

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

February, 2004

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, 489-1240
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 44, Nr 2, February, 2004
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

We regret to pass along the news that Judy Wills, K4DOX, XYL of Ralph Wills, W4MKU, a long-time HARC member became a Silent Key on Friday, January 9

From the President

Joint Membership Meeting

The HARC/NARA Joint Membership meeting saw a turnout of over 75. We were brought up-to-date with last year's accomplishments and plans for the future by Ron Shaffer, W4VM, and Ralph Hogan, W4XE. All of us were aware of antenna juggling due to the Channel 31 tower collapse, but it took 35 slides to go over all of NARA's accomplishments and intentions, and the kind of money required to support them. Thanks to the NARA helpers who work behind the scenes year-round to keep our repeaters going. And thanks to all those who helped with collecting dues and providing refreshments.

Our new ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, debuted and announced his new web site, www.arrl-al.org. Check out this web site - keep in mind, it is new, and Greg is looking for your input to help fill it out. Congratulations Chris Reed, KF4MMF, whom Greg named as Madison County's new emergency coordinator. Chris was ready right out of the blocks with ARES applications, and clearly has plans afoot for shaping volunteer hams into an effective adjunct to official emergency agencies.

Thank you HARC and NARA members for the great turnout. Those snacks may have played a part, too!

Get Ready with those Stories

This is an advanced warning: Old Timers' Night is March 26th. All old timers, and those who intend to become old timers, are encouraged to get their tales ready. Dig out your original ticket to find out what year you were first licensed - there will be a poll, and the longest licensed ham will receive our heart-felt applause. New hams are welcome as well - our old timers have much to teach us, but beware, the older the tale, the more difficult it is to validate.

Anyone who would like to volunteer as Master of Ceremonies, please contact me.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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, February 7
Saturday, March 6*

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*

NARA Notes

Our joint kick-off meeting with HARC drew a great crowd. I think there were in excess of 80 folks there ! Thanks very much to all who came out to take part.

It could not have happened without the multitude of folks from both HARC and NARA who all pitched it to make it a great meeting with refreshments, door prizes and lots of good info and eyeball QSOs!

If you missed the meeting, or if you forgot to bring your dues with you, I highly encourage you to go ahead and fill out that Joint membership drive form and send in your dues support for both NARA and HARC. We depend on your support to keep ham radio on the cutting edge in Huntsville. As usual, there was much more to say last Friday then there was time, so as promised, I will be back for a HARC program of Re-

peater Features 101 on February 27th. One thing I almost forgot to mention was that our NARA web master: Cliff



*Ron, W4VM, Addressing The Multitude At The Joint Meeting
Photo By Don Wade, K4DRW*

K44U has had a lot of Irons in the fire lately and expressed the desire that help with the web page would be welcome if anyone is interested.

Also, I asked Ralph: W4XE, our technical advisor if he had anything for this article and he said one word: "HELP!" - I think he means something like "grab your soldering iron" there is always a "piece of the puzzle" alias task in the grand scheme of repeater projects that might just have your name on it ! Since I just gave the complete status at the meeting, nothing much has changed. Look for more changes and improvements on the repeaters this spring and summer, including a renewed thrust on remote receivers as well as fixing the problems that have been dogging us. Your patience is appreciated as we focus on the latter.

73, Ron Shaffer, W4VM, NARA President

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR February, 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	4 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	5 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	6 HARC Meeting	7 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Bldg
8	9	10 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	11 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	12 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	13 HARC Meeting Saturn V Restoration, Dr. Greg Gum	14 *TWIAR DixieFest, Memphis, TN
15 DixieFest, Memphis TN	16	17 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	18 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	19 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	20 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night	21 *TWIAR
22	23	24 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	25 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	26 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	27 HARC Meeting Repeater Features 101, Ron Shaffer	28 *TWIAR Dalton ARC Hamfest
29	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 Meeting	6 *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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HAMOGRAPHY

This month's "Hamography", deals not with a personality, but with a concept inherent in all of Ham Radio and the people who are advocates of that very special avocation.

KX4XXX "DRIVE":

Ladies and Gentlemen of HARC, re-introduce yourselves to "Drive", the longest standing member of the Ham Radio community. You will have noticed earlier that I referred to Ham Radio as an "Avocation" and not as a "Hobby". There is a definite difference between the two terms and concepts of "Hobby" and "Avocation". One implies an enjoyable pastime to be dabbled with as the mood dictates; something that can be enjoyed without a great deal of effort and sacrifice; something that may only be a short term interest and involvement in our lives. Such is the concept of the term "Hobby". "Avocation" on the other hand is a very different concept. "Avocation" involves dedication; constant focus; a very elevated place within

the priorities of life; mental, physical and financial sacrifice; and a never ending pursuit of the quest.

So, what makes the difference between "Hobby" and "Avocation"? What is that unique element so mandatory and present in the makeup and intensive energy implied in the term "Avocation", and seldom found or required in the understanding of "Hobby"? The difference is "DRIVE"!!! Drive is what compelled the advances of Marconi and the other pioneers of radio. Drive is what made the early Hams go through the difficulty of finding parts and building receivers and spark transmitters in order to reach out to others of like mind. Drive is what kept early Hams looking for a new avenue when the political and commercial interests forced us off the "Low Bands" and resulted in exploration of our wonderful 40, 20 and 15 meter bands of today when the commercial and government organizations could see no justification for spending the resources to develop those bands. It was

that same drive and for the same reasons that Hams developed the use of Micro Wave communication in the 30's and 40's. Again, when commercial interest could see no profit justification; it was the Hams of the 40's teaming with astronomers to develop the radio telescope through the drive to reach out to see what can be seen. It was the drive to reach out that caused thousands of young hams to spend summer job money on radio equipment rather than cars and girls, in order to become part of something greater and more lasting. That drive is the reason for many hams to spend the time and effort to learn the code and OHM's law in order to become part of that greater something.

Early in the 19th Century, Hams divorced ourselves from the term "Professional" Radio Operator because we for the most part were not involved with radio as a livelihood. Today, too many people mistake Ham Radio as a Hobby. For most of us Ham radio tran-

scends not only the search for an economic interest but goes beyond the desire for an enjoyable pastime. Ham Radio takes on that ether like state of avocation that motivates us like only a job can normally do; but without economic justification or reason. And the reason for that motivation, effort and even sacrifice is the compelling need to be a part of that something that is greater and more universal than ourselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen of HARC. Please Welcome "Drive" without whom Ham Radio would have become a passing Fad long ago!!!!

73 WB0UCI, Fred Kersey

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN JANUARY!!

A note from Giggles: Well, there it goes. I can't believe that 2003 has come and gone. As I was preparing the refreshments for the HARC-NARA meeting last Friday, I realized that Old Timer's Nite, Field Day Picnic, Christmas Party, etc. for 2004 is this year and HARC would be doing it all again. I hope our club grows and grows as I have seen it grow in the past. I look forward to having more fun this year. I would be bored out of my skull if I didn't do the things that I do for guys and gals. Congrats to all the winners of the door prizes at the HARC-NARA meeting. I hope everyone had a fantastic time with their families over the holidays. I did. There is nothing like watching your children and grandchildren watching fireworks, opening gifts, etc. I'm just glad that I am young enough to enjoy them while they are little.

I Bet You Didn't Know Some Of These !! (Me Either)

- The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- The State with the highest % of people who walk to work: Alaska
- The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...)
- The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 & lived in China in 1910.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.
- San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.
- AND FINALLY: At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow

Twass Tht Month After Christmas

Twass the month after Christmas, and all through the house Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse. The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste All the holiday parties had gone to my waist. When I got on the scales there arose such a number! When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber). I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared; The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rare, The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please." As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt And prepared once again to do battle with dirt— I said to myself, as I only can "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!" So-away with the last of the sour cream dip, Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip Every last bit of food that I like must be banished "Till all the additional ounces have vanished. I won't have a cookie-not even a lick. I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick. I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie, I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry. I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore — But isn't that what January is for? Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

The Mule

A farmer named Clyde had a car accident. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning Clyde.

"Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine,'" asked the lawyer. Clyde responded, "Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule, Bessie, into the..." I didn't ask for any details", the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'" Clyde said, "Well, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road...." The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question." By th is time, the Judge was fairly interested in Clyde's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule, Bessie" Clyde thanked the Judge and proceeded, "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting, real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road, gun in hand, looked at me, and said "How are you feeling?" "Now what would you say?"

Bungee Jumping

Al and Joe are bungee-jumping one day. Al says to Joe, "You know, we could make a lot of money running our own bungee-jumping service in Mexico. They don't have them there." Joe thinks this is a great idea, so they pool their money and buy everything they'll need; a tower, elastic cord, insurance etc.... They travel to Mexico and begin to set up on the square. As

they were constructing the tower they could see a crowd begins to assemble. Slowly, more and more people gather to watch them work. When they had finished, there was such a crowd they thought it would be a good idea to give a demonstration. So Al jumps. He bounces at the end of the cord, but when he comes back up Joe notices that he has a few cuts and scratches. Unfortunately, Joe isn't able to catch Al and he falls again, bounces and comes back up again. This time he is bruised and bleeding. Again Joe misses him. Al falls again and bounces back up. This time he comes back pretty messed up; he has a couple of broken bones and is almost unconscious. Luckily Joe finally catches Al and asks, "What happened? Was the cord too long?" Barely able to speak, Al gasps, "No, the cord was fine, it was the crowd." "What the heck is a Pinata?"

The Thought for the Month of October "Good friends are like stars... You don't always see them, but you always know they're there".

Did You Know: Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.

Solve the puzzle: **EGLUDNI NI MESO ITEUQ METI**

73, Peggy "Giggles" Bell, K4EGB SEW LONG!

Area Hamfests for February

- February 14-15 2004
DixieFest, Memphis, Tennessee. See <http://www.dixiefest.org> or contact Ben Troughton, KU4AW, 901-372-8031 or bktrough@bellsouth.net. Hamfest hours are Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 9-2. Admission is \$7.00. Talk-in frequencies are 146.820- (primary) and 146.880- (backup).
- February 28, 2004
Dalton ARC, Dalton, Georgia. See <http://www.qsl.net/w4drc/>. Contact Marvin Cooper, N2MC at 706-629-1480 or n2mc@pointlink.net. Gates open at 8:00. Talk-in Frequency is 145.230-.

73 John KC4ZXX

ARES and the Madison County Emergency Net

Tom has already "let the cat out of the bag" in his article about our new Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt,

W4OZK. Greg has been busy in the first month of 2004 with new Field appointees and making contact with area amateur organizations. I urge you to give Greg your support in his new role. As for new appointees, yours truly has been tasked with the Emergency Coordinator duties for Madison County. Carl Rourk, K4CHR has agreed to serve as an Assistant EC and Howard Johnson, KG4WOU will be Net Manager for the Madison County Emergency Net. The net meets every Thursday night at 7:30 on the 146.940 repeater. We welcome your participation.

Through the years, amateurs have supported the community in a variety of ways. One of the most important is by providing Emergency Communications support to Emergency Management, the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross. That is a mission and a service that we as amateurs can and should provide to our community. Area hams participate in many different organizations that serve in this capacity, all with different but very important roles. These include ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, NALWARN, MARS and others. I urge everyone to continue support ARES, and all the groups mentioned. Participate in training to improve operating skills.

If you would like to participate in ARES, print out an ARES Registration form from the ARRL website at: www.arrl.org. Fill it out and write in any emergency training, operating capabilities, emergency power etc. Be sure to include if you have a weather station, APRS capability, a generator etc. Don't forget your e-mail address. There isn't a blank on the form. The form will be updated soon. If you don't live or work in Madison County, register with your local county Emergency Coordinator. I am sure they would appreciate your assistance.

We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions about ARES, contact me by e-mail at kf4mmf@arrl.net. Many things are in the works for Madison Co. ARES in the coming months. Stay tuned....

73, Chris Reed KF4MMF

From The Treasurer

Greetings all members of the Amateur Radio Community:

I want to let you all know that all checks have been posted through Jan. 15, 2004. If you have any issues with checks, or issues with not receiving the Vox. please let me know. Also, if your email, phone number, or address changes, please drop me an email so I can update the database.;

Thanks; goes out to Tonia Kratsch, Scott Worsham, Peggy Bell, Steve Bell, and John Lewis for assisting me this year; I would also like to thank our wonderful Vox editor, Frank Emens for all of his hard work which is done on the front lines but mostly behind the scenes. There would be no newsletter without Frank and he does a wonderful job and is easy to work with. Thanks Frank! My email is:

hthorson@knology.net

73, Heath Thorson, KC4HRX

The Editor's Wastebasket

I'm saddened to report the passing of Judy Wills, K4DOX to SK status. I first met Ralph, W4MKU, and Judy when we were temporary residents of Auburn years ago. Ralph has been a regular attendee at Old Timer's Nights and other meetings as he could for years. My sympathy goes out to Ralph at his loss.

Be reminded that Old Timer's Night, which has in the past been scheduled for the last Friday in February has been shifted until March 26th in hopes that it would encounter less inhospitable weather.

Sheesh! "Wonderful Vox editor"??? Heath must be going into politics!

The proliferation of the internet has caused a momentous event to occur. I don't think it has happened since I first learned the code that there was a new character added to the International Morse Code. The need to send email addresses via Morse engendered the need for a character for "@". Many people argued that it would work to just sent "at" but the "@" character does not translate to "at" in languages other than English. The international body responsible for the code has decided that the Morse symbol "WR" would hence-

forth be used to represent the “@” symbol. The overscore indicates that the character is sent with no internal letter spacing like most of the operating prosigns (“AR”, “KN”, “BT”). The “@” would sound the same if it were “AC” or “PN”, but they chose to define it as “WR”. That’s really immaterial, but I just learned how to make this publishing

program print overscored characters and had to show off a little. I’m amazed that in all these years it’s the first time I’ve needed the capability.

It seems the most obvious message to be derived from the HARC / NARA (or (NARA / HARC) joint meeting is that the repeater situation in Huntsville is in

very good hands. For a long time it was simply 2-meter voice repeaters. Now we have linked repeaters, IRLP, remote receivers, etc. with repeaters on most available bands.

73. Frank Emens, W4HFU

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