

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 45, Number 11

December, 2005

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

Vice President:

John C. Hilliard, K4JCH
k4jch@aol.com

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 340-9531
hthorson@bellsouth.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. Its input frequency is 439.25 MHz and its output is 421.25 MHz. A voice coordination repeater is operated with output frequency of 145.33 MHz, input 600 kHz down.

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

"Vox", Vol 45, Nr.11, Dec, 2005

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

From The President

It's late November as I write this and it's time once again for the in-state rivalry between Auburn and Alabama. By the time you read this article the far superior "Crimson Tigers" will have won yet another hard fought Iron Bowl, conferring upon them bragging rights for another year.

Speaking of bragging rights, the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club - which for as many years as they've been loosely banded together - is not incorporated. According to one member who performed numerous hours of in-depth research, there is no record at the Madison County courthouse of any organization remotely resembling Huntsville Amateur Radio Club filing for incorporation. The research for our benefit is ongoing and is being conducted at his own personal expense.

The reality of not having the club incorporated for all these years is that officers of the club have been, and continue to be individually and personally liable for the club. Personally, I'm not sure if my homeowner policy will cover me should any potential legal issue emerge involving the club. I also doubt that other former officers or members' homeowner policies will cover them for such issues. However, we can be thankful that we've been fortunate enough to avoid any issues for which the officers could be held responsible. That's an awful risk to assume.

It's time to fix this situation to benefit the long-term survivability of the HARC. The way to do that is through incorporation. Of course, there are numerous issues which will rightfully be brought before the membership. The point is that we need immediate action in the coming months to remove the personal liability that club officers have because of HARC's non-incorporated status. A committee was formed at the November 11, 2005 to investigate this

matter, and will present a full report on this issue at the December 16 meeting.

Moving along to other issues, the annual joint HARC/NARA meeting will be held January 6, 2006. It's always one of the larger meetings of the year, and if you tolerate the January cold, we would really enjoy seeing you there!

73, Roll Eagle!, War Tide!

Christopher Best KB3DXR(Yankee Transplant)

2006 Field Day Site?

Rolf, K4RGG, and Tom, KG4CUY visited the U.S. Space and Rocket Center on November 10th at the invitation of Melissa, K14CWU, to look at potential 2006 Field Day sites. While we were invited in advance by Integraph to hold 2006 Field Day at our 2005 site, it never hurts to have a backup. We were impressed with what we saw.

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, December 3

Saturday, January 7

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

kr4gu@hamfest.org

Org

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904

dontunstill@hamfest.org

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

For information contact Bob Hudson, W4RKH, 461-7905

The area to the east and south of the Marriott parking lot, north of the RV campground, and bounded on the east by the campground entrance road (in front of the "Area 51" sign) is tentatively available - Melissa is verifying the details. There is plenty of flat ground, vehicle access, and grass mowed weekly. The site is visible from I-565 and Bob Wallace, and will have access to plenty of impressionable space camp attendees.

We encourage you to drive by and take a look, and give us feedback, positive or negative.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

NARA Notes

We have been busy this last month. Knocking out several of the projects on our ever expanding repeater to do list!

We removed the original .94 hardware for some overdue bench time update work. Cleaning up some of the wiring of the system and deploying a GE Phoenix SX as the remote link radio. One of the things we plan on doing while it is down is adding the doug hall voter to the system.

We have activated the backup .94 equipment at channel 31 as our main repeater while the main gear is down on the bench. We changed the backup system's PL tone to the standard 100 Hz tone.

We finished moving the .94 remote receiver up to green mountain. Plumbed some hardline to the antenna and setup the RF hardware. Initial testing of the remote system listening on the uhf link transmitter is very encouraging. We can't wait to try it out with a real voter system on .94!

Finally, Bill KC0ONR has been very busy tackling the 'crackle' issue on 147.18. Many thanks to Bill and his crew! After many experiments we are running split antennas. Receiving on the upper main antenna and transmitting on a new temporary lower antenna. This has resolved the crackle at this time. More activity at the site is planned. Stay tuned.

73, Ralph W4XE NARA President

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN DECEMBER!! A note from Giggles: Well, here it is again. The end of another year. I can't believe that 2005 is almost over. I was thinking back the other day how frightened some of us were because 2000 was just "around the corner" and everyone was backing up their computers, putting back food and

**HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR
December, 2005**

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	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Christmas Party	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Bldg.
4	5	6 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	7 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	8 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	9 HARC Meeting	10 *TWIAR
11	12	13 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	14 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	15 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	16 HARC Meeting Vox Night	17 *TWIAR
18	19	20 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	21 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	22 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	23 No Meeting -- Merry Christmas!	24 *TWIAR
25	26	27 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	28 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	29 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	30 No Meeting -- Happy New Year	31 *TWIAR
1	2	3 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	4 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	5 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	6 HARC Meeting Joint NARA/HARC Kickoff Meeting	7 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Bldg

*TWIAR -- This Week In Amateur Radio, +442.775 PL203.5 Hz 8 PM Every Saturday
 ATV Net @ 20:00, Check in on 145.33, Tuesdays
 Southeast Linked Repeater Net on +442.775, PL 203.5 Hz @ 20:00, Wednesdays
 Madison County Emergency Net on 34/94 @19:30, Thursdays
 SkyWarn Net on 147.24 @ 20:00, Thursdays

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Come see us next to Chili's!

water, buying extra batteries, etc. And then we realized that we worried for nothing. I remember looking on my driver's licenses and thinking that 2004 was a long way off into the future. Now I look ahead at 2010 and wonder what life will be like. In the 60's, I never dreamed of '05 ("ought 5"). I guess I will be telling my grandchildren what happened in "03". I can't believe that I have a few of the electronic gadgets, and, of course, they aren't the latest and greatest, but that isn't important to me. If someone had told me in 1995 that I would be sending email, surfing the internet, typing on a word processor, etc, I would have told them that I didn't need all that fancy stuff. Now how could we live without it. I'm sure that it would be hard. Anyway, I'm sort of anxious to see what happens in the next 10 or 20 years. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving Day. CUL

A Joke or Two

While enjoying an early morning breakfast in a northern Arizona cafe, four elderly ranchers were discussing

everything from cattle, horses, and weather to how things used to be in the "good old days." Eventually the conversation moved on to their spouses. One gentleman turned to the fellow on his right and asked, "Roy, aren't you and your bride celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary soon?"

"Yup, we sure are," Roy replied.

"Well, are you gonna do anything special to celebrate?" another man asked.

The old gentleman pondered this for a moment, then replied, "For our 25th anniversary, I took the misses to Tucson. For our 50th, I'm thinking about going down there again to pick her up."

*** Have you ever thought what this word stands for? Read on.... Do you know that a simple "hello" can be a sweet one? The word HELLO means: H=How are you? E= Everything all right? L= Like to hear from you . L= Love to see you soon! O=Obviously, You are my friend..so, HELLO! ***

Divorcing After 45 Years — A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York and

says, "I hate to ruin your day, But I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

"Pop, what are you talking about," the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old man said. "We're sick and tired of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her." And he hangs up.

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone, "Like heck they're getting a divorce," she shouts. "I'll take care of this." She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at the old man, "You are NOT getting divorced! Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" And she hangs up.

The man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "They're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."

ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.
Check www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm for address and phone info.

Section Manager: Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, w4ozk@arrl.org
 Affiliated Club Coordinator: Jeff L OBrien, KV4CX, jeffo@zebra.net
 Assistant Section Manager for Youth Activities, Rebekah A. Dorff, WG4Y, wg4y@arrl.net
 Bulletin Manager: William K, Hensley, WG8S, whensley11@comcast.net
 Alabama Frequency Coordinator - Liaison Alabama Repeater Council: Ron Shaffer, W4VM, w4vm@comcast.net

Official Observer Coordinator: Ken Magnant, WA4WEY, kmagnant@att.net
 Public Information Coordinator: James Spann, WO4W, wo4w@jamesspann.com
 Section Emergency Coordinator: Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, sec@arrl-al.net
 State Government Liaison: Richard D. Doll, KU4PY, ku4py@arrl.net
 Silent Key Coordinator: Doc Gordon King, W4XI
 Section Traffic Manager, Randy Cox, AI4FP, ai4fp@yahoo.com

A M I K E A E T O W E R
 P A R T R E V I E C E R
 C R E Q E O L R R A J E
 W A T T X I M E N E T P
 L I T S T B E T N R P E
 P D I P O L E L R A N A
 D I M A N N A A D O W T
 B S S I N G P A M D R E
 T C N A I G O R A D A R
 C R A H F E T E K C A P
 G I R O T A L U D O M A
 F E T Y R R A C D N A H

ment in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene. One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band - he could see it. In his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

Did You Know: The major television networks started broadcasting mainly in color in the 1960's.

The Reminder for the Month of December Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled.

Solve the puzzle: **EWN KORK YITC SAH HET STOM XSIAT IN ETH OLDWR**

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

From The Editor's Wastebasket

I've got to agree with Miz Giggles about the speed with which this year has passed. It seems like only last week we were figuring on the 2004 Christmas Party and only yesterday we were wondering who would be coming to the Hamfest. I hope things continue to go well for the Huntsville Area Ham community.

John Farr advises us that there doesn't seem to be any nearby hamfests to list in December. That'll probably pick up come January. John Hilliard, K4JCH reminds us that there are no programs as such scheduled for December. We

RECEIVER	ANTENNA
REPEATER	HANDCARRY
RADAR	MIKE
HARC	CW
TRANSMITTER	SSB
DIPOLE	PACKET
NET	MODULATOR
ARRL	PADDLE
QRM	WATT
BEAM	TOWER
PART	GEAR

*** Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involve-

have the HARC Christmas wing-ding on December 2n and we traditionally don't meet the Friday before Christmas and the Friday before New Years. That leaves only December 9th and 16th. The 16th will be Vox night and we'll either do the Joint Membership stick-on that night or the night of the 9th. Stay in touch for more information on that.

Be sure and make it for the joint meeting with the NARA folks the first Friday night of the new year, January 6th. If you don't respond to the joint membership mailout by mail, that is the perfect night to get down and get your dues settled for both organizations.

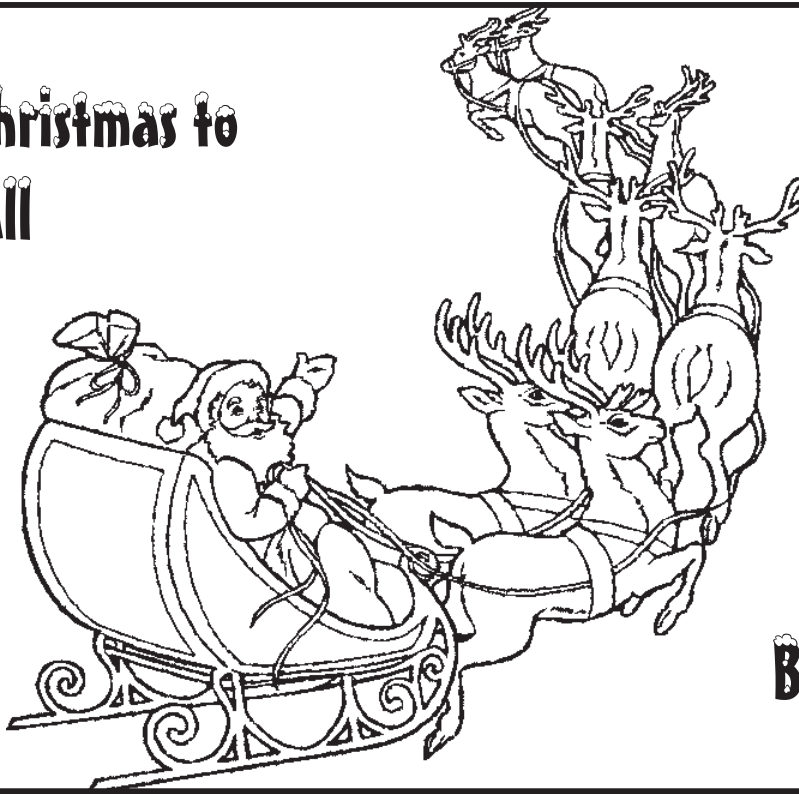
Please give us some feedback on the word-search puzzle on page 4. Miz Peggy was asking about running one from a book she has and I figured I'd see what's involved in getting one laid out for publication in the Vox. The best way to do that seemed to be to put one together from scratch, so that's what I did. I let it rest for a week or so after I put it together, then, when I decided to run it in this month's Vox I figured I'd better work it to see if all the words on the list actually were there. I had a hard time finding them all, but eventually made it. If you'd like to see more of them (definitely NOT every month, though) let me know. If you do, you might also suggest a set of words.

Though this is the December Vox, most of you will be getting it before Thanksgiving. I hope everybody has the best of Thanksgiving Days and are will on your way to having a great Christmas and a super start for 2006.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



**A Merry Christmas to
All**



**And All The
Best For 2006**

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