



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

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The club's address is Box 423, Huntsville, Ala. 35804. Meetings are held each Friday night at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross Building, 1101 Washington Street. Dues are \$12.00 per year, family memberships are \$15.00 per year. The club maintains a Web Site at "http://www.harc.net"

The North Alabama Repeater Association operates repeaters on 146.34 / 146.94, 147.78 / 147.18, 223.34 / 224.94 and 448.5 / 443.5. NARA dues are \$16.00 per year and may be sent to NARA at P.O. Box 18941 Huntsville, AL 35804-8941.

The club's packet radio interest group, HUNTSPAC, maintains an extensive packet network for the Huntsville area. Dues for use of this network are \$15.00 per year, and can be paid through the HARC Secretary-Treasurer listed above.

The club's ATV special interest group, TVATV operates an ATV repeater. It's input frequency is 439.25 MHz and its output is 421.25 MHz. A voice coordination repeater is operated with output frequency of 145.33 MHz, input 600 kHz down.

The Vox is published the third Friday of each month except for August. Editor of the Vox is Frank Emens, W4HFU, 3714 Lakewood Circle, Huntsville, Ala. 35811 or femens@hiwaay.net. Material of interest to the HARC membership should be submitted to the editor by the second Friday of the month of publication.

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

From The Prez

Ham radio-related news which reaches the mass media is generally on two topics: public service communications in the wake of a disaster, and spectrum issues. Spectrum news is of highest profile when the incumbent primary service is well-known, so ham allocations are often upstaged. This tends to present a monolithic image of amateur radio as a hobby allowed by the government to exist if it can provide certain public services when needed. Indeed, right at it's outset paragraph 97.1(a) of FCC amateur services rules reads "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

End of story? Not quite, though the ideas encapsulated in the four subsequent paragraphs are generally overshadowed by the first. To summarize, the service is also chartered to advance radio communications itself, in both underlying technologies and operating skills, and foster international goodwill by utilizing the radio wave's ignorance of national borders.

The history of radio technology began with the contributions of hams, perhaps with Marconi himself, who claimed to be an amateur in those early days when you had to love radio to put up with it. Art Collins (9CXX, promoted SSB), Walter Bruene (W5OLY, advanced RF measurement techniques), and Louis Varney (G5RV - guess what?) are three of many names associated since then with advancing specific radio technologies. Last Friday's program illustrated the role of amateur practitioners in communications satellites.

Hams needn't appear one-dimensional, "all ham, all the time". Walter Cronkite and SKs Barry Goldwater and Arthur Godfrey made their marks outside amateur radio, yet the connection between amateur radio and their

better-known achievements was more than passing. Did I forget the many space shuttle and space station astronauts?

Look for a two-part series on receiver front ends by Ulrich Rohde in QEX. I first learned about Dr. Rohde from a widely-used textbook in which his call does not appear. Indeed, Wes Hayward's "Introduction to Radio Frequency Design", a staple of many experimenters' bookshelves, had a life prior to becoming an ARRL publication as a textbook from Prentice-Hall. Old hat you say? Alright, Gerald Youngblood's QEX series on software defined radio is only in it's third installment, and L.B. Cebik's antenna modeling articles appear monthly at www.antennex.com.

One way or another, there are always those who take 97.1(b)'s principle "to contribute to the advancement of the radio art" to heart. Let's hope it stays that way!

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

How Is Everything... Wherever?

My enjoyment of ham radio started during the early 50s in Huntsville. I began as "shortwave listener" (SWL). According to the ARRL this is "A person

CAVEC Amateur Radio License Exams

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

Upcoming sessions are:
Saturday, December 7
Saturday, January 4

For information contact:

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

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904
dontunstil@hamfest.org

who enjoys listening to radio broadcasts or Amateur Radio conversations." I put lovely Heathkits together and strung wires - the longer and higher the better. It was exciting. At times BBC came in, fading, crackling. Local hams could be heard on AM.

A few years later our son, young Chris (about ten years old) and myself were invited by a neighbor to listen at his ham shack to ham conversations. He had a QSO going with a station in Africa, handed the mike to Chris and asked him to talk to the fellow at the other end. I still remember vividly Chris' question: "How are things down in Africa?" A good question!

Later ham radio followed in earnest for Chris (WB4UFQ) and myself. It still is an "ongoing project." I enjoy in particular DX and regular schedules with friends "over there" whom I have met in person several times and who also have visited us in Huntsville. We keep in touch and talk about how everything is.

Complementing this question to me is satellite TV reception. For many years I have received DW-TV (German television) on various satellites, C- and Ku-band in the analog mode. During September this year "they" switched to

the digital mode. All that was required in addition was a digital receiver of "modest" cost: less than \$ 200, made in Korea. It contains in its programs about 40 geostationary satellites and all the data for about 20 transponders per satellite. Amazing! I need the data for only one and keep the dish (7-ft diameter) in a fixed position on: AMC-1 (formerly GE-1). Here the settings for the reception of DW-TV:

- Position: 103 deg West
- Transponder 2
- Channel Center Frequency 3.749 GHz
- Polarization vertical
- Bandwidth 36 MHz
- Video Standard MPEG-2/DVB
- Modulation QPSK
- Symbolrate 29.270 Msymbols/sec

Reception is FREE, transmission: 24/7, languages switch between English and German every hour, programs in Spanish are at certain fixed times every day. MPEG-2 from the satellite on our standard NTSC TV set is super. To me the programs complement ours and inform mostly about how everything is in Europe.

In addition one can get on the computer www.DW-world.de The homepage permits selection between about 30 different languages. I recommend clicking on "English". Click on "live TV" and you will get DW-TV via RealPlayer or MS MediaPlayer. The picture is rather small because it is geared to a "regular" modem and runs at 45kbps .or so. My other broadband computer picture receptions between 300 and 500 kbps are much better at full screen. I understand that MPEG-2 is going to be a "world standard". More marvelous to me is that the "bird" at 22,300 miles is kept in a box about 50 by 50 by 50 miles by active control. That's the way things are "up there".

73, Dieter Teuber, N4GT

Please Give Us Your Current Email Address

Some months ago, I, hoping that the email addresses in the database would be mostly correct, rebuilt the email mailing list from Heath's membership database. There were a lot of bad addresses in that list. I updated as many of them as I could, but never got it 100% right. Every time I was asked to do an email announcement to the

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR December, 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	4 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	5 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	6 HARC Meeting Christmas Party	7 CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.
8	9	10 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	11 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	12 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	13 HARC Meeting Vox Night	14
15	16	17 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	18 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	19 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	20 HARC No meeting, Happy Holidays	21
22	23	24 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 Be on the lookout for sleigh mobile	25 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240 Merry Christmas	26 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	27 HARC Meeting No Meeting, Happy Holidays	28
29	30	31 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 Watch for overcelebrators	1 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240 Be alert for symp- toms of Football OD	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting	4 CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.

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membership I'd get a bunch of nastygrams from the "postmasters" of various ISPs.

That all came to a head a couple of weeks ago when I managed to lose all of my mailing lists, address lists and a couple of years of saved emails. When Tim asked me to send an email notice to the membership about Dick Esnault's presentation on Nov 8, I rebuilt the list from the database and let fly with the announcement. The following list includes all of the people I got 'bounces' on and the email address shown in the database. Many of them are obviously wrong on inspection. Many of you updated your info with me within the last couple of months, but that is now gone. Please, if you're on this list, or if you aren't but didn't receive the meeting announcement, take the time to send me an email at "femens@hiwaay.net" with your current correct email address. I'll feed the corrections back to Heath and we can have the information where it belongs.

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73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Thanks Field Day Participants

Field Day results are out on the web at www.arrl.org/members-only/qst/con-tests/results/2002/fd.pdf, ranking K4BFT second in category 5A and ninth overall.

For the third year running, the satellite station ranked first. It is indeed the month of the big fat turkey!

Like hamfest and public service events, field day success is a measure of the cooperation of many participants. Even so, I would like to single the station managers and expert contesters, many from the DX club, our own "satellite" Tim Cunningham, and the guy who secured our time-proven site at the last minute and quite literally made field day happen this year, Chris Reed.

Thanks from HARC!

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUI

2002 Space Symposium and Annual AMSAT-NA Meeting

The Space Symposium and Annual AMSAT-NA Meeting was held in Ft Worth, Texas on November 7-11, 2002. I was able to attend only one day of the event this year due to some scheduling issues and some prior commitments.

I ran into several old friends as well as some local folks from Northern, Alabama. Dieter, KX4Y, and Jim Sharp, KG4TUN, made the trip from Scottsboro to attend the activities. This year's symposium was well worth attending to learn about the latest in Amateur Radio Satellite Communications.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was our guest speaker at the annual banquet held on Saturday, 09-NOV-02. His remarks hinted at a significant shift in the ARRL's approach to spectrum defense. As you all may be aware, the ARRL has been struggling with this topic in recent years. AMSAT's contributions in putting satellites in orbit has been a significant defense in re-training frequencies above 28 MHz. The spacecraft that have been put into orbit help us to secure our frequencies. The work by AMSAT and its members does not stop there. As an organization, it is one of the few that live up to the arguments that help us to maintain frequencies for experimentation purposes. The NASA GPS experiment that AMSAT flew on OSCAR-40 (Phase III-D) has been a resounding success and an instrumental relationship that allows us to secure our higher frequencies for the future of Amateur Radio.

One small way the general Amateur population can help is getting involved and learning about how to use our

higher frequencies on the satellites. AO-40 has been successful despite the early problems with the propulsion system. Yet, today, it is becoming an increasingly popular DX satellite that can be heard with a smaller less expensive receiving system. You can purchase an AO-40 downconverter and antenna on Ebay just about any day of the week from K5GNA. Look for a demonstration at an upcoming club meeting on how to work AMSAT-OSCAR-40 in the future.

The hi-light of the meeting for the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club was the official presentation of the AMSAT Field Day Competition Award by AMSAT President, Robin Haighton, VE3FRH. I accepted the award on behalf of the club. This marks the 4th consecutive year we have earned 1st Place in the AMSAT Field Day Competition. Our success has not gone unnoticed within the ranks of AMSAT on the satellites and the HF bands. After the meeting, there were a few folks asking how we consistently get people to come out to our Field Day site year

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after year. I simply stated they had to live in the South to understand.

*Tim Cunning"ham" - N8DEU AMSAT
Area Coordinator*

THE GIGGLE BOX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
EVERYBODY WHO WAS BORN IN
DECEMBER!!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving. We really don't realize how good we have it. When we complain about the cost of living and how bad the politicians are running things, we need to visit another country and see how other people have to live and then we might be REALLY thankful for what we do have. On a lighter note, we are having the HARC Christmas party at the Red Cross again this year. It will start at 7:30pm on Friday, December 6. There will be some refreshments, but you are more than welcome to bring a snack tray or dessert of some kind. I thought it would be fun if everyone brought a wrapped gag gift to exchange. Don't expect me to suggest what stories carry gag gifts. I will leave that up to your imagination. I don't know if Santa Claus will be there this year, because I'm not sure if we have been good boys and girls. I guess we will have to wait and see. Ho, Ho, Ho. Happy Holidays

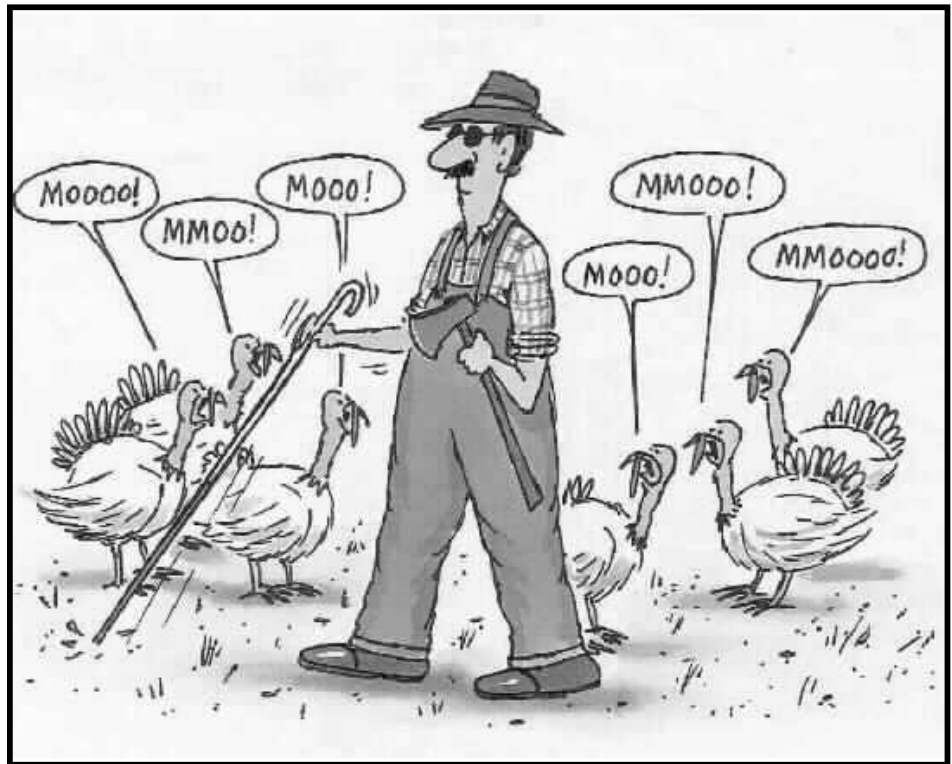
A Joke or Two

Cold Season

The cold season is upon us, so be careful what you take!!!! The owner of this drug store walks in to find a guy leaning heavily against a wall. The owner asks the clerk "What's with that guy over there by the wall?" and the clerk goes "Well, he came in here this morning to get something for his cough. I couldn't find the cough syrup, so I gave him an entire bottle of laxative." The owner goes "You idiot! You can't treat a cough with a bottle of laxatives!" and the clerk goes "Of course you can! Look at him; he's afraid to cough!"

YOUR DAILY HUMOR (Enjoy)

GOOD: A policeman had a perfect spot to watch for speeders, but wasn't getting many. Then he discovered the problem - a 10 year old boy was standing up the road with a hand painted sign which read "RADAR TRAP AHEAD." The officer then found a young accomplice down the road with a sign reading "TIPS" and a bucket full of



change. (And to think all we did was sell lemonade.)

BETTER: A motorist was mailed a picture of his car speeding through an automated radar. A \$40 speeding ticket was included. Being cute, he sent the police department a picture of \$40. The police responded with another mailed photo of Handcuffs.

BEST: A young woman was pulled over for speeding. As the motorcycle officer walked to her car window, flipping open his ticket book, she said, "I bet you are going to sell me a ticket to the Highway Patrolmen's Ball," He replied, "Highway patrolmen don't have balls."

There was a moment of silence while she smiled, and he realized what he'd just said. He then closed his book, got back on his motorcycle and left.

The Biker

A biker stops by the Harley Shop to have his bike fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home. On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and an anvil. He stopped by the feed store livestock dealer and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, he now had a problem: how to carry all of his purchases home. The owner said, "Why don't you put the anvil in the bucket,

carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?" "Hey, thanks!" the biker said, and out the door he went. But in the parking lot he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?" The biker said, "Well, as a matter of fact, I live at 1616 Mockingbird Lane. Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time." The little old lady looked him over cautiously, then said, "I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and ravish me?" The biker said, "Holy smokes lady! I am carrying a bucket, an anvil, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?" The lady said, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the anvil on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens.

A Man & His Wife

A man left work one Friday afternoon. But instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend, hunting with the boys & spending his entire paycheck. When he finally appeared at home, Sunday night, he

was confronted by his very angry wife and was barraged for nearly 2 hours with a tirade about his actions. Finally his wife stopped the nagging and simply said to him "How would you like it if you didn't see me for 2 or 3 days?" To which he replied, "That would be fine with me." Monday went by & he didn't see his wife. Tuesday & Wednesday came & went and he didn't see her. On Thursday, the swelling went down just enough where he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

Sighs of the Heart

She keeps repeating it over and over again. "We've been back to this shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this," the woman told the volunteer. "What is it she keeps asking for?" she asked. "Puppy size!" "We have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for." "I know. We have seen most of them," she said in frustration. Just then the young child came walking in the office. "Well, did you find one?" "No, not this time," she said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?" The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed. "You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply," the volunteer said. The young child took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "Don't worry, I bet we'll find one this weekend," the child said.

Over the next few days both mom and dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking any more," Dad finally said in frustration. We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," mom added. Sure enough they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now the young child knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted. The young girl walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one." It was the last cage

on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time it took a little longer. "Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it!" she screamed with joy.

Mom, startled by all the commotion, came running. "What? Are you sure? How do you know?" she asked.

"It's the puppy sighs!"

"Yes, it the same size as all the other puppies you held the last few weeks," mom said.

"No, not size...sighs. When I held him in my arms he sighed," she said.

"So?"

"Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me, 'Love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sighs!'" The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug her child she did a little of both. "Mom, every time you hold me I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said. Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said, "Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart."

The Millionaire Challenge

Once there was a millionaire who collected live alligators. He kept them in the pool in back of his mansion. The millionaire also had a beautiful daughter who was single. One day he decided to throw a huge party, and during the party he announced, "My dear guests, I have a proposition to every man here. I will give one million dollars or my daughter to the man who can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge unharmed!" As soon as he finished his last word, there was the sound of a large SPLASH!! There was one guy in the pool swimming with all he could ... the crowd cheered him on as he kept stroking. Finally, he made it to the other side unharmed. The millionaire was impressed. He said, "My boy that was incredible! Fantastic! I didn't think it could be done! Well, I must keep my end of the bargain ... which do you want, my daughter or the million dollars?" The guy says, "Listen, I don't want your

money! And I don't want your daughter! I want the person who pushed me in that POOL!!!

HAVE YOU HEARD ANYONE SAY THIS:

It's hotter today than, two gerbils humping in a wool sock!

The Thought for the Month of December

Plan a good chuckle to ward off illness.

DID YOU KNOW...

A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.

*Have a great day, 73 Peggy (Giggles) Bell
KAEGB SEW LONG!*

Did You Monitor The Apollo Moon Landings?

We've received the following request from James Oberg

"I'm collecting accounts of SWL's who tuned in to Apollo lunar missions, to quote them in my book refuting the moon-hoax silliness. I'm aware of Richard Flagg's work and the ARRL has sent me all their press clippings. Do you know anyone, especially in the Huntsville area, who monitored Apollo signals privately?"

"My discussion will also cover the points that even a disguised satellite relay would not be able to simulate the lunar signals because of their different AOS/LOS times across the disk of the Earth, and their different Doppler from 'rising' versus 'setting' stations."

If you have information that you think may help, contact Mr. Oberg at joberg@houston.rr.com

If you'd like some information on Mr. Oberg's background and activities, check 'www.jamesoberg.com'

I hope someone can provide the information needed.

73, Frank Emens, WAHFU

From The Editor's Wastebasket

It has sure been an eventful November here at the Vox works so far. I sure hope they quiet down in time for Thanksgiving! I know this is an amateur radio related newsletter, so I won't go into all the gory details of what happened with the local computer, but I will say it has had an operating system transplant and now is

running under Windows XP instead of Win-98 and that process required resurrecting and reinstalling all the software. It has not been easy and in the process I lost ALL my email addresses and records. I think it is all back together now except for the email and one program whose supplier I've not yet heard from.

Some have asked me about the Ten Tec Argonaut V transceiver I've been waiting on since Hamfest weekend back in August. It did arrive and it seems so far to be everything I'd hoped it would. Maybe I can bring it in for a show-and-tell session sometime after the new year begins. The original Argonauts, nice as they were, were built in sort of wimpy sheet-metal boxes with a string driven permeability tuning mechanism which got garbled up often enough that a standard repair part offered by Ten Tec was a new string assembly and complete instructions for installing it. The Argo V has a solidly reassuring die-cast front panel and almost everything about it is digital. They are still working on programming for the Orion, their new full bore "big rig". If their results are anything like what they've done with the little Argo, it'll be a world beater.

The Holiday Season has sort of snuck up on me this year. Here we are 'do'ing ther December Vox and I haven't dug up any of the holiday related material that usually shows up here. Maybe I'll get lucky before going to the printer.

Regardless, it's my wish that everyone in the HARC family enjoys a truly great and safe holiday season.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

December Programs

As I went publish the program calendar for the month of December I found that the first half of the month was scheduled with other activities. Hence, there will be no programs for the month of December so we can enjoy the festivities.

Last months programs were all well attended. We had to open the walls to accommodate the overflow at the Project OSCAR meeting. Thank you for your support, it was overwhelming.

If you have an interesting topic you would like to share with your fellow HAM's or if you know somebody who has an interesting topic to share with us,

please contact me so we can schedule activities for the month of January.

73's de Tim - N8DEU Program Chairman and VP

Equipment For Sale

Make an offer, we'll negotiate.

- 1) 2 kW Linear Amplifier, Drake L4-B, 80 through 10meters with power supply
- 2) Monitor Scope, Yaesu YO-301
- 3) Antenna Rotor, CDE Ham IV with control unit
- 4) Antenna Rotor TRA-4 with control unit
- 5) Alliance Antenna Rotor Model U-100 with control unit (new)
- 6) Dummy Load, 2.5 kW, 51.5 Ohms, Bird Electronics

- 7) Function Generator HP 3311A, 0.1 to 1 MHz
- 8) Counter, Davis Electronics, 600 MHz

Please call 539-7855, Rudi Decher, WB4UGR

More For Sale

- Alinco DX-70TH with Ext. Kit (remote kit) 160 M ~ 10 M + 6 M \$400
- Yeasu 8500 with remote head kit. 2 M & 440 MHz \$500

Contact Greg Seay at N4GV@mynra.com



Happy Holidays

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