



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Secretary:

Robby Lock, KG4PLK
huntsvilleweather@gmail.com

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"

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 Wednesday before the third Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 47, Nr 2, February, 2007

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

From The Pres

We once again had good attendance at the annual joint membership meeting with NARA last month. Thanks for renewing your membership. If you still haven't paid your 2007 dues, or are fence sitting on joining the club, please be aware that we are going to be reviving activities such as fox hunts (transmitter finding), club projects and license preparation classes. Hopefully this will give you some additional reasons to attend some meetings.

Next Club project will be TinyTrack3 building in February. Rolf will talk about fox hunts in his article.

TinyTrack3 build night will be Friday February 23rd. In order to process and receive our order in time for this night, there will be a deadline of Friday February 2nd to join in on the club purchase for the 10% discount. The discount also applies to TinyTrack3 accessories including the GPS units and radio interface cables. Please note that there are two TT3 models. The difference between them is that the TinyTrack3Plus provides a provision to supply a regulated 5V to a GPS. This would be useful if you plan on using a Bionics GPS or OEM GPS unit. Check out byonics.com for more TinyTrack3 information. Talk to me (KB3DXR) at a meeting or email me a line if you would like to place or order or have any questions.

Sorry for the short and unrefined message. I have been unexpectedly busy at work for past week, and have been planning for a stork stopping by my house sometime in the next six weeks.

73, Christopher KB3DXR

From The Veep

Can you believe it... the yearly joint membership drive is already behind us. Thank you for all of you who came out and renewed their membership and those who already mailed it in. Did you take advantage of renewing or signing up for ARRL membership and walk way with a free repeater directory? And if you have not renewed

your membership yet... it is never too late! You'll help support our yearly Field Day event, keep in touch with your fellow hams, and stay abreast of what's going on in our local ham community. Well worth the \$1 a month

Wow, a lot of progress at NARA, I won't steal their thunder, but a few new developments excite me personally. We have been talking about using TinyTrack to send an APRS message at the end of a VOX communication.. This would greatly help the net control operator locating the different folks checking into an emergency net. The good news is that some of the technical wizzes at NARA think it is possible to put the APRS message on the APRS net while muting the repeater output. This way we get the information and don't annoy any one with the digital burst, even though it will be very small. Our esteemed President Chris Best will lead a Tiny Track building project February 23, so we all can get ready for these new developments. Of course it is a great learning experience if you have never held a soldering iron... (is that possible for a

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, February 3

Saturday, March 3

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

kr4gu@hamfest.org

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904

dontunstill@hamfest.org

Athens Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. They are held at the Athens EOC.

For information contact Bob Hudson, W4RKH, 461-7905

licensed ham, shouldn't that be a requirement???)

Speaking of learning... we ARE planning on starting a class in upgrading your license. Now that the Morse code requirement is dropped (you did hear about that, didn't you?) we feel there may a bunch of folks ready to jump to the General license, so we are thinking of offering that first. The format will be to do a chapter a night from the General Class study book and have each night presented by a different presenter, so no one will carry the burden of teaching the entire class. If you are willing and able to present a class please drop me a note.

Back to new projects, last year at the NARA meeting I suggested how nice it would be if we had a portable repeater, well guess what, the folks at NARA had not forgotten about it. A portable repeater that will cross band to the new voter system is in the works. Thanks so much NARA! This will greatly help at wide spread events like the yearly Spring City Century

Cycle event which stretches all the way into Tennessee as well as the Seven Hill climb. Both are 100 mile cycle events. Great developments too at the D-Star front, have you tried it yet? See <http://www.ki4ppf.org/> for details on our local Huntsville repeater, and check www.arrrl-al.org for the ever growing list fo D-Star repeaters in Alabama. Our Section manager Greg announced that Huntsville will host a Global Emergency Communications conference just before the hamfest. Details for GAREC-2007 are now being worked out. Information, about its venue and the related events, is available at <http://www.arrrl-al.org/GAREC07.htm> (Also at <http://www.hamfest.org/>)

By the time you get this we will have our FOX discussion behind us and next month we will do a local hunt at the Red Cross, preceded by a presentation by Jason Amos. Come on out and have some fun. It promises to be an exciting year, hope to see you often at the meetings this year. And oh, did I mention you need to send in

your membership renewal if you haven't yet?

73 de Rolf, Your VP

ARES District 6

Over the holidays, a few hams, led by ARES SM Greg Sarratt (W4OZK) used space donated by Intergraph to configure the new Icom D-STAR communications system, using the 10GHz link. Radios and computer systems were setup and run according to a rather lengthy test matrix. The results are very positive. My XYL, Diane (KI4LMO) got me a new Icom D-STAR handheld for my birthday (she thinks that I've been a good boy). Alabama has the biggest D-STAR community in the U.S., and the added reliability and speed of digital modes will be a factor in future disaster communications in our region. There are a whole bunch of digital modes, from PSK31 to RTTY to Winlink to whatever — the more, the better. When we have lots of toys in our bag of commo tricks, our served agencies can count on us to provide EMCOMM. Voice is OK for tactical

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR February, 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 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 Meeting	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
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 Orlando Hamcation	10 *TWIAR Orlando Hamcation
11 Orlando Hamcation	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 Jason Amos on Fox Hunting with Dry Run at Red Cross	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 HARC Meeting Tiny Track Building Project	24 *TWIAR Hamfest, kDalton, GA
25	26	27 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	28 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 Meeting	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900

*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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traffic, so don't forget how to pick up a mic, but if you really want to send a big list of requested supplies from the local shelter, it's far more accurate and quicker to enter the message into a computer, and press the SEND key!

The Day the Code Died — Friday, December 15, 2006 (wasn't that a movie with Michael Rene and some big robot with a LASER eyeball??). Actually, I didn't notice the world stop turning, or any radio nets falling off the planet. Lots of hams use Morse code because it is plain fun! Some of us are slow and QRP that is more like QLF. Some guys know how to wear out the spring in a "bug". Amateur radio is a great hobby, and finding new CW friends will be easy to do for a long time. No, I don't think that the CB'ers will take over any more than they already have. Just listen to the bands and form your own opinion — there's still a lot of rag chewing, but mostly it's about radio stuff. For all you who were holding off the license upgrade, life just got a whole lot easier. For some people, including some good hams that I know, the CW part was really, really hard. We'll get more

upgrades now, and a lot less tension during the exam sessions. The only way to keep our hobby radio-active is to get people to participate! If we want to keep our bands, let's talk to folks about how easy it is now-a-days.

"Why, son, back when I took the test, I had to walk 27 miles in a blizzard and send 356 words per second"...

I was invited to spend time at the Marshall County EMA office last week. They are preparing for a disaster exercise, and ham radio operators will be participating. The Marshall County ARES EC, Jason Amos (KD4BJW), is really cookin' with FEMA courses! We should all have FEMA IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 in order to participate in most upcoming exercises and of course, in the "real thing". We could use a few more ARES volunteers. Can we count on you?

Army MARS is going through a big reorganization. New Regions, new faces, new rules, new attitude. Have you thought about passing message traffic for the Army and other Government agencies during a crisis? MARS builds good operators. Let me know if you're interested, and I'll help you get

started! In the last couple of months, I helped mentor 3 hams into the MARS brotherhood. Their shiny new call signs are AAR4AG (Dan), AAR4AI (John) and AAR4AK (Bill). Congratulations!

Every year, new modes and new opportunities. What a great hobby! Now I've got to go read the new manual for the aforementioned D-STAR radio.

73, Doug Hilton, AG4FL / AAV4YP
Ala ARES District 6 EC, ARRL

ARES/RACES UPDATE

The weather held off last month in spite of a tornado watch and let's hope the winter weather will stay away too, although truthfully for me it hasn't been winter if we hadn't had a good dusting of snow... oh well, that's what you get for moving to Alabama.

We're still practicing our Winlink HF skills and will get everyone through the practice until we are all Winlink capable. Rusty Russell visited our last ARES/RACES meeting and expressed his desire to have qualified and trained ham radio operators on the EOC floor. We are planning another trip to Clanton, our state EOC and a daytime

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, Melinda F. Alsobrook, KI4CIA, ki4cia@arrl.net
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winger, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

trip to Williamson County, TN to see the high level of implementation of Winlink and that counties operations. I'll keep you posted.

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING FEBRUARY 6

Next month the National Weather service will hold another Storm Spotter Training Tuesday, February 6, 6:30 PM at the Jaycees Building off Airport Rd., Huntsville. For information call (256)427-5130. This is a bi yearly requirement for RACES members and very desirable if you are an ARES member. Some ARES/RACES Members have volunteered for a class in Fallout Shelter Management. If you are interested call (256) 427-5130 and ask for Jared.

ARES MEMBERSHIP

ARES membership only requires a valid ham radio license and willingness to help. ARRL membership is NOT required, although I personally highly recommend it as ARRL is our one voice to the FCC and our Government. If you are interested please check out www.madisoncountyares.com. You'll find links to recommend training on that website as well. Although none of it is required you may expect that the different served agencies will pick volunteers first that have been properly trained. Drop me an email at K4RGG@ARRL.NET if you are interested in joining. Our meetings are the 2nd Thursday each month at the EOC on Fountain circle at 6 PM. But drop me a note if this is the first time you will visit.

Be well, do good work and stay in touch.

*73 de K4RGG Rolf Goedhart,
Emergency Coordinator Madison County*

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN
FEBRUARY!!

A note from Giggles: Hi guys! Another year has begun and everyone is settling down from the holidays. I, for one, am glad that we can get back to our old routine. It was a little chilly last Friday night and I was afraid that it would affect the attendance for the HARC-NARA meeting, but it didn't stop approximately 75 people.

As I sat at the table taking membership dues, I was glad to see all the old and new faces. Most of them spoke and called me by name. I am ashamed to say that I couldn't remember their names. Of course, that is the way it is with some of my own distant family members that I don't see regularly. I noticed that our treasurer, Heath, KC4HRX remembered many of the voices. He is amazing to watch sometimes. I'm sure that he will let us know how many members that we have on roll in the future. Hope to see you at the meetings in 2007. CUL

A Joke or Two

The Cowboy Boots

Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this one! Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots? He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet."

She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He

then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?", like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em." Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

She will be eligible for parole in three years.

A Brother Like That

A man named Paul received an automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. On Christmas Eve when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shining new car admiring it. "Is this your car, Mister?" he asked.

Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy was astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you and it didn't cost you anything? Boy, I wish..." He hesitated. Of course, Paul knew what he was going to wish for. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what this lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels.

"I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, and then impulsively he added, "Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?"

Oh yes, I'd love that." After a short ride, the boy turned with his eyes

aglow and said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?" Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again. "Will you stop where those two steps are?" the boy asked.

He ran up the steps. Then in a little while, Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car. "There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas and it didn't cost him a cent. And someday I'm gonna give you one just like it...and you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the lad into the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride. That Christmas Eve, Paul learned what Jesus meant when he had said: "It's more blessed to give..."

(Author Unknown)

Minnesota Blizzard

Up there by Lake Woebegone it was snowing heavily and blowing to the point that visibility was almost zero when Lena got off work. She made her way to her car and wondered how she was going to make it home. She sat in her car while it warmed up and thought about her situation. She remembered Ole's advice that if she was caught in a blizzard, she should wait for a snowplow to come by and follow it. That way she would not be stuck in a snowdrift. This made Lena feel much better and sure enough in a little while, a snowplow went by, and she started to follow it.

As she followed, the snowplow, she was feeling very smug as they continued, and she was not having any problem with the blizzard conditions. After quite sometime had passed, she was somewhat surprised when the snowplow stopped and the driver got out and came back to her car and signaled her to roll down her window. The snowplow driver wanted to know if she was all right, as she had been following him for a long time. She said that she was fine and told him of Ole's

advice to follow a snowplow when caught in a blizzard.

The driver replied that it was OK with him, and she could continue if she wanted...but he was done with the Wal-Mart parking lot and was going over to Kmart next.

An Embarrassing Moment

As I wrote this article, I continued to grab the mouse and realized that nothing is happening on the laptop. GRIN

The Hint for the Month of February: Tip from Tae-Kwon-Do: If you are ever attacked, remember, the elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, DO!

Thought for the Month of February: Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

Solve the puzzle: **DSIINE EERVY DERLO NOSREP IS A REYUNOG SREPON GIENDONWR TAWH PPEEHAND.**

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

2007 HAMFEST CALENDAR, SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION

January 13 Lawrenceville, GA (GARS)

- January 13 Orlando, FL (UCF)
- January 20 Fort Myers, FL
- January 21 San Juan, PR (PRARL)
- January 27 Arcadia, FL
- January 27 Greenville, AL
- February 9-11 Orlando, FL
- February 17 Sebring, FL
- February 17 Brooksville, FL
- February 24 Dalton, GA
- March 10 Port Charlotte, FL
- March 17 Marietta, GA (Kennehoochee)
- March 17 Fort Walton Beach, FL
- March 17 Stuart, FL
- March 24 Plantation, FL
- March 31 New Port Richey, FL

Prepared by Frank Butler, W4RH

From The Editor's Wastebasket

For those of you who are into QRP and also a bit masochistic, the Arizona SQRPIons QRP group is sponsoring their annual FYBO (Freeze Your B--- Off) Operating contest on Feb 3. It is a FD like event where you go out and set up in some outdoor location. There is a score multiplier based on how cold it was at your location during the contest. The way the weather has been

lately, folks from this area might have a good chance. You can fill in the "B---" any way you like. They leave it open.

It's good to see the activity toward organizing some technical building projects for HARC. Anything to make meetings more productive and interesting is good, but I still think the thing we need the most is PROGRAMS. Many of our members are involved in ham related activities that would make an interesting subject for a program at a HARC meeting. It doesn't need to be a 2-hour DVD presentation, or even a fancy Powerpoint presentation (though that is usually the easiest to come up with) but a good half hour describing some activity that you're into would make for a much more interesting meeting than Call to Order, Minutes, Old Business, New Business, Monkey Business and Go Home, which is what we seem to have pretty often.

We seem to have traditionally made the Veep responsible for coming up with programs, but that's an onerous task to lay on one person unless you also flood the Veep with ideas about program subjects and members volunteering to present a program.

One example would be to describe what you have done to build some radio related goodies into a plastic Kroger's coffee cannister. Another would be a description of workable "stealth" antennas for folks in apartments or in restricted neighborhoods. The list can go on and on. You may not think that your particular project or activity would be of interest, but if you present it, the club will find it interesting.

This month's Vox is running a bit short. The same thing applies to you guys creating input for the Vox as does to creating programs for meetings. If you are doing something your fellow HARC members might find interesting, write it up! Remember, I've said it before to the point of boredom almost, but I DON'T write the Vox, I edit it, which implies that there must be something to edit. It can only come from the membership.

Most of you remember that the URL for the HARC web site is "http://www.harc.net". Just for your entertainment sometimes, click on the URL "http://www.harcnet.org/" and see what happens. We don't have a lock on the HARC monicker.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



Recognize Anybody Here?