



Field Day 2008

Field Day 2008 is in the history books. The Big Fat Turkey - K4BFT - operated 4A again this year, operating from the US Space and Rocket Center here in Huntsville. Total points, around 12,354, were down a bit from last year's 4A operation - due primarily to the generator difficulties we experienced. We'll be addressing this particular issue in the coming months.

Once again this year, we operated with a mix of very experienced hams, and some less experienced ones, too - but a good time was had by all, by all accounts. The Saturday afternoon club picnic, held on site, was well attended. Peggy Bell K4EGB et al really put together a fine spread.

Field Day Power and Light was ably managed by Al Bacon W6GBG, particularly in light of the malfunctioning of our main 12KW diesel generator. Carb rebuild by the light of a head-mounted lamp was certainly above and beyond!

Our tower erection and take down crew performed flawlessly, and safely, again this year. We put up all three of the planned fifty foot towers before sunset on Friday, even in the face of some parked cars in the 20 phone tower area. On Sunday, our takedown was delayed a couple of times due to rain, wind and thunder. The rain may have helped us remove all nine of the fence posts/guy anchors that we had installed on Friday - also assisted by Al Bacon's suggested removal procedure. The thunder was a bit spooky, but at no time did we have to put any tower climbers up in the air to get the towers down.

My thanks go to all who participated - and I'll be passing along some added lessons-learned comments to next years FD chair.

73, Leigh Bartlow WD4CPF

Impatience And The Solar Minimum

I predict that we're near the end of the Solar Minimum based upon increasing anxiety in amateur radio media. That's my theory, and I'm sticking to it.

In K7RA's solar update one reader presents a couple of methods for predicting when the actual minimum will be. Results indicate that we're either past the minimum or that we haven't reached it yet-I wish my manager would let me hedge my predictions like that! Still, the predictions are interesting in an academic sense, and in a year or so we'll be able to decide which was correct. K7RA's report is located at <http://tinyurl.com/5vdce7>

NASA recently published a feature titled "What's Wrong with the Sun (Nothing)." In this article, David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center presents historical data and statistical analysis to support his statement that there's nothing to report: "The ongoing lull in sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle." He also provides a graph of observed sunspot numbers over predicted values from 1995 until 2015. Ignoring short-term variation in the observed values, the two curves are almost identical. And according to that prediction, we are at the minimum right around now-even if we stay at the lower bound of the predicted range in the near future, the sunspot numbers ought to climb by this time next year. The NASA feature is located at <http://tinyurl.com/5dq2w4>.

Having only been licensed for a couple of years, I haven't been active through a solar maximum, or anything near one, although I remember hearing my father work stations during the peak of the late 1960s. To me, it seems a little obsessive to worry about solar cycles with respect to HF propaga-

tion-Why worry about conditions four years from now when I can just enjoy the ride until we get there? Maybe I'm naïve, having never experienced easy worldwide propagation but, on the other hand, with a little operating experience and some help from a few excellent Elmers in our club, I've been learning a lot about things that make me a better operator. These include the "summer anomaly" and more esoteric modes of propagation including grey-line and transequatorial. The summer anomaly is covered in the August 2008 issue of Popular Communications. You can see the first part of that article as a teaser at <http://tinyurl.com/5sko9s>.

One thing I look forward to in the next solar maximum is being able to have a proper DX rag chew instead of being one of several hundred people trying to pile through a 30- minute opening. Until then, I'm having fun anyway! No matter what the propagation mode and position in the solar cycle, there was a definite thrill in bagging New Zealand, Australia, and Hawaii all within a few hours last weekend on 20m, despite the solar minimum and my very modest station (100W and a 44 foot dipole at 24 feet). I had to work for them, but that makes them even better.

I'll be making a short presentation on these topics at the HARC meeting on July 25th

Steve Conklin AI4QR

SKYWARN, Doug Hilton

I am your SKYWARN coordinator for Northern Alabama and Southern-middle Tennessee. First, I'd like to thank Tim, N8DEU for his great article on APRS Packeting in the July 2008 Vox. He is passionate about ham radio and emergency communications, and it is very nice to know that hams like Tim have your back during an emergency! Now I would like to make a suggestion

(Text continued on page 3)

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:
Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG
K4RGG@arrl.net

Vice President:
Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeigler@aol.com

Secretary:
Doshia Wilson, KI4VFU
wilson.00.doshis@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, August 2
Saturday, September 6
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 August, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 *TWIAR, 2000 CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Bldg.
3	4	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting	9 *TWIAR, 2000
10	11	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 Preps for the Great Huntsville Hamfest.	16 *TWIAR, 2000 The Great Huntsville Hamfest, VBCC South Hall
17 The Great Huntsville Hamfest, VBCC South Hall	18	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 HARC Meeting	23 *TWIAR, 2000
24 / 31	25	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	29 HARC Meeting	30 *TWIAR, 2000

*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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to Tim, and everyone who has these great ideas of how to help out. This month isn't technical, it's managerial. It is SMART (not me, the topic).

So, Tim and fellow ham operators, let's talk about tasks, which is the part of getting things done that is essential to success. I'm going to use Tim as an example, but feel free to fill in your own name where his appears. I work for a software development company, and I am trained as a "scrum master" in an agile software development team. Our team blows the doors off some of the other teams because we are empowered to get things done. I learned a lot about how to let highly-motivated (and highly-compensated) people get their job done without getting in their way. Here's how things work: First, Tim has a great idea, and he discusses it with someone. This time, his great idea was the use of APRS with respect to tactical communications, and "someone" is all the hams in the Huntsville area. So far, so good. He made his case for the use of APRS, and it appears to solve some

problems that I brought up in the April Vox, i.e., it is an effective communications tool. But now what shall be done about it?

Every great idea does not get done. Only the ones that have a good plan have a chance of actually being implemented. Let's break it down. In order for a good idea to become real, it needs tasks and personnel and budget - and it needs a little more besides: it needs a mentor or leader to make sure that all the tasks get done, and that the overall view of the project stays focused and on track. The tasks have to have a certain "quality", or they will never see the light of day. Tasks should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Applicable, Relevant, Timely. This is where so many people fail, and wonder why they failed. Let me pick on Tim for a minute (constructive picking). We agree that his idea produced "applicable, relevant and probably timely" tasks, but they were not "specific and measurable", so I predict that nothing will happen to the idea - EVEN THOUGH IT IS A GREAT

IDEA, I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED!

What happens is that everyone will read Tim's proposal and bob their heads up and down, and say "That's a great idea." Some hams will even say "I hope he does that", or "I hope someone does that." Bingo — there's the problem: There are no specific, measurable tasks to make it all happen. So next month, the great idea will be incomplete, then partially forgotten, and next time a weather event happens and Tim's great idea isn't implemented, Tim will be frustrated, a couple of hams will think about the idea and wonder why it wasn't implemented by now, and most hams will be back to their pre-existing ways of doing things (having completely forgotten Tim's proposal). That's how life works sometimes. So enough picking on Tim - he had some great ideas, and a passion for his great ideas.

Undoubtedly, other hams who read the article said "Yeah, that's exactly what we need to do." I say: "let's take

the idea to the next level - Tim, how about a concrete plan to make it happen?" I do NOT want to see your idea die, since all it lacks is a set of SMART tasks. But they must be SMART, or we'll lose a great opportunity. Jump back into the September Vox and tell us: 1.What are the exact steps that a ham operator needs to do to have a fully-functional APRS communications solution? 2.What equipment needs to be purchased? 3. How should it be hooked up to a set of different VHF, UHF and HF rigs? 4.What software is required? 5.How does it get installed? (which operating system, etc.) 6.How to configure it? 7.

What does the NWS office in Huntsville need to do to use the new system (exactly and specifically)? 8. How much does it cost each ham? 9. How easy is it to maintain and upgrade? 10. What if my station can't hit the local repeater - I'm on the wrong side of "the Rock"? 11.etc., etc., etc. (Tim probably has 20 more tasks to add)

So do you think that Tim will take on the challenge? I hope so. See, I set out a list of specific, measurable, relevant, achievable, timely tasks for him. Of course, he may have 832 other high-priority items in his universe, just like you and I do. So if he doesn't have the time, will YOU help him out with the APRS-ing of the Tennessee Valley? Some of you are on APRS all the time, and are wizards at it. Most hams are at the other end of the spectrum. Send an email to Tim and tell him that you're volunteering to help him out. Tell him that you're going to handle numbers 4, 5 and 6. Then let's see what happens. With your concrete volunteer help, Tim is likely to succeed! Remember - just reading a book about APRS is not like actually using APRS as a communications solution in an emergency situation!

The great ham operators of this area are needed and respected by the National Weather Service Forecast office. They need us and want us. Now, N8DEU has a truly "better way" to get things done. Will you help out? Stand by: we'll find out next couple of months. So, APRS-ers, let's hear from you on Thursday night at 7:30 P.M. SKYWARN needs you, especially now that the hurricane season is upon us.

Thanks Tim, and a much-deserved 73 to you for caring about us, friend.

*73, Doug Hilton, WDOUG / AAV4YP
SKYWARN Coordinator, Northern
Alabama / Southern-middle Tenn.
mail: WDOUG at hotmail dot com*

APRS - The Tactical Communications System

Last month's article seemed to create a little stir and there were several people asking questions about APRS with a few clubs requesting presentations. Wow! It was a pleasant surprise.

The buzz at Dayton this year was the upcoming Yaesu VX-8R that has APRS and bluetooth support built into the radio. This brings another vendor onto the APRS bandwagon. Now before you run out and try to purchase one of these radio's, just remember they are not released yet. Little is known about the new VX-8R. The representative just got the unit and did not know much about it. So what is known? It is a quad band HT with 6m, 2m, 220, and 70cm FM transmit and AM/FM/WFM receive, dual receive (V+V or U+U), independent AM/FM broadcast receiver, APRS 1200/9600bps (B band only), Weather Alert receiving, barometric sensor, HI-REZ spectrum analyzer +/- 60 channels, time domain display of received modulation, submersible IPX57 (3 feet for 3 min minimum), and a 7.4V 1100mAh Lithium Ion battery. Optional accessories are bluetooth hands-free support (BU-1 and BH-1 or BH-2), GPS unit and antenna. Too bad the bluetooth does not support a bluetooth GPS. Keep your eyes and ears open for more news leaks.

It was announced at Dayton that the new Kenwood TMD-710 would support smart beaconing. What in the world is smart beaconing. It basically controls when position reports need to be sent. For example, if you made a 90 degree turn in the road it would send a new position report regardless if you were beaconing 1 or 3 minutes to update your new course change. There are other features that speed up or slow down the beacon rate dynamically based on speed and course. One of the new firmware features added to the D710A is the ability to decode voice repeater postings. The user can pull up a list containing voice repeaters in the lo-

cal area on the display and push the TUNE button to command the radio to that repeater frequency, automatically set the tone, and set any unconventional offsets if they are necessary. All at the push of a button with no programming. All of our local digipeaters are transmitting local voice repeater information so the casual traveler will know what repeaters are nearby and quickly tune to them with a push of a button. You will know if you are in range of the repeater since you know how far you are from it based on the report. The repeater information also contains the range of the voice repeater and this will let you know if you are in range before tuning to it.

APRS is a situational awareness system to keep users aware of what is happening around them. I remember a few years back when we had an earthquake tremor to the east of Huntsville. Immediately, you could hear the chatter on the repeater with discussion about what had happened. Some folks were talking about a building exploding amongst other ideas.. Looking back, I can remember seeing an earthquake symbol on my map showing the magnitude of the tremor. Awareness! It is the same awareness we have with NWS Weather bulletins broadcast in real time on APRS.

Recently, I attended the EVA Amateur Radio Club meeting in July and learned that Morgan county is going to be installing weather stations at fire station across the county and involve Amateur Radio operators to install and maintain the equipment. This is suppose to be linked to Homeland Security funding. More details on this later.

If you are looking for an APRS software package that is fully supported there are some programs gaining popularity. One is call AGWTracker. If that sounds a little familiar it may be because the AGW Packet Engine sound card driver is written by the same author. BTW, this software can use online maps like Google Maps, Yahoo Maps, and Virtual Earth. This reduces the need to run out and purchase a map program like most other programs require. There is also a version of this that runs on a pocket PC that I am playing with at the moment. It is a very nice program and I can play APRS with my

Pocket PC Phone with no radio and no GPS because it is built into the phone. You can check his software out at "http://www.sv2agw.com/ham/" . Another popular program for LINUX is XASTIR that is robust and feature packed. Did I say it ran on LINUX? Oh yes, many people think it only runs on LINUX. Reading the FAQs on the website will change that opinion when you learn that it can also run it under Free BSD/SOLARIS/ATX, MAC OS, and Windows. There are several ways to run it under Windows and the FAQs provide a how to do it section. The project administrators Curt, WE7U, and Chuck, KG4IJB have done an outstanding job adding features and comparing what all the APRS software packages can do. Of course, it is simply good marketing on their part comparing the features of their product to the rest of the pack.

There will be an APRS Forum at the Cullman Amateur Radio SwapFest at 9AM on Saturday morning, 26-JUL-08. So, come on down and join the fun..

*Happy APRS Packeting
73's de Tim - N8DEU*

From The ARES E-Letter November 29, 2007

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor [snip]

+ WXSpots Fills the Gaps in Alabama Weather Event

In the last ARES E-Letter, I reported a new program called "WXSPOTS," which operates in a similar fashion to the DX Spotting software that many hams use daily. This software allows amateur radio storm spotters, SKYWARN groups, and others to post information about severe weather and share it in a real time environment. It is a free program, and has a user base of over 5,000 and is growing rapidly.

On October 17, we received a callout from our served agency, the National Weather Service office in Calera, Alabama, near Birmingham. Along with other hams, my wife and I responded and reported for duty at the amateur station there around 8 PM. We are both members of the Alabama Emergency Response Team (ALERT), which mans the amateur station at the NWS office, and coordinates reports received from various local SKYWARN groups.

Around 11 PM, one of the meteorologists on duty asked if we could obtain information about a storm that had just passed through Meridian, Mississippi and was currently approaching the Alabama border. This area of the state is often a problem area for obtaining "ground truth" reports from. Repeaters are not linked in this area, and there are only a few amateurs there. I explained that this was outside of our normal range, but did attempt to raise someone in West Alabama using the statewide ARES HF net on 75 meters.

After meeting with no success, I had an idea. I quickly downloaded and ran the WXSPOTS software on a computer used at the NWS office for our activities. I checked to see how many observers were on-line. I spotted Steven Earnest, WV5D, who is the EC for Clarke County, Mississippi, using the software at that late hour.

Using the "chat" feature of the software, I sent a quick private message to Steven asking for reports about the storm. While he was almost 60 miles from the storm, he was able to relay reports from a nearby repeater. He let us know about tree damage in nearby Moselle, and the temporary closure of I-59 due to the fallen trees. We quickly relayed that information to the staff at NWS, who were quite impressed with our ability to deliver the information that they needed. In the end, the event turned out to produce only rain in Central Alabama, but using the software, we were able to demonstrate amateur radio's capabilities to our served agency and meet their needs.

Even at that late hour, there were over 70 users logged into the WX spotting software, including many in the Southeast. Using radios alone, we simply would not have been able to provide the requested information, but the combination of software, Internet access, and local SKYWARN reports on a repeater in Mississippi provided a valuable "piece of the puzzle" for our local meteorologists.

I strongly encourage all hams interested in EMCOMM and SKYWARN to download a copy of WXSpots and consider its use for their needs as well. It can be obtained at: <http://www.wxspots.com/> My sincere

thanks to Glen Davis, N3FJP for developing the software and offering it freely to other amateurs.

*Les Rayburn, N1LF, Shelby County,
Alabama EC*

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GUYS AND GALS THAT HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST!! Hi guys and gals, I hope everyone had a happy and safe 4th of July. In a few weeks, school will start again. For me, that marks the middle of summer and Labor Day is the end of summer.

I remember the days when school started the day after Labor Day, but no more. I think they are trying to have school all year long. When I was in elementary school, I used to hide my old school supplies where I wouldn't have to be reminded all summer. Then my parents would start buying all new school supplies and that would make me want to go to school again, where I could use my new school supplies.

I think it took about a week for the new to wear off. Now, I just dread getting up early in the morning.

One of my granddaughters will start Kindergarten this year. I can't believe that she is already five-years-old. It won't be long till she and her big sister graduate from high school. Time is passing so fast. The five-year-old can't say her words plain and when we try to correct her, she tells us that she is waiting till she starts Kindergarten. She is very independent and stubborn. When I began working with the Huntsville Hamfest, I remember hearing people say that they had to buy school supplies instead of radio gear. I bet it will be a different story this time. People will have to buy GAS also. I hope everyone has their ham radio money saved up.

A Story or Two

How do you know when you're staying in a Redneck motel? When you call the front desk and say, I gotta leak in my sink, and the clerk replies, 'Go ahead'.

Redneck Garden Did you hear that they have raised the minimum drinking age for Rednecks to 32? It seems they want to keep alcohol out of the high schools.

Two reasons why it's so hard to solve a Redneck murder:

- 1) The DNA is all the same
- 2) There are no dental records

Who invented the toothbrush?

A Redneck. (If it had been invented by anyone else, it would have been called a teethbrush.)

A State Trooper pulls over a pickup on Highway 16 and says to the driver, 'Got any I.D.?' and the driver replies 'Bout wut?'

Did you hear about the \$3 million Redneck Lottery question

The winner gets \$3.00 a year for a million years.

A new Redneck law was just recently passed. When a couple gets divorced, they are STILL cousins.

Did you hear that the Redneck governor's mansion burned down? 'Yep. Prit'near took out the whole trailer park. The library was a total loss too. Both books went poof up in flames and the governor hadn't even finished coloring one of them.'

An Indian walks into a cafe with a shotgun in one hand pulling a male buffalo with the other. He says to the waiter: "Want coffee."

The waiter says, "Sure, Chief. Coming right up." He gets the Indian a tall mug of coffee. The Indian drinks the coffee down in one gulp, turns and blasts the buffalo with the shotgun, causing parts of the animal to splatter everywhere and then just walks out.

The next morning the Indian returns. He has his shotgun in one hand, pulling

another male buffalo with the other. He walks up to the counter and says to the waiter. "Want coffee."

The waiter says "Whoa, Tonto! We're still cleaning up your mess from yesterday. What was all that about, anyway?" The Indian smiles and proudly says .. "Training for position in United States Congress: Come in, drink coffee, shoot the bull, leave mess for others to clean up, disappear for rest of day.

THREE LITTLE PIGS This is a true story, proving how fascinating the mind of a six year old is. They think so logically. A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home. She read . 'and so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?' The teacher paused then asked the class: 'And what do you think the man said?' One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly ...'I think the man would have said - 'Well, I'll be!! A talking pig!' The teacher had to leave the room.

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good Life — like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.

Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

Take naps.

WHY USE THAT HEAVY TRIPLEX

This year's field day illustrated that you must use heavy wire for long runs, when using motors. Say you are trying to run a trailer A/C with a current draw of 10A at 120 volts. The starting current of this motor will probably be 30-50 Amps. The table below gives the voltage drop for extension cords (voltage drop is split, half between the neutral and hot wire).

WIRE GAGE	OHMS/100 FEET	10 A VOLTAGE DROP	30 A VOLTAGE DROP
6	.04	4	12
10	0.1	10	30
12	0.15	15	45
14	0.25	25	75

With the voltage drop in anything except the Number 6 triplex, motors will not start properly and may burn out.

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM

Stretch before rising.
 Run, romp, and play daily.
 Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
 Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
 On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
 On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
 When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
 Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
 Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
 Stop when you have had enough.
 Be loyal.
 Never pretend to be something you're not.
 If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
 When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Life may not be the party you hoped for but while you are here you might as well dance :)

The Hint for the month of AUGUST

Simple way to kill Fire Ants

Friendly cure for fire ants that has been announced by Walter Reeves on his Georgia Gardener radio program. Testimonials that it REALLY WORKS are coming in.

Simply pour two cups of CLUB SODA (carbonated water) directly in the center of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The whole colony will be dead within about two days.

Here's the good side: club soda leaves no poisonous residue, does not contaminate the ground water, and does not indiscriminately kill other insects. Each mound must be treated individually and a one liter bottle of club soda will kill 2 to 3 mounds.

Two Thoughts for the month of AUGUST

1) With gas prices going up, I had to purchase a new form of transportation, so I bought an ALABAMA MOTORCYCLE, A COWASAKI !!

2) When told the reason for daylight saving time the old Indian said. "Only a white man would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom of the blanket, and have a longer blanket."

The Puzzle for the month of August

YJO SI HET NIGLFEE FO NNNGGIIR IIDENS. (Melba Colgrove)

73, Peggy (Giggles) Bell

NARA Notes

First we have our bi-annual combined HARC & NARA meeting this month on July 18th at the Red Cross facility. I hope to see everyone there. We'll be discussing the status of all of our repeaters and what the current plans are. This past weekend our Channel 31 146.94 site experienced a roof leak

due to roofing construction. This was in the area of the building where our equipment is housed. Unfortunately we found rain water all over the top of our equipment. Due to some electrical shorting we've lost the audio output from the main receiver. I'm readying the backup repeater and controller to deploy to the site this week. This will allow us time to diagnose the main systems RX audio issue. We appreciate your patience while we work through the problem.

I hope everyone had a great time at Field Day this year. I enjoyed managing the 20 meter SSB station. I appreciate everyone's help to make it a successful 2008 Field Day for the HARC club. I'm sure the normal trials and tribulations that we go through every year to setup and participate in the event will make all of us better prepared for a real emergency.

73, Ralph W4XE NARA President

Lost, Found & For Sale

Found at field day 1/2-9/16 inch Craftsman open end wrench. any claimers? contact TZeiglerJr@aol.com to claim.

For Sale MFJ 962D HF 1500 watt antenna tuner in good shape contains SWR meter and antenna switch. \$175. George Wachter, WA4JSM, 852-4962

Call For Hamfest Help

Hello to All Prospective Hamfest Workers,

Let me say first that the Hamfest Committee wishes to sincerely thank all that participated as a Hamfest Worker last year. If we are fortunate enough to have you as a Worker again this year, or if you've never had the opportunity to work the Hamfest, we intend to make it a very pleasant experience for you. We'll give you free entrance to the Hamfest as usual, and we'll also give you five free prize tickets. But the most important thing we'll do is, provide your lunch each day. So, please give serious consideration to volunteering as much time as you feel comfortable with. We will need plenty of Workers this year due to the fact that we will host the 2008 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, among other events. If you intend to work, please get your info back to me as soon as you know what your schedule will be, so we can start on the database that will schedule you where you are needed, and at the correct time, based on your availability.

I've made arrangements to make your registration as simple as it can be.

Please go to <http://www.docbateman.com/hamfest.php> and fill out the form. Then simply click on the button to send it to me, and it should get the information to me right away. Once I get your form, I'll get all the info back to you by email. The info will consist of a few "rules for the road" and some descriptions of the job assignments, along with your personal schedule based on what you put on the form. If you have any questions, feel free to either call me or email me. My contact info will be at the end of this email. Thanks in advance for any and all help. Remember to get the info back to me as soon as you know your availability for work. Thanks again, and I very much look forward to working with you at The World's Friendliest Hamfest on Friday August 15th (move in), which is probably our busiest day. Also if possible,

Saturday and Sunday August 16th and 17th for the actual Hamfest. Thanks.

*Best Regards, Charlie Emerson/N4OKL
Vice-President,
Huntsville Hamfest Association
(256) 882-9137 (Home)
(256) 656-2491 (Cell)
Email: charlieemerson@hamfest.org*

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Looks like Field Day went off well. It's time now to get prepared for the Huntsville Hamfest. As best as I can determine, there was a mass email sent to the membership requesting you to volunteer to help out with the 'fest. The re-

quest is repeated in this Vox. Please get back with Charlie and let him know when and how much he can count on you to help get the Hamfest implemented.

This is the second ever August Vox. It has always in the past been dropped from the schedule because I was too busy getting addresses ready for the big hamfest mailing. The third Friday in July was also taken up by packing and addressing the envelopes for the hamfest mailing. A new way has been found to get that done, which leaves me free to get out an August Vox and

you free of a very work intensive session of mail preparation.

Hope to see a good turnout at the 'fest.

Oh yes, The September Vox will be delayed by one week because the hamfest occurs on the weekend usually associated with output of the newsletter. Plan to get your inputs to me within a day or so after the hamfest to get them into the September issue.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU