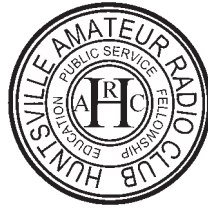


VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 48, Number 12

December, 2008

From The Prez

Brrrr. It is in the forties for highs, twenties for lows, I thought I lived in the South!!! Where is our Indian summer???? I had a bad feeling when I winterized the pool in September. I usually only cover the pump and filter and let it run when it is really cold (teens), but this time I felt I had to drain it. So far I have been right, but I hope I'm wrong. I do like the mild winters here but I miss the occasional snow. The good news is: very little severe weather, although North Carolina had some tornado victims just a couple of days after Kim and I returned from there last week. And how about all that early snow up North? Brrrr. But thank goodness the oil prices came down, I'll think I'll turn the thermostat a degree up now.

Your Prez, VP and treasurer met this month and discussed the earlier committee results on studying the BARC articles and bylaws. We had received, through one of the earlier committee members, a copy of a California club's articles of incorporation and bylaws. They are really short AND the club is an approved 501 (c) 3. We really liked what we saw but it needs some work and additions from our current articles and bylaws as well as some good pointers from BARC's. Honorary members for instance are not included. It's an exciting phase for the club and hopefully with all the travel and holidays the committee can meet one more time, then have it checked by a lawyer and bring it to the membership for a vote early in 2009.

Coming up December 13 at 8:00 AM is the Rocket City Marathon. Thank you Leigh WD4CPF for taking the lead on that. He still needs help with that. He and Iona are currently in Canada but he is coordinating through email. Please let hem know your are available at wd4cpf@hiwaay.net!

Thanksgiving and Christmas are here, party is December 5th. Your prez will miss it again as he his traveling for work! Thank You Peggy and Steve and all the other helpers for putting that together.

Be well, have the Merriest of Christmasses and the Happiest of Holid-ays.

73 de K4RGG Rolf Goedhart Your Prez

Ares / Races Update.

We got part 2 of our Red Cross Training. Damage assessment. A crucial part of the Red Cross services. Without it nothing happens. Thank You, Shirley and Charlotte from the Red Cross. This was a great training ! Thank you Woodie, K8GNM for all coordination work. We had again about 20 participants in the training and you most of them got their volunteer card at the meeting. If you missed it, please contact the Red Cross when they will offer these classes again. They are very useful for Ares members. SEC and EC's

Our new SEC, Section Emergency Coordinator, Les Rayburn, N1LF, is hard at work to fill EC positions in the counties that don't have one. Here is his message:

As you know, we have an urgent need for volunteers to serve as Emergency Coordinators the Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Out of 67 counties in the state, 29 of them are currently without an EC. This represents over 1/3 of the state lacking this important resource. Any licensed amateur radio operator (including Technician Class licensees) are eligible to serve as their counties EC. All appointments require the approval of the Alabama Section Leader, Jay Isbell, KB4KUN. It is also customary to consult with the county EMA Director, and local amateur radio club leadership before making an official appointment. All volunteers must be ARRL members. Volunteers do not have to reside in the

county that they serve as EC, so folks who want to help out and live in a neighboring county can volunteer for duty there. This is a great chance for hams to assist some of the smaller counties where the amateur population may be very small. Feel free to modify the sample announcement below to fit your own repeater. For example, rather than reading the whole list, the Jefferson County ARES Net might want to limit it to nearby counties like Cullman, Blount, and Walker. All these counties have regular "check-ins" to the 146.88 machine. Thank you all for your help on this important recruitment effort. Here is the sample announcement that we'd like to get out: If you reside in or near the following counties, please pay attention to this message: (READ THIS LIST) Barbour, Blount, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Clarke, Conecuh, Coosa, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Jackson, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Pickens, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Walker, Washington, Wilcox, Winston

The Alabama Amateur Radio Service (ARES) needs you! We're looking for volunteers to become Emergency Coordinators for these counties. If you reside in these counties, or in neighboring counties and are willing to help serve your community in the event of an emergency, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator, Les Rayburn, N1LF by telephone at 205-253-4867 or via e-mail at: n1lf@arrl.net For more information, please visit the Alabama ARES web site at: www.arrl-al.org and click on "ARES". Do I have any requests for fills or repeats?

*Les Rayburn, N1LF ARES / AL secretary
121 Mayfair Park
Maylene, AL 35114
(205) 253-4867*

(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.doshia@comcast.net

Treasurer:
Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 325-2507
hthorson@knology.net

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

The North Alabama Repeater Association operates repeaters on 146.34 / 146.94, 147.78 / 147.18, 223.34 / 224.94 and 448.5 / 443.5. NARA dues are \$16.00 per year and may be sent to NARA at P.O. Box 18941 Huntsville, AL 35804-8941. They have a web site at "http://www.qsl.net/nara"

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

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

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

CAVEC License Exams

Exam sessions are held at 9:00 AM the first Saturday of each month unless a holiday causes the session to be delayed for one week.

Upcoming sessions are:
Saturday, December 6
Saturday, January 3
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 December, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Christmas Party -- Start at 7 PM	6 TWIAR CAVEC Exam Session 0900 At Red Cross
7	8	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting	13 TWIAR
14	15	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting Label sticking session for HARC/NARA mailing	20 TWIAR Athens Exam Session, 1300
21	22	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	25 Merry Christmas EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 No HARC Meeting	27 TWIAR
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	1 Happy New Year EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 No HARC Meeting	3 TWIAR CAVEC Exam Session 0900 At Red Cross

*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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Our next meeting will be on December 11 at 6 o'clock on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Huntsville Madison County Emergency Management Agency at their Operations Center at Fountain Circle in Huntsville. Your EC will be in Nevada for work but hopefully someone else will pick up the pizza's. Please keep your posts coming at www.hmcraces.org

*73 de K4RGG at arrl dot net
Rolf Goedhart Emergency coordinator
Madison County*

SKYWARN

I am your SKYWARN coordinator for Northern Alabama and Southern-middle Tennessee. Training during the winter months will pay big dividends when Spring arrives with its usual severe weather outbreaks. I think that maybe the idea of studying more turns you off. Then, there's the kids' games to go to, and the endless honey-do's are waiting. Maybe you don't understand why anybody cares about an "incident commander", or how you, as a free-thinking Amateur radio operator

will integrate with the National Incident Management System, when we're all just in little old Huntsville. For sure there's some of you who think that FEMA is somehow the Enemy, and you're not going to work with them anyway. All those reasons are OK, as far as I'm concerned, and you're excused from reading the rest of this, and should skip to the "Giggles" section of the Vox. But there are a few of you who are looking for an opportunity to take it to the next level, whether you play soccer, jog, lift weights, play golf, or whatever. You try to achieve something, using only yourself as the benchmark. A few of you (us) run a marathon because it is a challenge to go 26 miles and survive. Some of you (us) are crazy enough to try to make a difference in the Tennessee Valley — during a weather event, or other emergency. Let me ask you a personal question: Will you be ready to contribute your ham radio skills? Really?

Can you answer this simple question: Where will you report, if you enter a di-

saster area? Do you know that you, as a ham radio operator, are part of the National Response Framework? You're some cog in the mighty wheel and your name is ESF-2. Wait! The Feds thought about Ham Radio Operators??? Yup. The first thing to do is look at IS-802 Emergency Support Functions Communications online — that will prove to you that you're really worth something to the Incident Commander. The way that the IC gets control is by quickly restoring communications. Everything that s/he needs is available at the other end of your ham radio!

If you go to an emergency site and they ask for your "credentials", it's for a good reason — they don't want you to get hurt, and they don't want to waste everyone's time with on-the-job training. That seems pretty rude, considering that you have the answer to their problems, hanging right from your belt. But you are only valuable if you "fit in" and can pass radio traffic accurately and in a timely manner. So your ragchewing habits are not really going

to impress the IC. Sending Morse code at 35 WPM is not going to impress him either, even though it's quite a feat if you can do it. What will impress the IC, and open the door for you, so that you can participate, is FEMA credentials, as a minimum. The gatekeeper is looking for you to show up with proof that you're NIMS compliant. That will cost you time (but no money), and you will be rewarded (but not with money). The next real emergency that happens will require communications, and you can provide it. Except for those darned NIMS-required training courses: ICS-100; ICS-200; ICS-300; ICS-400; IS-700; IS-800.

It takes somewhere between 3 and 5 years to become good at a new skill. You can blast through the NIMS courses on the FEMA website and get the nice certificates to use as wallpaper in your ham shack, or maybe you'll decide that this is good stuff, and you'll "learn it to learn it", which means that you'll earn it. See, it's not like primary school, where you study some boring stuff about some long-forgotten event, and then take a test, and hopefully get a score or grade. This is about helping people here at home, close to you, who are in big trouble, right now!

The final exam that you're preparing for goes like this: you show up; it's pouring rain; the wind is 60 MPH+; you're scared but you can't admit it; you present your credentials to the IC; it is hailing now; you set up the communications facilities, or join the COMMO team; you send messages; you receive messages; you eat; you sleep; you send and receive more messages; you are one of the most important people around; you are tired; the mosquitoes really love the taste of that leg of yours; you send more messages; you see a message come through that has names of people you know, and you know that you've helped them reach their loved ones; you hope your family is safe; you realize that the situation is under control; you quietly close the station and clean up the area; the IC says thanks; you go home. Then, you thank the Guy Above and take a much-deserved nap. When you wake up, you realize: IT WAS REAL — ALL REAL! That was ME doing disaster communications! I passed 200 mes-

sages! I saved lives! I ACTUALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE!! YIPES!

You will never forget it, I promise. And the people that you helped will never forget it either. Most of them never heard about ham radio before you showed up and started doing what you do best (communicate). They don't know that you do it for the love of the hobby, and they can't figure out why you do it without pay, in the crummiest conditions possible. And guess what, you just smile and think that it's mighty cool that you're really appreciated for the simple thing called ham radio. I'm going to point to our ARRL Southeastern Division Director, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK and ask him if he did anything particularly memorable during Katrina and Rita? I bet he can remember each and every one the hundreds of hours that he spent, and the good that he and the hams of our area did. But if you ask Greg if all the training was worth it, all you'll see is that little smile that he always wears. He'll probably be thinking "if you have to ask, I can't explain."

During the Christmas season of 2008, please take the time to prepare for "our" future. By investing time in NIMS, you give of yourself, and, in so doing, you become something Bigger Than Yourself (you become your brother's keeper, according to some reliable sources). I promise you that you become Something Special when you give the gift of communications to an Incident Commander — right at the time when s/he needs it the most, there you are, trained, rested and ready! Isn't that what Christmas is all about (giving a gift)? When s/he thanks you for the part you played in EMCOMM and disaster recovery, just say "Merry Christmas!" and then put on a Greg Sarratt smile...

Happy New Year, friends!

73, Doug Hilton, WD0UG/AAV4YP
SKYWARN Coordinator,
Northern Ala & Southern-middle TN

THE GIGGLE BOX

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

Notes from Giggles: Hi everyone I hope everyone is keeping warm. I

think ol' man winter is finally here. I hated to see the beautiful leaves go, but I look forward to seeing the beautiful flowers in the spring. I am enjoying the long nights that we are having. I imagine a lot of you don't because it is dark when most of you come home from work.

Bennie Durham, KA5KRG/SK, a dear friend of ours died recently. He will really be missed. When I first became a ham, I remember waking up to hearing his and another ham, Frank Brown, talking on the radio. Their conversations were always interesting and uplifting. They talked about how bad the winter was going to be and they usually were right. It was always good to hear something positive. I really miss their voices.

This years HARC Christmas party will be December 5, 2008 at the Red Cross building at 7:00pm. Everyone needs to bring a covered dish, dessert and a gag gift to swap. I will bring some meat trays and drinks. If you have comments, suggestions or complaints, send me an email with the address at the end of this article. You can also call me at 256-721-9707 and leave me a message.

Better go. CUL

A Story or Two:

SENIOR MOMENTS!! An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.' The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

--- Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!?! Like a newborn baby!?!'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

— An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

---- I was walking past the mental hospital the other day, and all the patients were shouting, '13.... 13.... 13' The fence was too high to see over, but I saw a little gap in the planks and looked through to see what was going on. Some jerk poked me in the eye with a stick. Then they all started shouting '14.... 14.... 14'

THE LAWS OF ULTIMATE REALITY

* Law of Mechanical Repair After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to go to the bathroom.

* Law of Gravity Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

* Law of Probability The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

* Law of Random Numbers If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

* Law of the Alibi If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

*Variation Law If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in

will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

* Law of the Bath When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

* Law of Close Encounters The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

* Law of the Result When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

* Law of Biomechanics The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

* Law of the Theater At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

* The Starbucks Law As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

* Murphy's Law of Lockers If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

* Law of Physical Surfaces The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

* Law of Logical Argument Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

* Brown's Law of Physical Appearance If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

* Oliver's Law of Public Speaking A closed mouth gathers no feet.

* Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

* Doctor' Law If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

The Thought for the month of December

It is not the cards you are dealt but what you do with them that counts.

Anonymous

The Puzzle for the month of December

A NNMETVOGRE GIB GHONUE
OT VEIG OUY EERTINGVYH
UOY ANTW, SI IGB OGHNEU
OT KAET EERTINGVYH
UOY VAEH

—Thomas Jefferson ?

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

Fom The Editor's Wastebasket

It saddens me to report that we lost Bennie Durham, WA5KRG. On Tuesday, November 11. Bennie had a long history of activity within HARC and in

The Huntsville area. He will be very sadly missed.

Well, here it is time for the big holidays again - Thanksgiving next week and Christmas a few weeks later, then New Years Day. Hope we all have our plans in order to get through the period safely. Hope everyone gets through New Years without suffering a football overdose. And hope everyone gets home safely on January First, 2009.

I still feel that we need to get some more organization into coming up with programs for meetings. Not necessarily every Friday night, but at least one good program a month. After all, most clubs meet only once a month.

Don't forget the big Christmas Party on December 5. Check the Giggle Box for data on the party.

Note the replica of the cover drawn by Bill Owens, W4YXW for the December, 1965 Vox.

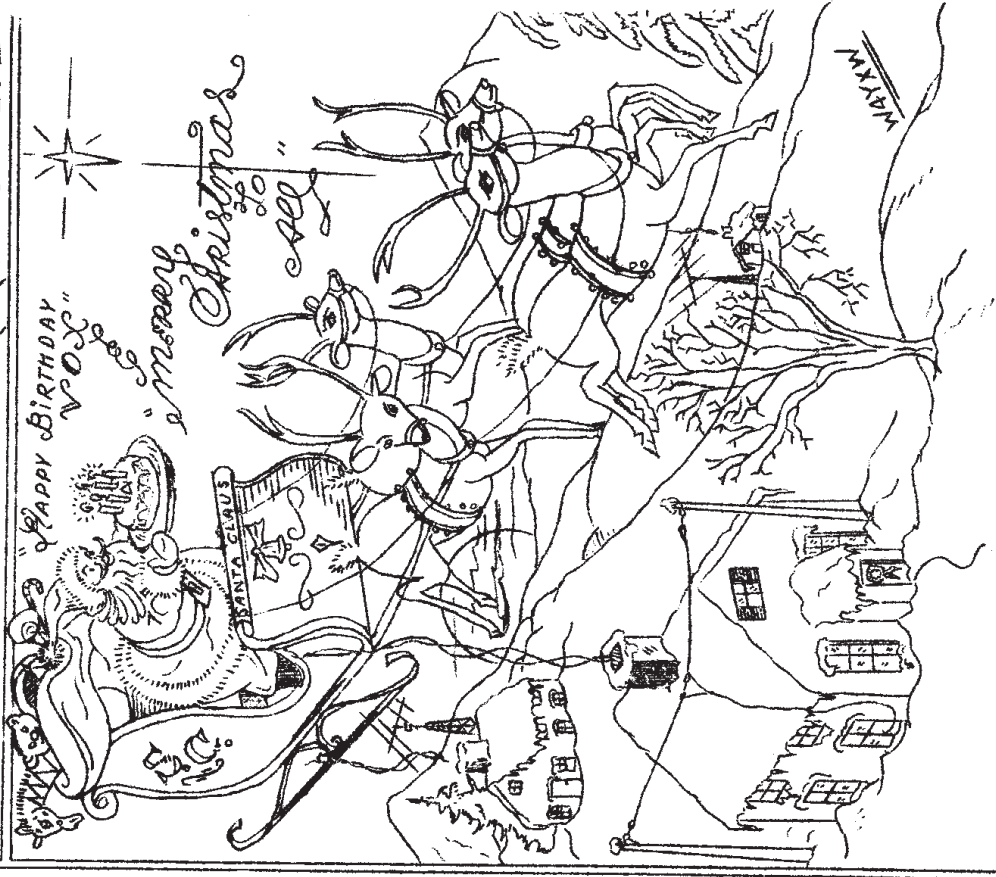
That's it for now. See you in 2009.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

VOX

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HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 423
Huntsville, AL 35804