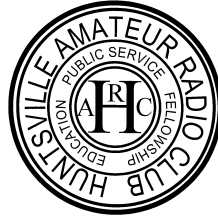


VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 43, Number 11

December, 2003

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
duncant1@ds-s.com

Vice President:

Kim Hensley, WG8S
khensley@gamewood.net

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 722-0250
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 the second Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 43, Nr 11, December, 2003
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

From The President

With the holiday season gaining momentum, we will all soon be consumed with plans to host and attend parties, see plays, pageants, and ballets, watch our favorite movies, decorate the house, and so on. In little more than a month it will all be over until next year. In our hurry, let's not forget these holidays' meanings. As I will be out of the country on business for the HARC Christmas Party (December 5th, don't YOU miss it!), let me now wish each of you a joyous holiday season, with best wishes for 2004.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

NARA Notes: Dec 03

Well yes, it's been a while since I have written a column for the Vox But here we are. The excuse? - OK what you've heard on the grid leak is true. I am now the Alabama frequency coordinator. It does indeed take up a good chunk of my time but it's been interesting & I've learned a lot. I'll have to give a HARC program on it next year. Thanks to W4XE from writing the last NARA notes

Getting down to the latest news with NARA repeaters: as most of you know, the big news is with the 146.94 Flagship machine. We will have a more detailed report at the upcoming HARC/NARA Kickoff meeting on January 9th but here is a few high points. We have been on the top small tower at Ch 31 for years. Due to recent events with the unfortunate fall of the large tower, there has been a consolidation to the small tower which effected us in the form of an antenna re-location on the same tower. At about the same time there were problems which surfaced with our own equipment: mainly the 100 Watt amplifier which caused very poor performance of the machine. Our approach at this time is to fix our own equipment as quickly as possible so that

only then can we really see the full effect of the antenna move. My hope is that by the time you read this, our equipment will be repaired. We may do maintenance in several stages and some of those tasks may require the repeater to be off the air a day or two. Your patience is appreciated. We will have a detailed update at the big meeting on Jan 9th, so don't miss it.

There are many options / opportunities to look at so if you have input, and want to help, don't hesitate to contact me. As always, we are grateful to our hosts at Channel 31. I hope that you will continue to support them as you always have.

Many of you have asked, what can I do to help? My first thought is - don't give up on '94 while the going is tough. Hang in there and keep using the machine so that we can characterize not

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 6
Saturday, January 3*

For information contact:

*Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154
kr4gu@hamfest.org*

Or

*Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904
dontunstill@hamfest.org*

Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. In even numbered months they are held at the Athens EOC. In odd numbered months they are held in Madison at Intergraph, Building 15

*For information contact Bob Hudson,
W4RKH, 461-7905*

only any problems but also what our new coverage is once we have dealt with all the problems that we can on the ground. Reports of how well folks are getting into the machine are appreciated and can be mailed to NARA@qsl.net and w4vm@comcast.net. Be sure to note the date, where the other person is and how much power they are running as well as if they are base / mobile. Describe how well they were into the machine - white noise, drop outs, mobile flutter etc. If you get in a situation where you can't get through on '94, don't forget to use the other NARA machines as well as DX club machines.

The 145.33 NARA machine offers very similar coverage to '94 (from Monte Sano) and the 147.18 NARA machine offers great coverage from Brindlee Mountain south of Huntsville. Even though the '18 machine has an IRLP node linked to it, it is still a local usage

machine 90% of the time. Listen carefully to the courtesy tones and you can discern if the IRLP link as been left on or not. More on that at the meeting but even if someone leaves the link on, don't be afraid to mix a local with a world wide conversation - this is ham radio, - it's supposed to be fun ! NARA users are also welcome on the 147.10 machine and the 147.30 DX club flagship machine. Both of these use a 103.5 PL. The 147.10 patch is temporarily down and 145.33 does not have a patch at current. The aging patch link was taken off of 147.18 in favor of IRLP but the old equipment is in service on 147.30 while it still works so you can try a patch on that machine. Please give preference to DX club members on the 147.30 repeater. And of course if you really do still favor auto patch usage over the cell phone, it may be high time to invest in a dual band radio. There are many patch capable 440 repeaters in town including

our own 443.500 which I think has the best patch audio of any machine in town! - not to mention the remote base fun that you can have.

Watch your mail boxes this month for the big HARC/NARA joint membership drive letter and please support NARA. We have a challenging year ahead of us in '04. Consider supporting with your time as well as your money. Elections are coming up and we can always use fresh blood weather it be as a NARA officer or on a committee or task team. The 2004 Nominating committee chairman is none other then our upcoming ARRL Alabama Section Manager: Mr Greg Sarratt - W4OZK. Contact him at w4ozk@yahoo.com if you are interested. See you on the air and at the big meeting .

73, Ron Shaffer W4VM / NARA President.

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR December, 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Christmas Party at Red Cross building	6 *TWIAR CAVEEC License Exams, 0900 Red Cross Building
7	8	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC / NARA Joint Membership Drive stick-on	13 *TWIAR
14	15	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting Vox & Sociable Night	20 *TWIAR
21	22	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	25 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 NO HARC Meeting Merry Christmas!	27 *TWIAR
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 NO HARC Meeting Recovery from hog jowl, blackeyed peas & football overdose	3 *TWIAR CAVEEC License 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

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2003 - A Brief Review

HARC welcomed quite a few new members during the past year, a trend we hope continues for years to come. Much is said of the aging ham, but our new members averaged younger than any of the popularly-cited figures in the mid 40s to mid 50s range. Our technician class and welcome-to-new-hams at the October and November testing sessions at the Red Cross shows there are indeed young new hams coming along. This bodes well for the hobby if we can keep these newbies interested.

One way to spread radio awareness to hams new and old and non-hams alike is through involvement in activities like bike races, motorcycle races, foot races, and balloon launches, and here again we have done well. Balloons activities show ham radio to a whole new group of people. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer support for these extra-club activities.

Alas, this year several north Alabama hams became silent keys. Equipment belonging to two of these, WA4LAF and WB2LLB, was donated through HARC for the benefit of area hams. Proceeds from the sale of this equipment allowed HARC to purchase a computer/video projector for the use of HARC, NARA, NADXC, TVATV, and our long-time friend, the Red Cross. Though this legacy, these hams will continue to be remembered by us all.

Finally, K4BFT once again garnered an admirable Field Day standing, to the amazement of all who operated through conditions which could be charitably described as lousy. Field Day tests our ability to communicate - whatever the challenges, many of which have nothing to do with radio. Hats off to all those who made Field Day a big success for the Big Fat Turkey.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

HAMOGRAPHY

This month has been rough in trying to get potential Hamography interviews

scheduled and done. did not happen. As Thanksgiving is nearing and I may have to hop a plane for Denver next week. I have relied on the candidate I do not have to interview. Me !!! I will do better next month.

Fred Kersey, WB0UCI:

It was Jan, 1976 in Grand Forks ND. The temperature in the U.S. Air Force owned, Boeing Company managed trailer park was minus 40 degrees, the wind was blowing at 60 mph and the wind chill was minus 118 degrees. I was reading the want ads in hope of something to keep my mind off the weather and the fast developing "Cabin Fever". The local Ham Radio club was advertising a beginning course in radio theory and Morse Code. Thus began not a short respite from Cabin Fever and a North Dakota Winter; but one of the most valuable and satisfying periods of my life. My first "Elmer", George, W0EUQ helped me prepare for my Novice Exam which I passed a few months later;

and gained my General Class Ticket the year after.

My first shack was very different from what is normal today. I began with an old HC-5 receiver whose lineage tread back to the innards of a World War II B25 Bomber. Great on sensitivity, but lousy on selectivity. As if that was not less than the "State Of The Art"; my first transmitter was an old Johnson Adventurer 25 watt CW crystal controlled unit, which I later equipped with an out board Lafayette VFO. Shortly thereafter I replaced the HC-5 with a Lafayette HA 350 receiver (which I still have). I fed the Johnson into a 40 meter Gotham Vertical antenna attached to the metal side of the mobile home, using the metal roof as a ground. The HA-350 fed off a separate receiving Di-Pole antenna. Not the best shack in the world, but I was on the air !!!! But, it was not long before I was getting complaints from HAMS all over North Dakota. The Johnson was putting out harmonics all over the Northern Tier of the United States and Canada was threatening to invade !!!! So, on a trip south to Oklahoma to visit family, I stopped at Burgardts in Peere South Dakota and bought a Halecrafter's HT-37 Transmitter. Canada signed a Peace Treaty with the U.S. and I was once again accepted as a member of the family of Grand Forks, ND HAMS !!!! The next year I received my General Class Ticket and added an Astatic D-104 mike to the HT-37.

Today, I have 3 shacks; one at my house in the St. Louis, MO area; one in my motor home in the driveway of the house; and one in my apartment in Madison, AL.. The shack in the house includes a pair of vintage 1973 Kenwood Twins (the T599 transmitter and the R599 receiver) running into an 80/40 meter Butternut Vertical and a 20/15/10 meter Hy Gain Vertical. The shack in the house also contains a 2 meter Packett station fed by an Icom IC 21A into a J Pole antenna. The shack in the motor home includes an ICOM IC 725 HF rig running into Hustler mobile antennas for 80, 40 and 20 meters; and an ICOM IC 28H for 2 meters. The apartment Shack in Madison, AL is also

equipped with an ICOM IC 725 HF rig, running into MFJ Indoor apartment antennas for 40 and 20 meters. ICOM V8000 units also occupy the apartment and the car for 2 meters.

However the foregoing may sound; my life has not been entirely dominated by Ham Radio. I had a very good 25 year marriage to a wonderful lady that I lost to a heart condition in 1993. We had two sons, Mike and Steve and a Grand Daughter, Amber who is now 9 years old. I have a BA degree from Oklahoma City University and Graduate Work from Oklahoma Central State University; and am certified as a Logistical Engineer. I retired after 36 years with Federal Civil Service in 1996; and have been working for Defense Contractors since then. I am currently with COBRO Corporation as a Senior Analyst. My other interests include Photography and Trout Fishing.

Since obtaining my Extra Class ticket in September, 2003; my next Ham related goal is to get my CW Code speed up to at least 20 wpm.

Thanks HARC for allowing me to be part of your family:

73s, Fred Kersey WB0UCI

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN
NOVEMBER!!

A note from Giggles: I hope everyone remembered the Veterans on Veterans Day. Thanks to all the Veterans and may God bless you. I hope the weather will be nice on Veterans Day because I plan to go watch the parade go by in Huntsville. I said that I wanted to take pictures of the different colors of the leaves, but wouldn't you know it, my camera is always at home. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Remember, you are making memories when you get together with your families. I look forward to cooking and eating with my family. We are blessed to have them. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

A Joke or Two

Ms Susie asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by

Jimmy's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The flight to Egypt," said Jimmy. "I see . . . and that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Susie said. "But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius the Pilot."

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out.'"

A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that, Mommy?" he asked. "To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny. "Giving up?"

Important Lessons -- Cleaning Lady

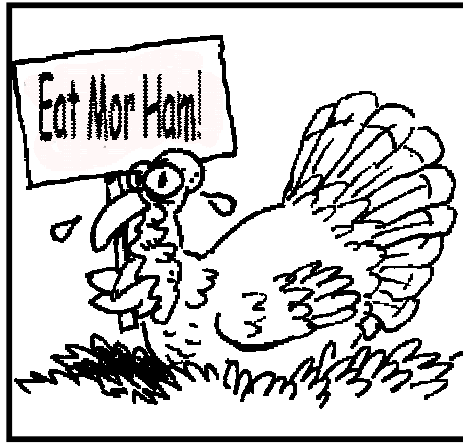
During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school? Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before

class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'. I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11.30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Always remember those who serve in the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well how much is a plain dish of ice cream?", he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry



A message from your local Turkey

as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

The obstacle in Our Path In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

Giving When it Counts Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who

had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away". Being young the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

The Thought for the Month of November: Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like you do when nobody's watching.

Did You Know: Save empty nut cans during the year and attach Christmas wrapping paper to the outside. They are perfect to put homemade sugared nuts in for a gift.

Solve the puzzle: HNSIIGTAKGVN
SHA LUFREDONW AASMOR

73 Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB SEW
LONG!

Adventures in Balloon Chasing

What's happening in Amateur Radio? One does not need to look too far or listen very long before they hear of yet another balloon launch from NSSTC over at UAH. Students have launched 3 balloons since the last VOX was published and many Ham's have assisted in recovering the balloons after they land. The trick to knowing where they land is where APRS really shines. A handheld, GPS, TNC or TinyTrak is all that it takes to transmit the location of the payload. When the balloon launches, the chase begins. As reported in an earlier article we actually saw a balloon land on one of my very first chases. Perhaps, it was beginners luck. In early November we chased a balloon that landed a short distance



from Sharp's Mtn just east of Madison County Lake.

What a great time of the year to go chasing through the countryside as the Fall colors were becoming very pronounced. We raced up route 65 and turned west on CR4 to be in place to watch another balloon landing. We were just on the other side of a hill waiting for it to appear when all of a sudden the balloon took a quick turn to the north on our APRS map. The winds generated by those hills sucked it right



up toward the cove of two hills. If there were a public road to get there we would have recovered it, but we had to find how to cross the hill. We met several locals on CR4 and they were all probably talking about these strangers carrying antennas and handheld gizmos walking and driving all over the neighborhood.

Everybody we met on the trip was friendly and helpful once we explained what we were doing. One family let us cross their land and we met some members of the Dry Creek Hunting Club who offered to take one of the students on a ATV up the hill. We equipped them with a handheld GPS to guide them to the target. They came back with reports of a very dense wooded area and we had to come up with another game plan.

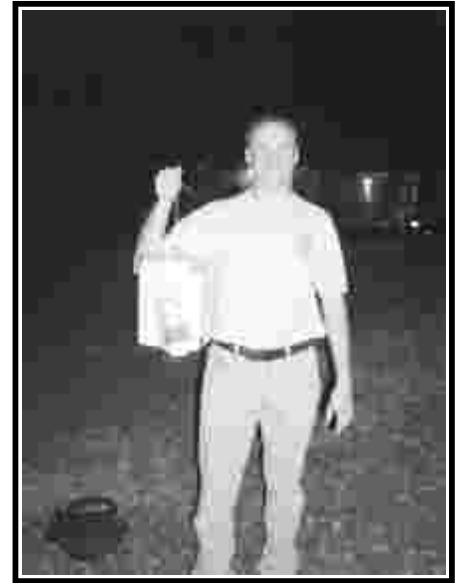


As darkness set, Bill Brown, WB8ELK picked up a telemetry signal of a second balloon (RadioSonde) that launched shortly after the student payload we were chasing. Bill talked us into the challenge of a Fox Hunt. So here we are walking down a country road looking for the unknown. We came upon a house and the signal was coming from the direction of the house. There was a sign posted on a tree in the driveway that read "No Trespassing". These folks seem to mean business.

By this time it is completely dark and we are standing on the road when this Jeep with 3 teenagers pulls up about 100 feet where we were standing. It was apparent they lived at this house and we probably startled them. As one of the crew walked toward the Jeep I heard the power door locks quickly engage. Oh boy, here we go now. They cracked the window to make conversation about what we were doing. After a few minutes they said it was OK to cross their property to take a look.



Bill walked around the house and it was time to remove the antenna on the HT and hold it close to the body and do some 360 degree turns to find the direction of the signal. We took a path behind



the house and got real close to where the signal was coming from all directions. From out of the darkness one of the students yelled, "There it is up in the tree!" Up in the tree it was indeed, but most of us could not see it until a



light was shined on the subject. Even then, I must admit I could not see it, but there it was up in a tree at least 60-70 feet. Gary, N4TXI, said he heard a noise like a buzzing sound in the darkness. Bill explained the payload had a pump running on it. The buzzing was off the path in the wooded area. Bingo! Gary found it lying on the ground. We thought for sure we would have to come back later to retrieve the payload. The High School senior who lived at the house later said we looked pretty important carrying all those handheld gadgets. It was a long day. I bet the young man's friends could not believe the reward Bill handed him at the end of the hunt.

Since we lost the last beacon from the balloon payload we originally set out to recover, we were still not sure exactly where it landed because we could not hear the APSR beacon after it landed. Bill called some friends on the other side of the hill in the Sharp's cove area to see if there was another way to get to the payload. On the way over, my laptop sounded a familiar sound "UPDATE!" I looked down at the display and we had just received a position report from the balloon payload. It appears those hills on the east side were Mother Natures RF choke, because we heard nothing from it on the CR4 side. This report gave us exactly what we needed to find the payload. Evidently, we found the right spot to get enough signal between the hills to get the information that was critical to the search. The next day we set out on a hike. Some of Bill Brown's contacts got us access to a gate to go 4-wheeling along some old trails and then on a hike for a couple of miles. We got within 0.3 miles of the payload, but darkness forced us to get out of the dense woods. We pushed the limit and ended up walking the last mile in complete darkness through a narrow trail. The wild life could be heard moving around us and we had no flashlight to see where in the world we were going. The hike proved to be helpful as we discovered a very nice fire road to get closer to the balloon payload. The students went back a few days later and found the balloon, but they could not get it out of the tall trees. That is another project. How do you retrieve a six-pack cooler full of electronics dangling from a tall tree? What an adventure! Steve KD4TFN, Bob N4CCO, Robby KG4PLK, Gary N4TXI, Dick W1TV, Charles KG4UWE, John W4JXP, and Bill WB8ELK himself went on the chase. I apologize in advance if I missed any names. Check out the pictures. Our latest adventure took us to Dalton, GA and the Cohutta Wilderness area, but there is no room left in this month's VOX.

73's, Tim N8DEU

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Sittin' here at the keyboard wondering what to pluck out of the wastebasket for you this month. Being that it is Thanksgiving time, I'll surely own up to

being thankful that HARC is continuing to be a successful operation with a dedicated and interested membership. I do wish you folks would make it easier for Fred to get his Hamography feature written by cooperating with him on interviews.

We have members of the group working with new(er) technologies like APRS, IRLP, the variants of phose shift keying, and so on. It's amazing what can be done nowadays with a computer and a good sound card. I keep remembering the savant who, in the early days of the first computers, said; "I don't see how the world could need more than maybe 5 computers." Now we approach panic mode when the home computer goes down.

Don't forget the Christmas soiree on December 5 and the stick-on for the HARC / NARA joint mailing on the 12th. We'll have a little over 500 envelopes to stuff, label and pack away ready for mailing. That shouldn't take too long, so we can make a short night of it.

On the back page of this Vox is a map showing the track of the weather balloon flight described in Tim's writeup. The balloon track is in blue -- unfortunately the map is in black & white, so you can't see the blue. I stuck a tag in to, I hope, show which one of the squiggly lines is the balloon's track. It is fascinating to me that that map was generated automagically as the target made its twists and turns and as the troops chased it.

It's not too early to at least start collecting up resolutions for the year 2004. A couple I'd like to see everybody make are to help the club keep meetings interesting by volunteering to present programs during the coming year -- and to help Fred Kersey in getting inputs for his Hamography feature. Both of those resolutions will do wonders toward making meetings interesting and toward helping us all to know each other better.

You never know when an action you take may have the effect of gleaning yourself a spot somewhere on the internet -- or what you might turn up with Google. I was sitting idly by the 'puter a couple of weeks ago and decided to do a

google search on "Frank Emens". I found out a bunch of stuff, including the fact that the auditorium at Ball State in Indiana is named Emens Auditorium (certainly not named for me!) But I found an item labelled "A Letter From Frank Emens". 'What the heck could that be?' I wondered as I clicked on the entry. Turns out, back in '76 when I still had an Apple Computer (not an Apple 2, they hadn't realized they needed to number them at that time -- it was the first one -- the one they sold less than 400 of), I wrote a letter to a guy who was publishing a little newsletter for Apple owners. It described some assembly language routines I had written that, combined with a program in BASIC, would let you produce music or Morse code on the cassette interface of the computer. I had called it "the Audible Apple". I revised them for use with an Apple 2 and proceeded to give a demonstration at a HARC meeting. I had completely forgotten about that activity, so I was dumbfounded when I found it on the internet. It seems somebody has built a website with a lot of historical Apple lore and there are people interested in building emulations of the old Apple and the old 6502 processor. Better be careful what you say, you never know when it might enter into posterity on the internet.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

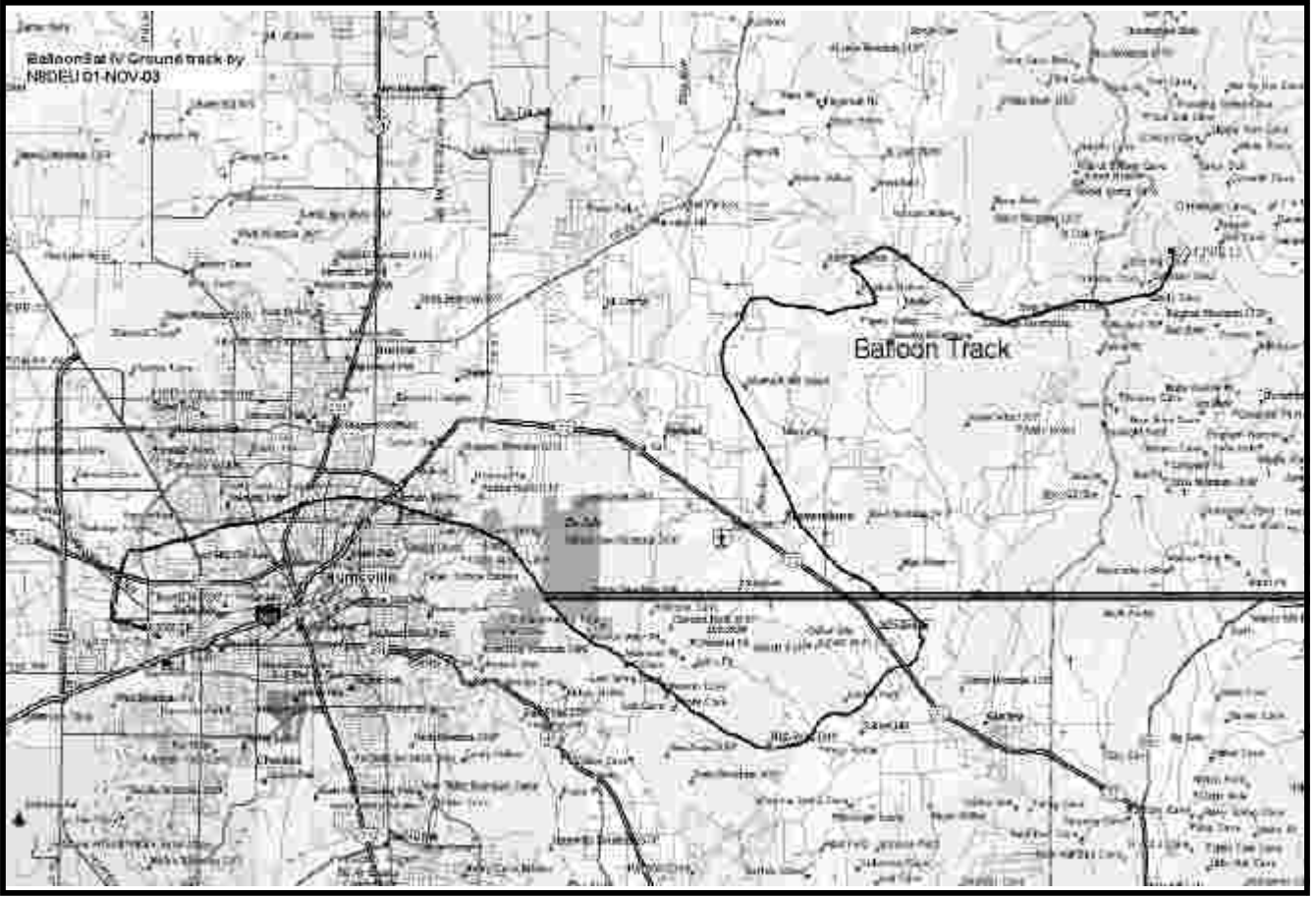
Flea Market

Gift Certificate Auction:

I am accepting bids via email on a \$50 Kenwood gift certificate won at the Hamfest. I will inform all bidders via email as to the current bid when new ones are submitted. Minimum starting bid is \$20.00 and increments are \$1.00. Bids will be accepted until 2400 hrs 11-31-03. Bid email address is jwallace@knology.net. Jim, W4NYC.

Old Teletype Gear Wanted

Steve Jones, who used to be a ham, is looking for old WW2 style teletype machines. If you've got one of the old clattering, oil slinging machines (I used to have a Teletype Model 15, I know.) stashed in the basement and would like to get rid of it, give him a call at 883-5479.



Ylabels must be parallel to the bottom of the
mailpiece within 5 degrees. Please affix labels
carefully. Cover this block completely.

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