

# VOX



## HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 46, Number 4

April, 2006

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

#### Club Officers

##### President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR  
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

##### Vice President:

John C. Hilliard, K4JCH  
k4jch@aol.com

##### Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
k4rgg@arrl.net

##### Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 325-2507  
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 Wednesday before the third Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 46, Nr.4, April, 2006

A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

### From The Prez

#### Old Timers/Auction night: Friday March 31st

At a recent meeting it was decided to have Old Timers night on March 31st, the 5th Friday of the month. At a recent club meeting, attending HARC members bravely decided that we should combine Old Timers Night with auction night (for better or worse). So here is your chance to stop by and meet old friends, and get a chance to bid on some fine old stuff. Feel free to bring ham related items to be auctioned and no, you can't sell your husband or wife. I really don't know how this combination will turn out, but it will be a hoot to see what transpires.

#### Electronic VOX

I know you are well aware that paper and postal rates continue to rise each year. New postal regulations are also causing some headaches and increased costs in our monthly VOX mailing. Many clubs have already gone to electronic distribution of newsletters, and a recent vote at a club meeting decided that we should transition to this route. Starting next issue, you can opt-out of receiving the VOX via US mail by responding to the survey listed elsewhere in this issue. When the VOXes are mailed, a PDF file of the same VOX will be posted to the HARC website. Notification that the new issue is available will be sent via the club email distribution list, so please make sure that the club has a valid email address if you choose this option. If you request to continue postal delivery of the VOX or do not respond to the survey, you will continue to receive the VOX via US mail. If we are able to transition most of the Internet enabled club members to electronic VOX distribution, the club stands to save several hundred dollars a year in printing and postage costs.

### Field Day 2006

A field day committee headed by Kevin Bardon has been formed. Prospective sites are currently being surveyed for suitability at this time. Further information on Field Day 2006 will be discussed at upcoming meetings and in next month's VOX.

### Elmering

From several emails I have received, non-hams are interested in the availability of instruction. In light of this, an informal elmering session will be available at 6:30pm on Fridays that the clubs meets. If anyone would be interested in helping out with prospective or beginning hams, feel free to stop by at this time. Likewise, please let prospective or new hams know about the time of this service.

73, Christopher Best, KB3DXR

### 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 1

Saturday, May 6

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

kr4gu@hamfest.org

Org

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

**Volunteer Radio Amateurs  
"Part of the Solution," FCC  
Katrina Panel Told**

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 9, 2006—Addressing the FCC independent panel reviewing Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication networks, ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, praised Amateur Radio's ability to get the job done. Speaking March 7 at Jackson State University in Mississippi, Sarratt said Amateur Radio volunteers were tremendously effective in their ability to re-establish communication links using their own gear or by building systems from scratch.

"Amateur Radio operators themselves were part of the solution, providing experienced communications

operators to replace and supplement local public service communications personnel in the devastated area," Sarratt said. "These systems of equipment and operators were very effective, not only for amateur purposes but in support of emergency management, Red Cross, Southern Baptist, Salvation Army and many other organizations."

FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and Commissioner Deborah T. Tate attended the opening session of the 25-member panel March 6. For 37 days following Hurricane Katrina, Sarratt—working at an American Red Cross disaster relief staging area in Montgomery, Alabama—headed the volunteer effort to process Amateur Radio volunteers headed to the Gulf Coast to assist recovery operations.

Sarratt told the FCC panel that his operation ultimately was able to process and deploy more than 200 Amateur Radio volunteers from 35 states and Canada to devastated communities in Mississippi. Volunteers set up communication facilities at kitchens, shelters, emergency operations centers, distribution centers, warehouses and various command and control centers, he said.

"In each town we set up a high frequency (HF) Amateur Radio station to communicate out of the area to Montgomery and the outside world," Sarratt explained. "We also set up a communications network connecting every Red Cross facility in a town on a local short-range radio frequency. Our network included fixed and mobile disaster vehicle stations."

**HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR  
April, 2006**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	29 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	30 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	31 HARC Meeting Old Timer's Night & Auction	1 TWIAR  CAVEC Exam, 0900 Red Cross Bldg  Hamfest: Elizabethtown, KY
2	3	4 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	5 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	6 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	7 HARC Meeting	8 TWIAR
9	10	11 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	12 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	13 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	14 HARC Meeting	15 TWIAR
16	17	18 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	19 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	20 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	21 HARC Meeting  Vox Night & Gabfest	22 TWIAR
23	24	25 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	26 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	27 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	28 HARC Meeting	29 TWIAR  Hamfest: Calhoun Hamrest, Sugar Val- ley, GA
30	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting	6 TWIAR  CAVEC Exam, 0900 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

# GigaParts®

[www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com)

Visit our  
new web  
page for  
updated  
pricing!

## Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store

ICOM®

KENWOOD

DIAMOND  
ANTENNA

hy-gain

YAESU  
Choice of the World's Top Hammers!

MEIL  
sound

RF PARTS  
COMPANY

ALINCO

MFJ

Lowest prices, best service!

4925 University Drive # 140  
The Gallery Shopping Center

(256) 535-4442  
10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!

Sarratt told the FCC panel that interoperability is the most important thing Amateur Radio can bring to the table in emergency and disaster communications. "Amateurs demonstrated their adaptability by communicating successfully with a multitude of amateur, commercial, public service, EMA, Salvation Army and Red Cross radio systems and personnel," he said.

**A Wealth of Resources**

Sarratt said the hundreds of Amateur Radio volunteers in the field following Hurricane Katrina "made up the largest Amateur Radio Emergency Service army in history to provide critical emergency communications support." Many Amateur Radio volunteers worked from home to support field operations, he noted.

"We deployed several hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment and resources to the area," Sarratt told the FCC panel. "Individual amateurs and dozens of Amateur Radio manufacturers donated thousands of dollars of radio equipment and resources."

Ham radio volunteers or clubs supplied self-contained communication vans and trailers that were effectively utilized in the disaster area, he added.

"Radio amateurs bring a wealth of resources to the public service and emergency communications table," Sarratt summed up.

**Getting Ready for the Next "Big One"**

"The ARRL and Amateur Radio will continue to prepare, train, practice and test ourselves for the next event," Sarratt told the FCC panel. "Public service is a large component of the charter of the Amateur Radio Service." He recommended installing permanent Amateur Radio stations in federal, state and local emergency operations centers as well as at selected public service, Red Cross chapters and other served agencies.

Sarratt offered several recommendations for the League to pursue:

- Setting up additional training and management of a special corps of "first-responder amateur operators" who can immediately deploy to a

disaster area and setup vital communication.

- Raising the awareness of Amateur Radio within government, emergency management and first-responder circles.
- Establishing a nationally recognized credential system, possibly a FCC credential issued to each responder, so ham radio volunteers can gain ready acceptance by emergency managers and first responders.

Sarratt also put forth some recommendations for the FCC panel to consider. He suggested that the Commission and the ARRL:

- collaborate to issue FCC credentials to the ARRL for Amateur Radio responders.
- be key partners in an Amateur Radio awareness program for multiple government agencies and the first-responder community.
- continue working together on critical frequency spectrum

**ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.  
Check [www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm](http://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 Obsaerver 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 Winingar, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

protection and interference-avoidance issues.

"The disasters of 2005 have proven the worth of Amateur Radio Service and its selfless cadre of operators; we were tested as never before," Sarratt concluded, adding "we must assume the next 'big one' is just around the corner."

"It was my pleasure meeting and working with hundreds of Amateur Radio operators during this event," he said. "I am proud to have been a part of this relief effort."

ARRL provided a written report to the independent FCC review panel. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, recently named Sarratt to serve on the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee.

*From ARRL News Site*

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/03/09/4?nc=1>

**International Space Station (ISS) Contact With Local School Soon.**

The Bob Jones High School at 650 Hughes Road in Madison (City) will have a contact with the ISS some time this year. During this contact, students from the school will ask questions of the Astronaut Jeff Williams KD5TVQ via ham radio.

Jeff Williams, as part of the Expedition 13 crew, is scheduled to go to the ISS late March or early April. Assuming that the school can get ready for this contact in time, this contact may take place between April 25 and the middle of May, 2006. If it does not happen then, it should happen after the middle of August 2006, when the school will be ready after the Summer vacation.

The contact will be in the form of a bridge contact. With a bridge contact, the school will be connected to a ham radio satellite ground station, remote from the school, connected via telephone line.

As a member of the ARISS team, I have been asked to mentor the school to get ready for this contact. We won't know the date and time of the contact until perhaps one week before it takes place. During the contact, and for test runs to check out the system and procedures, I need help from some local hams who will be available to help during school hours. Our work during the contact is easy. We'll make sure that we have good communications between the students and the ham radio satellite ground station. We will also help making sure that the students know what to do, and that things go smoothly to ensure that about 20 questions can be asked and answered during a 10 minute ISS pass.

If you can help, I would appreciate an e-mail to [kx4y@amsat.org](mailto:kx4y@amsat.org) to let me know about your willingness to help. You can also call me on 256-259-3900. Leave a message if there is no answer.

*73 de Dieter kx4y (HARC member)*

**Vox Mailing Issues**

There are some relatively serious things to consider this month about the Vox. The Post Office has informed us that we can no longer mail the Vox as we presently prepare it (with a staple in the upper left hand corner to hold the pages together) as automated mail (where they use the barcode on the address label to sort the issues.) We have been mailing at the lowest rate we could manage for the mailing list we have. We can mail the Vox as non-automated mail at an additional

cost of about \$6.31 A month (assuming a mailing of 254 pieces which is what the mailing list will be for the April issue. That will make the cost of the Vox \$63.09 for printing plus \$35.08 for postage or a total of \$98.17 pr month.

It seems to be time to look again at the possibility that was considered a while back of minimizing the number of hard copies mailed and using the internet to distribute the Vox to folks who were willing to use that method.

We presently have 16 people in our database for whom we have bad email addresses. I get bounce messages on them every time I send an email notice to the membership. We have about 45 folks on the list with no email address given. Assuming that among those 61 folks we will come out with 45 that still need to have their issues mailed, our costs will be:

Printing 45 hard copies:	\$12.64
First class postage for 45:	\$17.55
Total cost:	\$30.19

Total saving over sending hard copies to everybody, \$67.99 **EVERY MONTH.**

This would assume that all other members get their Vox "delivered" online. The procedure would be to make the pdf version of the newsletter available on a web site and send an email to the membership informing them that the new issue is available and giving them a link to the site. All they'd have to do is click on that link and they could either read the newsletter online, save a copy to their computer memory to read at leisure or print a hard copy if that is their choice.

### Disadvantages of going to internet distribution:

Members may not bother to read the newsletter. Of course, the same members may discard their hard copy newsletters without bothering to read them too.

We would still have to spend time one night a month getting the 45 or so hard copies ready to mail. That should take much less time than preparing 254 copies for mailing each month.

There would be some members who would rather continue to get a hard copy of the Vox each month, so we may not be able to keep the mailing down to 45 copies.

We would have to come up with some activity to use up the rest of the time on Vox nights, I suspect some of the more loquacious members would have no trouble filling the time.

### Advantages of going to internet distribution::

Saving almost \$68 per month (assuming 254 copies, 45 copies mailed and the Vox totalling 6 pages.) This can become critical in the future. Our paid membership seems to be dropping off a bit every year and we soon may be at the point where we can't qualify for bulk mailing anyway, which would increase our mailing costs drastically. The dropping membership will also possibly cause problems (eventually) with paying for things like insurance and Field Day expenses.

Ability to expand the newsletter (assuming we can find material to include) with minimum added cost.

The online version of the Vox can include color photos -- and MORE color photos because we wouldn't worry about space restrictions.

To get an idea how it would work to get the Vox as an online document, go to:

<http://home.hiwaay.net/~femens/voxnew.pdf>

and you should find the current issue there as a pdf file.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

### NARA Notes

This month I thought I'd share some interesting facts I ran across on vhf/uhf antenna placement on a vehicle. It is

generally agreed that the center of your roof provides the best ground plane and undistorted omni-directional antenna radiation pattern. A typical 5/8 wave antenna at 146 MHz requires a ground plane about 42" in diameter. At 440 MHz, 15" is required. The center of your roof provides the largest metal area for an effective ground plane. However, if you are like me, that is not always the most convenient location, especially if you want a no holes drilled installation.

Larsen puts out some interesting data pertaining to antenna placement. Using a standard car as a platform, there are five possible general locations for mounting the antenna: the roof, front fender, rear fender, trunk and rear (or other) window glass. Using a permanently mounted antenna at the center of the roof as the reference point, here is a comparison of the other locations for different antenna mounts:

- Roof center (permanent) 0.0dB
- Roof center (magnetic mount) -0.2dB
- Roof corner (magnetic mount) -0.2dB
- Trunk center permanent) -2.1dB
- Trunk center (magnetic mount) -2.8dB
- Trunk lip (center) mount -2.8dB
- Trunk corner (magnetic mount) -3.4dB
- Hood corner (magnetic mount) -2.4dB
- On-Glass (upper window) -0.5dB
- On-Glass (mid part window) -1.2dB
- On-Glass (lower window) -3.0dB

The above shows you can lose over 3 dB of gain off your super gee whiz mega gain vertical whip if not placed properly. I've heard for years that a ? wave whip on the roof may out perform a 5/8 wave trunk lip mounted antenna. The above shows some truth to this. In a very dense urban setting, the higher radiation angle of the ? wave would also work to your advantage. If you do not mount the antenna in the center of the roof you will also skew the antenna pattern. You will not achieve the desired ideal omni-direc-

tional radiation pattern. Instead you will have a some-what directional pattern. The resultant pattern will definitely work against you as you drive around town and the angle of your car varies towards the repeater.

One word on glass mounted antennas. Mounting to a tinted window is not recommended. Besides the Larsen literature, I believe it is covered in a how/where to GM pamphlet on mounting radios and antennas that you can pull off the web. Some tinted windows electrical properties will not work with the capacitive coupled glass mount antennas.

I don't advocate we all go out and attack our vehicles with a drill to the roof. In my own case I must admit I am more of a mag-mount fan. The moral of the story, the next time you mount a new antenna to your vehicle be very careful with its placement for optimal performance.

73, Ralph W4XE

### APRS NWS Weather Server

In all the articles I have written for APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) it struck me that I have never described the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Server (WXSVR) that has been available on the APRS network for many years. The WXSVR on APRS was developed by Dale Hguley, KG5QD. It is an application that translates the NWS feed into a format suitable for broadcasting on the APRS network.

As Dale's server posts these bulletins on the APRS Internet backbone, our local Internet Gateway (IGate) filters the reports for our local area and immediately broadcasts the data on the local APRS network via RF transmission.

The WXSVR generates APRS objects for tropical depressions, tropical storms, hurricanes, tornados, severe thunderstorms, and special marine warnings. When the weather activity in the Tennessee Valley is active, the APRS network is very active with real time bulletins. There is real value in HAM radio using the APRS network. Latitude/longitude information is generated for the area of maximum concern as it is reported in real time. What does this mean to the Weather Spotter

Network? Well, it is quite simple. You know exactly how far you are from the activity immediately. Recently, we had some weather activity and I watched my Kenwood D700 display provide some very using information in the form of warnings and watches. More importantly, I knew exactly how far I was from the area of maximum concern, because my display showed the distance in miles and the direction from my location.

It is all rather simple. A GPS in my vehicle is connected to my Kenwood D700. When a position report is broadcast on the APRS network the Kenwood D700 displays a compass showing the direction of the activity from the location my GPS is reporting to the location of the reported activity. What a great resource for weather spotters! It takes the guesswork out of determining if you are in the path of the activity.

If you are using any of the numerous APRS software programs on a personal computer (PC), handheld PALM, or a pocket PC you will see exactly where these weather objects are located on a graphical map. Some of these packages will also display watch boxes or counties highlighted in red or yellow depending on whether there is a warning or watch posted in those areas. Advisory types such as FLOOD, FLASHFLOOD, SVRTSM, SEVERE\_WEATHER, etc. are broadcast along with all numerous types generated by the NWS. The APRS software is pretty smart and it knows when to un-highlight the affected areas on the map as the reports expire. APRS uses a simple protocol that contains all the information for these objects to disappear automatically as they expire.

In our local area you will see reports generated from Memphis (MEG), Nashville (OHX), Birmingham (BMX), and Huntsville (HUN). Information reported from these NWS offices are transmitted on the APRS network immediately.

For more detailed information on the WXSVR protocol, visit the website at: [www.wxsvr.net/](http://www.wxsvr.net/)

APRS activity continues to grow with more and more weather stations and users on the APRS network.

Happy APRS Packeting

*73?s de Tim ? N8DEU*

## The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN APRIL!! A note from Giggles: Well, spring isn't but a few days away and I am ready for it. Spring seems to last just a few days and then summer is here. I was walking along the road a few days ago and smelled the aroma of fresh cut grass. I even slowed down for a little squirrel trying to get across the road without being hit. I guess you are wondering when I am going to start acting like "Mr. Roger's." NOT! I hope everyone enjoys the spring-like weather. CUL

### **A Joke or Two**

A cowgirl, who is visiting Texas from Arkansas, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud. She sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When she finishes them, she comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender approaches and tells the cowgirl, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The cowgirl replies, "Well, you see, I have two sisters. One is in Australia, the other is in Dublin. When we all left our home in Arkansas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my sisters and one for myself." The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The cowgirl becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. She orders three mugs and drinks them in turn. One day, she comes in and only orders two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When she comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The cowgirl looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in her eyes and she laughs. "Oh, no, every-

body's just fine," she explains, "It's just that my husband and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking." Hasn't affected my sisters though."

(REMEMBER, THIS IS ONLY A JOKE. ENJOY!)

### **Recently I was diagnosed with A A A D D Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.**

This is how it manifests: I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only one check left.

My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

I realize the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye—they need to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the re-

mote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day: the driveway is flooded the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, there is still only one check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail. Do me a favor, will you? Pass this message along to everyone you know, because I don't remember who I have sent it to. Don't laugh — if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

(REMEMBER, THIS IS ONLY A JOKE. ENJOY!)

### Parable of the Mousetrap

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered - he was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house — like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife.

The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her! around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died.

So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember — when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another.

(REMEMBER, THIS IS ONLY A JOKE. ENJOY!)

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

### April Hamfests

**April 1, 2006 Elizabethtown, Lincoln Trail ARC.**

Prichard Community Center, 4004 South Mulberry, Elizabethtown, KY. See <http://www.qsl.net/ltarc/index.htm> or contact Archie Mack,

AF4EB, (270) 351-6159 or amack1@bbtel.com.

**April 29, 2006 Calhoun Hamfest, Cherokee Capital ARS.**

Sugar Valley Community Center, 3295 Sugar Valley Road NW, Sugar Valley, GA. See <http://www.qsl.net/k4woc> or contact Felton Floyd, AF4DN, (706) 629-0369 or af4dn@arrl-ga.org.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

### From The Editor's Wastebasket

It seems to be time to start thinking about Spring activities. Though there's probably one or two cold snaps still due, it's apparent in my back yard that Spring has sprung.

The condx seems to be improving for hamfest expeditions, transmitter hunts and antenna projects that don't take advantage of the frigidity effect (3 db additional antenna gain for every 10 degrees below freezing when the antenna is installed -- doesn't apply to indoor antennas.)

Give some consideration to whether or not you'd be satisfied to get the Vox via internet. We will need a large group of non-hardcopy folks to be able to realize the financial benefits of internet distribution.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

### Vox By Mail or Internet?

As Chris mentioned, here is your chance to express your preferences about internet vs. Hard copy distribution of the Vox. If you'd be willing to opt out of receiving a hard copy of the Vox each month, let us know. You can send a note or postcard to the club's address (see first page) or send me an email (femens@hiwaay.net) stating clearly that you will be willing to receive the Vox by internet. If we don't hear from you, we will continue mailing it to you. If we don't get enough responses to make it financially viable, we will continue sending the Vox to everyone via U. S. Mule.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU  
femens@hiwaay.net

Labels must be parallel to the bottom of the mail piece within 5 degrees. Please affix labels carefully. Cover this block completely.

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
HUNTSVILLE AL  
PERMIT # 637

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club  
P. O. Box 423  
Huntsville Alabama 35804