



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers:

President,

Chris Reed, KF4MMF
creed@hiwaay.net

Vice President,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
Duncant1@ds-s.com

Secretary,

Scott Worsham, W4SSW
emofficer@knology.net

Treasurer,

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 722-0250
heath.thorson@home.com

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 42, Nr 2, February '02
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL

From The Prez

Where did the first month of the year go? It seems as though a few days ago we were ringing in the New Year and now Cupid is getting ready to launch some arrows as Valentine's Day is just around the corner. The HARC NARA Joint membership drive went off without a hitch. It was a great turnout with around a hundred or so amateurs in attendance at the Red Cross. Thanks to everyone with HARC and NARA for working hard together to gather support for both organizations. Hope everyone enjoyed the update on all the latest happenings with HARC and NARA. NARA as always gave a very informative update on the status of the local repeaters. If you haven't already, I encourage you to support NARA in their efforts to keep our local repeaters in great working condition. It takes a lot of money, hard work and dedication to keep those machines up and running 24/7 ready for anyone to use.

HARC also needs your continued support this year. In 2001, HARC was involved in several activities in our community. Year 2002 will be no different as HARC always gets involved where amateur radio is concerned. At the "big" meeting, I mentioned the need for someone to lead an educational program for amateur license classes. The need is there for HARC to reach out to those interested in our hobby, especially our young people. Another way you could get involved is to help throw a birthday party. HARC turns 50 years young in April. A HARC history program would be great or perhaps a special event station. If you have ideas or would like to contribute to these projects, make it known at one of the meetings or drop me an e-mail at creed@hiwaay.net.

In January HARC discussed the status of the van. A committee was formed to look into the Van and issues surrounding it. Some of these include repairs, insuring the van, and potential uses. A

report to the club will be forthcoming and options presented for discussion. Committee members include Don Tunstill W4NO Van Trustee, Jared Cassidy KQ4VT, Paul Paelian WB4UEE, Woody Zeigler K8GNM, and Howard Burns KD4BUP.

The month of February means thinking about those we love and of course the annual HARC program we know as Ole' Timers night. This year's Ole' Timers night will be Friday February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Red Cross. Traditionally, this has been a great night to hear some great stories from our most experienced hams. All types of tales and yarns will be told including stories about that first rig, interesting contacts, and how the hobby has changed through the years. If your an Ole' Timer, this meeting is dedicated to you. We encourage you to come out and have fun. Maybe call a few fellow Ole' timers to tag along. The more the merrier. We will have a mystery host, an Ole' Timer himself, not to mention some refreshments so come on out and enjoy. Hope to see you there!

*Happy Valentines Day and 73, Chris
Reed KF4MMF*

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, Feb. 2

Saturday, Mar 2

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-9154

KR4GU@bellsouth.net

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904

dtunstil@hiwaay.net

Veep Speak

Thanks to all presenters at the HARC/NARA joint membership meeting, which among many other things provided a teasing glimpse into the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). For hams like myself who rarely venture into wavelengths shorter than about 12 cubits, IRLP may be just the ticket to addressing acro-frequency-phobia head-on.

As the father of IRLP, Dave Cameron, VE7LTD, established the CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.

first cross-country link between British Columbia and New Brunswick in 1997, it is not surprising that Canadian radio clubs pop up in profusion from a web search on IRLP. These three are packed with information:

- Kichener-Waterloo ARC -
- www.kwarc.org Kingston -
- www.kings.igs.net Bruce -
- brucearc.on.ca

The site devoted to IRLP is irlp.net, and supports a dynamically-refreshed status of all nodes on the network at status.irlp.net. An article on qrz.com called

"An IRLP Primer" (www.qrz.com/article.pl?sid=02/01/13/0253202&mode=th read) gives a good overview, history, and even pictures of Dave Cameron's interface board.

Now let's see if I can find that tin of yak fat to grease up the mounting bolts for my new 4 cubit j-pole...

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Have We Met?

Huntsville's original amateur radio club, organized in 1947, could not survive the apparent "lack of participation" by its members. The club enjoyed only a brief, two-year existence before it was ultimately abandoned. Several years later, a group of local "hams" attempted once more to form a club and by the spring of 1952, with only 16 members, the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club (HARC) began anew. Though small in number, the club members were active with participation and over time, it was clear that they would not share a similar fate as their predecessors. Today, nearly 50 years later (April 16, 2002), that same club is still in existence, and continues to

grow, sharing in fellowship and the interest of amateur radio.

Our "hobby" has enjoyed many changes during the time that HARC has been a club. Rapid advances in technology and technique continue to open doors of opportunity for the many "hams" in the local community. It's doubtful that the clubs original members could have imagined the possibilities of amateur radio in the new millennium. Perhaps even more surprising to them would be the number of members active in the club today. With each passing generation, HARC continues to strive, embracing the future and all that it holds. However, there is truth in the saying that "The more things change, the more they stay the same." The club of today is still faced by the same challenges of years past - To survive, the club needs active participation from its members!

The HARC / NARA membership drives in January attracted several new members to the club. Many of those who have recently joined HARC are new to amateur radio, or perhaps equally new to the area. The club wel-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR February, 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting "Vector Fields and Hydrodynamics" Video Tape Mississippi State Convention Day 1	2 CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg. Mississippi State Convention. Jackson, MS
3	4 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting "Homebrew PC Board Shielding and Grounding" Tom Duncan	9 & 10 Tennessee State Convention, Memphis, TN
10 & 10 Tennessee State Convention, Mem- phis, TN	11 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 HARC Meeting Vox and Sociable Night. Help us as- semble the HARC newsletter for March	16
17	18 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 HARC Meeting Old Timers' Night Come help us cele- brate our old timers	23 Hamfest Dalton ARC, Dalton, GA
24	25 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.

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comes all that joined during this recent event. The purpose of this article in the VOX is to allow members, new or otherwise, to become acquainted with those that actively participate in making this one of the best amateur radio clubs in the nation. Each person featured here is an active member of the HARC family. Be sure to attend each Friday night to meet them in person.

Trying to determine who had been the longest standing member of HARC wasn't as easy as I had planned. Asking a few of the "old timers" resulted in several answers, meaning that either no one could remember that far back, or perhaps no one was willing to admit that they had been around that long! Actually, it would seem that Jim Campbell W4YFN has been the longest active member of HARC, and at least a close second goes to either Ed Berisford WA4KMA, or our own VOX editor Frank Emens W4HFU. Although all of these long-standing members deserve recognition, I chose this month to highlight one individual that seems to be the most active of anyone, even among

many of the newer members. Over the years that I have been associated with the club, I can think of no one who has more faithfully attended the meetings each week than Frank Emens. His routine attendance and support of the club, in addition to his regular duties as VOX editor demonstrate a commitment to HARC that is perhaps unparalleled. Let's take a moment and get to know a little more about him.

Frank Emens - W4HFU

"I was licensed in July of 1954 between Sophomore and Junior year at Auburn. I had always had an interest in radio, possibly gotten from a neighbor who never got a ham ticket, but was really interested in radio & electronics. While I was at Auburn, I palled around with Hal Scofield, W4YNG and got introduced to the Auburn Ham Club.

After graduation in August, 1956 I came to Huntsville to work for ABMA which later morphed into MSFC. One of the first hams I met in Huntsville was W4YFN, Jim Campbell. He got me interested in HARC and I joined in maybe '58 or '59. He also got me hooked on the public service aspect of ham radio by talking me into being net control of a special event operation on 6-Meters support-

ing the first polio immunization drive. I was the kind of member who came to meetings ready to be passively entertained until Ed Berisford talked me into teaching a Novice code & theory class. That convinced me that being active in the club was better than just being passively there. Somewhere in the early '60s I ended up doing the Vox, typing the material on an old Royal portable typewriter on mimeograph stencils and printing them up on "Old Ink Slinger". I'm still doing the Vox, but both the process and the product are, I think, a lot better now - at least cleaner. I've been through most aspects of ham radio at one time or another, CW and Sideband traffic nets, DX, rag-chewing, 2-Meter repeater activity and packet radio. I actually was the first station in town to get on packet. I had to buy two of the old GLB TNCs and work from the shack to the bedroom (where there was an HT) to see if it really worked. Don't do much hamming now. When I get on HF it is usually with a QRP transceiver and CW. Most of the time I'm 'messaging' with the computer and can be reached at femens@hiwaay.net"

This is only a glimpse into the life of our beloved editor in chief, but I hope

that it encourages you to become acquainted with him. Let Frank know how much you appreciate his dedication to HARC and his efforts with the VOX. While you attend the meetings, be sure and also get to know some of the other members - Rolf Goedhardt KG4IGL, Robert Lock N4CCO and his son Robby KG4PLK, Bob De Pierre K8KI, Ron Lamb WB7VDN to name a few.

73, Don Wade, K4DRW

Comments From The Treasurer:

Well, greetings from the officers of Huntsville Amateur Radio Club. Glad the holidays are over and we are starting a new year. Hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. Welcome to 2002. HARC is starting out on a good track this year. As of 12 noon on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2002 all checks and monies received through our joint membership drive as well as collected at the big meeting have been deposited. We had a wonderful meeting and good attendance. I think the count was around 100 or so. If you didn't get to attend, you definitely missed a good update. John, Ralph, and Todd from NARA gave some good presentations. Chris, our club President also spoke as well on behalf of all organizations. It was great.

We have several things already in the works for this year. Our club van is one of the first projects being discussed by a committee right now. We hope to have those final results soon. Next is our Old Timers Night on Feb. 22, 2002. If you like stories and just hanging out and socializing with old buddies that is the night for you. We should have our hoop mania project coming up where we support the Red Cross with radio communications when needed around April 13 and 14th. After that, is Field Day followed by Hamfest again.

The year will fly by so stay tuned and come on out to the meetings. Just a reminder, our meetings are located at the American Red Cross 1101 Washington Street. We have them on every Friday evening at 7:30 p. m. or 1930 hours. We have lots going on so look forward to seeing you all at the meetings. If anyone has a problem with checks not being deposited, your not getting your Vox at the right address, or any other item in

that category, don't hesitate to let me know. I can't fix a problem if it is not brought to my attention. My email address is: heath.thorson@home.com Until next time, 73's see you all soon and have a great 2002. 73's from the treasurer of HARC which includes TVATV and HUNTSPAC.

Heath Thorson (KC4HRX)

EMA/RACES News

Things are off to a very good start this year! I was very happy to see such a good turn out at the yearly HARC/NARA meeting on January 10th. Most importantly, it gave new hams and hams new to the Huntsville area a comprehensive overview of what is taking place in the amateur community here - and how they can be a part of it. Thanks to everyone who made the meeting a success!

Recently, at our January 10th RACES meeting, we had 19 persons present and a new website was unveiled for the RACES group. The site address may change as we are contemplating a change in web hosts. At any rate, I will keep a current link to the site on our official EMA site near the bottom of the RACES page at: www.ci.huntsville.al.us/EmergencyManagement/RACES.htm. This site is a general RACES page on the City of Huntsville's server. The link on that page will carry you to the members' page which will be updated frequently. Thanks to Doug Childs, N2GTP, Chris Reed, KF4MMF, and Gary Dion, N4TXI, and others for their skill, leadership, and dedication in making this page look so great! The RACES group also had a brief presentation by Mr. Tim White of the Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit. Tim, who is a ham, learned about our group and we learned about his unit and how amateur radio can play a role in rescues. Thanks to Ernie Blair, WA4BPS, for bringing Tim along. We hope to have Tim as a member soon!

The work on the new Emergency Operations Center is proceeding quite rapidly now. We have built some tables, consoles, a control booth, and gotten fire alarm equipment installed thus far. Counter tops for the new RACES radio room have been obtained. It is hard work, but we are all so excited about the final result, it is well worth it.

On another note, I have been made aware that a new Meteorologist In

Charge for the now under construction Huntsville Weather Forecast Office has been chosen. This individual should begin working in late February or early March. According to the NWS website, negotiations on temporary office space for the new Huntsville NWS staff are nearing completion. They will have temporary offices at UAH until their permanent offices are ready later this year.

Hope 2002 brings you the best of luck!

73, Scott Worsham, W4SSW HARC
Secretary & EMA RACES Coordinator

Programs Please

HARC's program schedule is in good shape through March, after which there are plenty of choice spots still available.

Don't miss Craig Behrens, N4MT, talking on QRP at the January 25th meeting! John Morris, K4XH, has a set of 30 minute video tapes on a variety of physics and electronics subjects. Come to the February 1st meeting and watch tape #36, "Vector Fields and Hydrodynamics", presented at a level which does not assume you've just

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aced your sophomore differential equations final.

Thanks for all your suggestions, and thanks to all volunteers.

73 - Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Looking For Software

As acting EC for the Lincoln Co. TN Skywarn group, I am searching for a computer program that will do the following: Automatically dial, on command, about 30 phone numbers, consecutively and then leave a short voice message (i.e. TORNADO). This will allow me to alert our entire group of storm spotters to call into an emergency weather net on our 147.63/147.03 Mhz repeater. I can be contacted on this repeater, or phone: 931-433-5108, or e-mail jdharper@cafes.net.

Thanks, Dave Harper, W4NIQ

February Hamfests

February 1-2.
Mississippi State Convention,
Jackson Mississippi.

See <http://www.jxnarc.org> or contact Ron Brown AB5WF at 601-956-1448 or ab5wf@arrl.net.

February 9-10. Tennessee State Convention, Memphis, Tennessee.
See <http://www.dixiefest.org> or contact Melinda Thompson, KE4DXN at 901-743-1948 or melindat@mem.net

February 23. Dalton ARC, Dalton, Georgia.
Contact Marvin Cooper, N2MC at 706-629-1480 or n2mc@pointlink.net.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

From the February 1962 issue of the VOX:

HERE IS THE LATEST INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE DX CHASERS OF THE WORLD.

W4ECI and W4BPD have gotten together and decided to have a Dxpediton to end all DXpeditions.

W4ECI will be the man back home (in the states) handling all of the details, QSL's, Correspondence and the many other items that turn up as things progress. W4BPD (Gus Browning) will be the man overseas doing the operating.

If plans workout, Gus should be on his way sometime in January or February '62. The whole trip will require several months to complete.

We both know it will be impossible to operate from every place as outlined in the proposed stops but you can rest assured that no stone will be left unturned in the strongest effort being made to secure a license. We are looking for fellows who have good connections with hams and other people of influence in as many of these countries as possible. We know just how important it is to have our foot in the door before Gus arrives there. so we ask all of you to drop us a letter telling us what or who you know in the various places Gus will be going.

We are open to any suggestions from the DC fraternity. You can depend upon the heaviest operating being done from the really RARE ONES. At least 50% of the time will be spent at each location using SSB as the mode of operation. The other time will be spent using CW. We know what the DX gang wants but you might let us know what you want. There is no need of mentioning such spots as ALDABRA, TROMILEN, AGALEGA, KAMARAN ISLANDS, MT. ATHOS, DIU COLONY, DAMON, TIMOR, etc., we know that most everyone needs these -

GUS will go to most every spot on the attached list even tho' he may not have a license before leaving the states. He has previously demonstrated that he is a firm believer in pleading his case in person.

We will have a regular "pile up" operating frequency on each band from 80 thru 10 meters. There will also be some special operating frequencies. Well gang, here it is. We are both working like heck to make this a really BIG ONE.

73's W4ECI, W4BPD

(This is followed by a list of 75 countries that Gus was planning to visit).

This Dxpediton is sponsored by Ack Radio. Any donation from you DX Hounds would be greatly appreciated. Mail to Ack Radio, 3101 Fourth Ave., B'ham 5, Ala. More details in next issue.

The Editor's Wastebasket

I would have rather had Don Wade turn his spotlight on to someone else, but he especially wanted to use me for

his first attempt. I hope he gets a favorable response from each of the HARC members he chooses to put the light on. I believe it can be a popular feature in the Vox if he gets the right kind of cooperation, so don't be shy if he asks you.

Just before the Holiday break the club received a letter from an out-of-town member who was unhappy because we did not meet the week of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. I realize it is a problem for him who is in town only on those Friday nights and would like to attend a meeting. I can only point out that, unlike most clubs, we meet EVERY Friday night of the year with three exceptions. With 49 meetings a year, our members and officers deserve and welcome the chance to take a few Friday nights off to be with family and friends.

It's almost time for Monte Sano Marvin, our local groundhog and a distant relative of Punxutawny Phil, to be rousted out to see if we have six more weeks of Winter, or six weeks of cold, miserable Spring (either way, it'll probably be unpleasant through the middle of March.) But I can depend on the daffodils in my back yard to start coming alive toward the end of that period and we'll be off again, with FD, Cotton Row Run, Hamfest and all that stuff facing us again. Really I think I'm trying to distract myself from the fact that we've got some cold and unpleasant weather to go before all that good stuff happens.

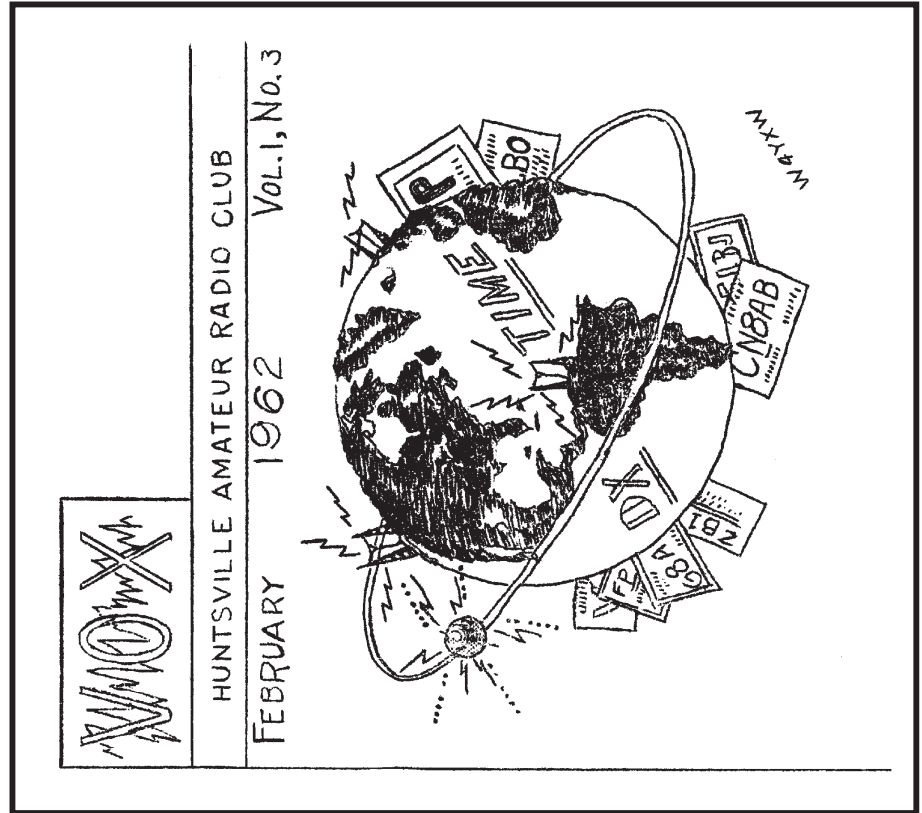
Just got through massaging the up-to-date membership file that I got from Heath yesterday. I checked and there are eighty (80) members who have not yet settled up for their dues. Please make things easier for the officers by taking care of that so we don't have to keep pestering you through February.

The item on the 1962 announcement of Gus Browning's dxpediton was gotten to the Vox by scanning and OCR processing the text. As many of you know, OCR processors often use creative spelling, so don't worry too much if you see something that seems out of line.

I'm looking forward to Craig Behrens and his January 25 program on QRP operating. It is a topic I'm especially interested in and he wasn't able to make it the last time he was scheduled. You got a pale imitation from Jared and myself in it's place. QRP is one of the most actively

growing aspects of Amateur Radio lately, being one of the last areas where it is possible for individuals to design and build equipment and put it on the air. There is no thrill available (from Ham Radio) that surpasses that of getting on the air with equipment you've built and/or designed and making contacts. It also let's you snicker in the face of those hams who believe ham radio is not worth pursuing if you don't have a Yaecomtecwood 2002 rig with a "Three-Hole" Alpher amplifier and a 6-element signal squirter beam at 120 feet. Given reasonable propagation, 5 watts and a decent antenna will get you a contact with just about anybody. What the power does is give you the ability to stomp on everybody else to make that contact.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



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