals on receive with this rig, even after carefully adjusting the loading coil and ground radials, and from the dizzying height of the ninth floor. WWVH — only a few islands away — and some 31 meter broadcast stations, were about it. Surely transmitting was futile.

The balcony painting crew's platform made its scheduled appearance sometime during the next day, leaving a note saying our balcony would be inaccessible for the next couple of days. Immediately discarding the note and opening the sliding glass door to which it was taped, I found there were teeth in the no-balcony policy in the form of a thick layer of wet paint. This put an end to any further tinkering with the vertical. To tell the truth, I was running low on instant magic cures for that antenna,

at that location, on 40 m, 30 m, and 20 m anyway.

The solution was to head for the top of Haleakala volcano, a journey fortuitously already on our schedule. While the 10,280 foot ascent over 38 miles starts out easy enough, turns become sharper and angles steeper toward the top. Above the tree line, it's a different world, the vegetation gradually thinning out to almost nothing. The view from the top is hard to describe.

Resigning myself to the cold, constant 40 mph wind, and utter lack of energy due to the altitude, it was antenna time. The vertical was out of the question, and I forgot to bring it anyway. The good old standby antenna for the KX-1 has been a random wire and a couple of ground radials, and I've had good luck with that on 30 m and 40 m during daylight hours, pitching a light rope into a tree branch and hoisting the antenna with it. Trees being distinctly absent, and being admonished by the

ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.
Check www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm for address and phone info.

Section Manager: Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, w4ozk@arrl.org
 Affiliated Club Coordinator: Jeff L OBrien, KV4CX, jeffo@zebra.net
 Assistant Section Manager for Youth Activities, Rebekah A. Dorff, WG4Y, wg4y@arrl.net
 Bulletin Manager: William K, Hensley, WG8S, whensley11@comcast.net
 Alabama Frequency Coordinator - Liaison Alabama Repeater Council: Ron Shaffer, W4VM, w4vm@comcast.net
 Official Observer Coordinator: Ken Magnant, WA4WEY, kmagnant@att.net

Public Information Coordinator: James Spann, WO4W, wo4w@jamesspann.com
 Section Emergency Coordinator: Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, sec@arrl-al.net
 State Government Liaison: Richard D. Doll, KU4PY, ku4py@arrl.net
 Silent Key Coordinator: Doc Gordon King, W4XI
 Section Traffic Manager, Randy Cox, AI4FP, ai4fp@yahoo.com
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winger, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

park ranger not to wander outside trails and public areas, I had to compromise with a sloping arrangement, 7 feet off the ground at the highest (a signpost), and 4 feet at the lowest (a shorter signpost). Not quite in-the-clear, but I had exceeded my thinking quota at this altitude and had to get on with operating.

I tuned up on 20 meters and was amazed to find an absolute lack of man-made noise. The blurps and buzzes I'm used to at home were entirely absent, but unfortunately, despite a good match to the antenna, so were ham signals. I tuned up to 15 MHz WWVH, and found a very respectable signal, and was therefore encouraged that I was operating below the maximum usable frequency. Moving back to 20, I did hear a very weak W7 calling CQ, but couldn't raise him. Just for grins, I sent QRL? and called CQ nearby, to no avail. I tuned lower in the band, and came upon a strong JA7EU calling CQ. Remembering to sign "KH6", I answered, and was rewarded with a signal report I'm sure I didn't deserve. He was running 1 kW to a yagi aimed short path to the west coast. I had logged my first QSO from a DX location. The bottom immediately dropped out of 20 m, and I could barely copy 15 MHz WWVH any more.

The puny signal from the KX-1 had somehow made it from above the clouds surrounding Haleakala, over the international date line, to Japan. Certainly the trip was all downhill. Whatever that antenna lacked in height above it's surroundings, it certainly

made up for in elevation above sea level. I'll long remember that QSO.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN APRIL!!

A note from Giggles: I thought I better write my article while I had a break and still remembered it. The third full week in March is Spring Break for the schools and I hope that I am out of town visiting my granddaughters then. As I write this article, I thought about the people that come and tell me that they enjoyed my article and it made me feel good that they picked up the VOX. When someone tells me that, I always hope that I didn't put something in it that would offend someone. I just write it to make someone smile or even giggle. I have in the past, and then I realized that parts of the VOX were submitted in other newsletters. I try to be more careful in what I submit. I hope the readers are also reading the more important stuff that other people put in it. Do you ever get the VOX and then put on the table unopened and say that you will read it later? Pick it up and find a giggle. **Remember -- OLD TIMER'S NIGHT is going to be APRIL 1st!! I look forward to hearing all the old timer's stories. See you there. TTYL 73

A Joke or Two

ONLY IN AMERICA:

Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.

Only in America.....do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight

Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'

Only in America.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

*** EVER WONDER

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

*** Jokes for the Irish An Irishman who had a little too much to drink is ! driving home from the city one night and, of course, his car is weaving violently all over the road. A cop pulls him over. "So," says the cop to the driver, where have ya been?"

"Why, I've been to the pub of course," slurs the drunk.

"Well," says the cop, "it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening."

"I did all right," the drunk says with a smile.

"Did you know," says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, "that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?"

"Oh, thank heavens," sighs the drunk. "For a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf."

*** Mary Clancy goes up to Father McGuire after his Sunday morning service, and she's in tears. He says, "So what's bothering you, Mary my dear?"

She says, "Oh, Father, I've got terrible news. My husband passed away last night."

The priest says, "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me, Mary, did he have any last requests?"

She says, "That he did, Father."

The priest says, "What did he ask, Mary?"

She says, "He said, 'Please Mary, put down that gun.'"

*** AND THE BEST FOR LAST A drunk staggers into a Catholic church. enters a confessional booth, sits down but says nothing. The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention but the drunk continues to sit there. Finally the Priest pounds three times on the wall. The drunk mumbles, "ain't no use knockin; there's no paper on this side either."

*** Just a reminder...Keep your Fork There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given threemonths to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the Pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I

love and those who are in need of encouragement.

In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork." It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork, the best is yet to come"

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. Cherish the time you have, and

the memories you share. So keep your fork, the best is yet to come.

Did You Know: Laughter by definition is healthy. —Doris Lessing

The Reminder for the Month of April
The births of all things are weak and tender; and therefore we should have our eyes intent on beginnings. - Michel de Montaigne

Solve the puzzle:

GNIBE IENSDFR HITW ENOEMOS
SI NOT NA PPOOTUNRYTI UTB A
EEWTS BISIIYTNOPSLER.

73 Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB
pbell@hiwaay.net SEW LONG!

Local Area Hamfests for March/April:

19 Mar 2005

52nd Kennehoochie ARC Hamfest
Kennehoochie ARC
http://www.w4bti.org Talk-In: 146.880 -
(PL 100) Contact: Elliott Kanter, W4PGI
1213 Pinehurst Circle SE Smyrna, GA
30080-4320 Phone: 770-815-1570 Email:
w4pgi@arrl.net Marietta, GA Southern
Polytechnic State University 1100 South
Marietta Parkway Div: Southeastern
Sect: Georgia

19-20 Mar 2005

Tennessee State Convention Middle
Tennessee ARS
http://www.qsl.net/mtars Talk-In:
146.700 (PL 114.8) Contact: Michael
Glennon, KB4JHU 302 Twelve Oaks
Road Tullahoma, TN 37388 Phone:
931-461-3037 Email: kb4jhu@arrl.net
Tullahoma, TN Tullahoma Business In-
cubator 410 Wilson Avenue Div: Delta
Sect: Tennessee

16 Apr 2005

Tailgate Swap & Swindle Macon ARC
Talk-In: 145.370 -600 (PL 88.5) Contact:
Bill Loyd, KE4FGC Email:
ke4fgc@cox.net Byron, GA Peach Out-
let Mall Parking Lot I-75, Exit 149 Div:
Southeastern Sect: Georgia

23 Apr 2005

Calhoun Hamfest Cherokee Capital
Amateur Radio Society
http://www.qsl.net/k4woc Talk-In:
443.675 (PL 100), 146.745-, 146.805- Con-

tact: Felton Floyd, AF4DN 1054 Moun-
tain Loop Road NW Sugar Valley, GA
30746 Phone: 706-629-0369 Email:
af4dn@arrl-ga.org Calhoun, GA Sugar
Valley Community Center 3295 Sugar
Valley Road NW Div: Southeastern
Sect: Georgia

23 Apr 2005

I-75 Corridor Hamfest Anderson
County ARS Talk-In: 146.625 Contact:
Christopher George, KU4LV PO Box
1407 Norris, TN 37828-1407 Phone:
865-494-4068 Email:
ku4lv@comcast.net Lake City, TN Lake
City Community Center 216 North
Main Street (US 25W) Div: Delta Sect:
Tennessee

30 Apr-1 May 2005

Alabama State Convention Birming-
ham Amateur Radio Club
http://www.w4cue.com Talk-In: 146.88
Contact: Tom Gaskins, WT4TG c/o
BARC PO Box 603 Birmingham, AL
35201 Phone: 205-956-9632 Fax:
205-956-9651 Email: wt4tg@charter.net
Birmingham/Irondale, AL Zamora
Temple 3521 Ratliff Road Div: South-
eastern Sect: Alabama

Steve Bell KD4TFN: sbell@hiwaay.net

Yak Fat -- It's Sources And Characteristics

There have been a few references to yak-fat in recent meetings, so it seems appropriate to present a review of the subject for newer members who have not been enlightened on the substance. It seems especially appropriate in this April issue. In preparing for this exposition, I did a Google search on "yak-fat". I was amazed to find hundreds of references to the stuff, including two references to mentions in the Vox.

Yak-fat was first mentioned in the Vox by Mr. Jim Brashear, WB4EKJ, who pointed out that it was one of the major export items from Tibet. The subject was expanded upon from that start.

Yak-fat is NOT the fat obtained from rendering the remains of defunct yaks. No yak is harmed in the production of yak-fat. It is the butter obtained from yak milk. It is most often seen in its clarified form or ghee which, in Tibet, is of-

ten added to hot black tea. It is also said that Tibetans protect themselves from the cold local winters by rubbing their bodies down with rancid yak-fat. Most of the seemingly magical properties of yak-fat are attributed to the substance after it has gone rancid. the yak ghee will keep without refrigeration for a month or so, but eventually goes bad, sometimes in interesting ways. Most of the characteristics useful to hams come from yak-fat imported through the port of New Orleans, where it usually gets contaminated with trace materials from clandestine imports from Central and South America.

Most of the research on characteristics of the substance was performed and documented by Dr. Loof Lirpa, University of Helsinki in Finland.

Some of the capabilities attributed to fortunate mixes of rancid, contaminated yak-fat are:

If you coat a pencil with yak-fat and use it for copying CW, your copying speed will be increased by at least 50% (provided you can hold on to that slippery pencil.)

A wire dipole coated with yak-fat will radiate a signal 50% louder than a clean dry one and received signals will be enhanced similarly.

Periodically rubbing yak-fat into the bearings of your hand key will increase the speed at which you can send accurate CW by at least 50%.

For phone operators, a speaker cone that has been saturated with yak-fat will reproduce SSB voice signals with considerably enhanced intelligibility and will enhance the apparent wisdom of the person speaking — even on 75 or 20-Meters.

A really interesting (and potentially dangerous) characteristic of the substance is observed when a length of foam-filled coax cable is treated so as to fill all the interstitial spaces in the foam with yak-fat. The result is a piece of cable that must be handled with extreme care. The yak-fat causes the characteris-

tic impedance of the cable to go negative and the cable to act as an amplifier. A few microvolts of signal applied at one end of a quarter wave piece of cable can approach the cable's flashover point at the open end. Even shorting the ends is not enough because the random movement of electrons in the shorting bar can be amplified to dangerous levels. Considering that any length of coax is a quarter wave at some frequency, it is essential that the cable be stored with both ends shorted by shorting bars submerged in liquid nitrogen.

Dr. Nacnud Mot attempted to expand this technique to Belden 9913 coax, which actually has air space within the cable. After filling the air space with a particularly potent sample of yak-fat, he started trying to measure its characteristics. Unfortunately, the good Doctor, his lab and the cable sample disappeared in a flash of flame and smoke and have never been seen again. It is impossible to determine if they were simply destroyed or were transferred somehow to another dimension and are still studying yak-fat.

Dr. Erreiped Trebor was originator of the experiment in which a small hole is made in the envelope of a 12AU7 vacuum tube (remember hollow state electronics?) and the space inside is filled with yak-fat. The CIA has sealed the lab reports from this experiment and the Homeland Security Agency has banned any further attempts at the experiment in the U. S., though it is rumored that CIA agents have visited Tibet attempting to match the specimen of yak-fat used in the original experiment. Dr. Trebor is currently under a gag order relating to the experiment's results.

73, Sname Knarf

Silent Keys

Frank Brown, W4LNN

W4LNN became a Silent Key on February 21, 2005 in Chattanooga, TN. He was very active in HARC activities when he lived in the Huntsville Area.



Frank Brown, W4LNN
(Picture from 2000)

John L. Stensby Sr., K14ZF

John L. Stensby Sr., 84, of Huntsville became a Silent Key February 27, 2005.

Mr. Stensby was a survivor of Bataan and Corregidor and was a POW for 3 1/2 years. He was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart with two clusters, Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation with two clusters. He was the father of HARC member John Stensby, N5DF.

Flea Market

For Sale:

- HyGain TH-7DXX 10-15-20 M tribander \$200
- Cushcraft A3WS 12-17 M (very end of boom needs straightening) \$100
- Brand New in the box Kenwood TH-2KAT \$100

Cash no checks, Bernie, WA4OEJ, 518-9327.

From The Editor's Wastebasket

My sources tell me that those who made it to the E-911 Center and the EMA found the visits very interesting and informative. The club owes a vote of thanks to those who arranged the visits.

Since I was once semi-active with ATV, I'd like to get an update on what the ATVers are doing nowadays, what kind of equipment they're using, if there is still an ATV repeater on the air, etc.. That seems like a good program possibility to me. If not a program, maybe a few paragraphs of update for the Vox. With some live demonstration, it should make for a really interesting program though.

It still seems awfully early, but the calendar moves forward inexorably regardless of what we think. Almost before we can be ready for it, it'll be time to be thinking of a slate of officers for the 2005/2006 HARC year, FD and preparations for the Huntsville Hamfest.

Don't forget, Old Timers' night is April 1. All you Old Timers get your stories and recollections ready. We'll be looking for them that night. Who's an Old Timer? If you remember meeting at the old Naval Reserve building (or before that) or you remember sessions at the Dwarf Restaurant after the Friday night meetings, you're probably an OT. Heck, if you just remember the Dwarf Restaurant you're probably an OT. We have some quite young OTs in the club. Think about it and be ready to contribute your reminiscences to the Old Timers' meeting.

I'm sure that some of the interesting lore about Yak Fat has been lost. I have a project planned in which I attempt to fire up a currently unused computer to see if there is any information on the subject (as well as files for any issues of Vox that go back before the February, 2000 issue, which is as far as I've been able to dig back at this point.)

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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