

# VOX



## HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 49, Number 4

April, 2009

### NOTES FROM THE VEEP

Rolf is in Nevada and I'm in Huntsville. I really don't have much to report. However, here goes.

Thanks to Michael for his presentation on Handy Ham. I believe that this is an activity which we should support.

Ares/ Races meeting was held at the EMA on the 12 of March.

*That all folks,  
Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM*

### Update on BJHS project

This is an update on the project to establish an amateur radio station at Bob Jones High School in Madison, as part of the ARRL Amateur Radio Education & Technology Program (ETP).

I have met several times with Dr. Julie Finley, Assistant Principal, and Mr. Jeremy Raper. They are very enthusiastic about the project, and are working hard to bring the project to completion.

The school bookshelf that HARC purchased for the school has arrived, and will be presented to the school during April. We will have press there and this should be a good opportunity to let people know what HARC and the ARRL are doing to promote technical education.

Dr. Finley is working to have teachers from all levels of the Madison school system attend the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. Those applications should be submitted any day, with up to fifteen applicants.

Our preparation of a grant request to the ARRL for the Stations in Schools project is almost complete, and will be submitted before the May 1st deadline.

Dr. Finley and Mr Raper are making plans to integrate topics from Amateur Radio into the curriculum at BJHS starting with the next school year. Initially this will probably be done in Engineering and Space Science.

Mr. Raper is completing the steps required to establish an amateur radio club at the school. Several students (including some who are not my sons) have asked about establishing this club. This will allow us to have amateur radio activity at the school outside of the classroom, and help us organize the students who have an interest, so we are prepared when it is time to begin assembling the station.

Dr. Finley is involved in an effort at the school to integrate public service into the school. She is working with many people and agencies including the Volunteer Coordinator for the city of Madison, and the Red Cross. She is very interested in the public service aspects of amateur radio, and quite knowledgeable about areas where amateur radio operators serve the community.

With the dedication and enthusiasm that the school administration is showing for this project, I expect that we will continue to show rapid progress.

*Steve Conklin, AI4QR*

### Dick Swan, K4FAZ - SK



Richard Swan, K4FAZ of Huntsville, AL passed away Sunday, March 1, 2009 at his home, at the age of 86.

Licensed in 1936, Swan took Morse code classes in Chicago, and entered the Merchant Marine as a radio opera-

tor during World War II. After the war, he entered the University of Wisconsin, graduated with a degree in electrical engineering, and moved back to Chicago to begin his career in broadcast television as an engineer at WGN-TV, covering broadcasts of Cubs and White Sox baseball.

After a ten-year stint at WGN, Swan moved into the design of broadcast TV equipment for Sarkes Tarzian, where he was instrumental in the development of components including the VIS-series switcher/faders. After 12 years there, he moved to Huntsville AL, where over the years he started five businesses dealing with the broadcast television industry.

K4FAZ was active as a CW, SSB and digital rag-chewer, and met weekly on CW and SSB nets with fellow former WGN employees.

*Tom Duncan,*

### THE GIGGLE BOX

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GUYS AND GALS THAT HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL!!

Notes from Giggles: Hey, have you noticed? Spring is almost here. I think I have been wishing it was Spring at the beginning of Winter. The only comfort I have with winter is it only last about three months and it isn't as COLD as it is in other parts of the country. BRRRRR! I can remember when my family built a snowman and it took about a week for it to melt.

I also start looking for daffodils in January, but I usually have to wait till around March. Oh, well. Daffodils don't bloom very long, but like everything else, time marches on. Speaking of time, I can't believe that Field Day is just around the corner. Now that I've dropped the bomb about Field Day, I'll get on with the stories. CUL

(Text continued on page 3)

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

**Club Officers**

**President:**

Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG  
K4RGG@arrl.net

**Vice President:**

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM  
tzeiglerjt@aol.com

**Secretary:**

Doshia Wilson, KI4VFU  
wilson.00.doshia@comcast.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", and a discussion forum at

"http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/harc-al"

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. They have a web site at "http://www.qsl.net/nara"

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 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.

### 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 4

Saturday, May 2

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

kr4gu@hamfest.org

Or

Rick Earl, AA4II, 256-653-0101

aa4ii@bellsouth.net

Athens Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. They are held at the Athens EOC.

For information contact Dean Thompson, WW0I, 256-230-0270 or Rick Earl, AA4II (see above)

### HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR April, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	1 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting	4 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Building
5	6	7 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	8 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	9 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	10 HARC Meeting	11 *TWIAR
12	13	14 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	15 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	16 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	17 HARC Meeting	18 *TWIAR
19	20	21 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	22 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	23 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	24 HARC Meeting	25 *TWIAR
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	1 HARC Meeting	2 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Building

\*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

☑ Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store

**NEW LOCATION!**

Map showing location at the intersection of University Dr. - Hwy 72 and Research Park Blvd. Landmarks include Back Yard Burgers, Providence, and Target.

Mon - Sat  
10am - 7pm

Brands: HEIL sound, ICOM, KENWOOD, YAESU (Choice of the World's top DX'ers™), ALINCO, DIAMOND ANTENNA, MFJ

**A Story or Two:**

**DAD'S BELT** by John Gaudet

Out of all the things my dad left me when he died, a piece of an old combine belt was the most valuable. It was the belt his father used to beat him with and it always hung over the door to the bathroom as a reminder of what things could have been.

My father grew up poor in the remote province of New Brunswick. He worked the coal mines from an early age and indeed his life as a child was filled with hard work and harsh discipline. The man he called his father was actually his step father but he wasn't told of this fact until after the brutal man died.

His daily routine of work and turmoil was only broken by visits from his uncle Buck from Winnipeg. Buck was a large bear of a man who would come twice a year like clockwork to visit his sister and her kids. My dad said he was the kindest man he ever met and I guess it was his influence on my father that

helped him break the cycle of abuse in his own home as he grew older. We couldn't have asked for a kinder more gentle man than my dad and we all trusted and loved him deeply.

When he would talk of his childhood and the beatings he received his eye's would slowly slide over to the belt hanging there and his whole demeanor would change. The power of those Beatings must have been terrible and I would always go to bed with a heavy heart thinking of the childhood robbed from this gentle and loving man.

He taught us that no matter what people said or did to us we would always be welcome home any time, and we knew that we could always count on a smile and a gentle word of advice to soothe us when we got there. Time continued her dance, we all grew up and moved out but we still continued to seek advice and love from our father till one day we were informed that he had died.

It hit us all hard and as we met on the old farm tears flowed freely for this

man who had everything taken from him as a child but managed to find something beautiful for his own children to hang on to everyday. The lawyers came in the days after and the last wishes were stated and passed on. The estate was meager but we all received one gift beyond value or words.

In his last days he had taken the belt down from the wall and cut it into four pieces. We all received a piece of the belt that had hurt our father so terribly. That night we sat around crying discussing what he could have been thinking when he did this. As the night wore on it began to dawn on us what he really wanted. The belt symbolized everything he taught us not to be. It was his trophy. He had lived through the abuse. Instead of abandoning his life like so many others had, he embraced it and in doing so he turned a legacy of hate and hurt to a life of love and happiness.

I keep that belt on my wall. We all do. It hangs as a reminder of the obstacles we can all overcome with grace and

when my daughter is crying because she lost her pokeman cards or skinned her knee, I look at it, hold her tight and think of a man she will never know. A man I was and am proud to call my dad.

### Cell Phone Listings

Not saying to change the listing in the cell phone which could be useful in an emergency in locating next of kin, but don't give out security info over the phone!

This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology. What will they think of next??

**GPS** A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football match. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

### MOBILE PHONE

I never thought of this. This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc. was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby from a pay phone, telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our pin number and I've replied a little while ago.'

When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell

phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

### Moral of the lesson:

Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

### Mountain Living

A social worker from Boston recently was transferred to the Mountains of North Carolina and Georgia and was on the first tour of her new territory when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life.

Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door. 'Anybody home?' she asked.

'Yep,' came a kid's voice through the door.

'Is your father there?' asked the social worker.

'Pa? Nope, he left afore Ma came in,' said the kid.

'Well, is your mother there?' persisted the social worker.

'Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here,' said the kid.

Thinking she had her first violation to report, she persisted, 'But are you never together as a family?'

'Sure, but not here,' said the kid through the door. 'This is the out-house!'

### The Thought for the month of APRIL:

Often people attempt to live their lives backwards: they try to have more things, or more money, in order to do more of what they want so they will be happier. The way it actually works is the reverse. You must first be who you really are, then, do what you need to do, in order to have what you want.

*Margaret Young*

### The Puzzle for the month of APRIL:

FELI SI KELI DIINGR A KIBE, TI  
IS SSOPMILEB OT TAINMAIN  
OURY AALNCEB HILEW  
NNDGISTA LLITS.

- Linda Brakeall

*Peggy "Giggles" Bell, K4EGB  
pbell@hiwaay.net or sbell@hiwaay.net*

### CREATIVE PUNS FOR "EDUCATED MINDS"

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
14. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
15. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass'.
16. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

17. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

18. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

19. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

20. A backward poet writes inverse.

21. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your Count that votes.

22. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

23. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

\*\*\*\*

There are three types of people in this world - those who can count, and those who can't.

*Steve Bell KD4TFN,  
sbell@hiwaay.net*

### **From The Editor's Wastebasket**

I'm running about a half a day late getting this issue posted on the web site for you perusal. My apologies. My mind has been occupied with plans and decisions connected with my upcoming project of leaving this house where I've been for some 40 plus years and going to a retirement facility where life should be a little better fitted for an old goat. As of now, I'm continuing the task of putting together the Vox each month, but it is becoming obvious to me that I should start plans for passing that task on to someone else.

The last few issues of Vox have been "shortening up", With less and less info for the benefit of HARC members. Since I've made the point before that I don't "write" the Vox, I merely publish what the other HARC members have put together for the benefit of the membership. I'm unsure what the problem is. It's possible I've not done a good job motivating the members to put together material for the Vox. It is possible that the mechanism I've been using to inform the folks who "usually" are considered Vox contributors that a new issue is in the works is flawed. It's possible we are all tired of the idea of the Vox as a newsletter each month and would like to see it ended. (I really re-

ject that one, because the organization needs something to hold everybody together and keep them motivated.

If there's anyone out there who'd like to tackle the job of putting out a newsletter for HARC every month, speak up. I'd be happier seeing someone else take it on now than I would be trying to continue the project after it has gone stale with me and finally quitting (or becoming unable to continue) and leaving HARC with no continuity..

I'm not involved enough with the day-to-day activities of the club any more to do a good job of putting it all into the newsletter. We need someone more involved with the day-to-day activities of HARC..

*73, Frank Emens, W4HFU*

