

From The Prez

EXTRA - EXTRA - EXTRA

It looks like things are coming together for our EXTRA license class, starting tentatively on Friday February 8th at 6:30. Get your Extra Manual at GigaParts, who promised us 15% discount when you mention the HARC Extra Class. Woodie, K8GNM has secured a separate room to teach the class in, so the club membership can use our normal meeting room, and meetings can start on time even when the training runs over. (Although I plan on attending the Extra training myself.). Thank you to Tom H, K4AKC and Tom D, KG4CUY for coordinating the class.

If you haven't gotten your General yet, you may want to attend too, the material covered should give you a solid basis for your General Exam. And in all cases: practice, practice, practice. Use the new practice tests at QRZ: <<http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl>> after each night's training. You may want to read the note on how the questions are generated at: <http://www.qrz.com/i/practice_tests.html> so you can pick the right test for you.

If you're an Extra and want to help out please email me. A lot of material has to be covered and the current instructors need your help. We are using the ARRL manual and if you can just teach ONE chapter we would be delighted!

The membership graciously approved a motion to mail all generals in the area to alert them to the training opportunity. Exams are every first Saturday of the month at 9 AM at the Red Cross building. Thank you all for putting that on, month after month, year after year!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

It's actually snowing outside and I hope it's not too late to say 'Happy New Year', which means it's January: we just completed a successful and well attended membership drive meeting. Thank you all for renewing your membership and those who haven't yet: it's not too late, just mail your check in the envelope we sent you, and if you lost it, just stick a \$12 check for HARC in an envelope and mail it to PO Box 423, Huntsville AL, 35804. Just make sure you write your call sign on the check!

Undersigned opened the meeting, followed by a NARA introduction. Greg Sarrat, W4OZK, our new Southeastern ARRL Director thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and announced Jay Isbel and the new Section Manager. We wish both well in their new jobs. Doug WD0UG our district 6 Emergency coordinator emphasized the need for volunteers in weather events. The National Weather service really needs your eyes and ears for ground truth. If we sounded the Tornado sirens every time radar detects rotation in a cloud nobody would respond any more. So we hams confirm the need to sound the sirens. A really important task! However in the hilly terrain and often rain wrapped storms you have only so much visibility and that's why it is so important to

have as many hams check in as possible. My stomach always crunches when the NWS calls for spotters in a certain area and no one picks up the mike. We got to do better!

Rolf K4RGG announced the Madison County Ares group meets the 2nd Thursday at 6 PM at the EOC on Fountain Circle. Write to K4RGG@arrl.net if you want to be on the Ares mail list.

NARA

NARA elected its new slate of officers, pretty much the same, except for a new technical advisor Mark Bond: W4FMX. Welcome aboard That was followed by excellent presentation about the status of the repeaters. There was mention of a "portable" remote receiver that would enhance our coverage for events like the Century Ride. That would be an awesome addition to our network. Ron, W4VM did a great job explaining the new setup on 147.18 our IRLP repeater. Check out their website at <http://www.qsl.net/nara/D-STAR>

The evening was closed with a short presentation about the D-Star repeater in Huntsville. Check out their website at: <http://www.ki4ppf.org/>

GOOD THINGS are happening in the Tennessee Valley. We have our EXTRA training coming up. Ron W4VM is teaching a Ham Radio class as his job. He requested if we had the CQ videos and a motion was made to acquire all 7 CQ produced as introductions in various areas of ham radio. They arrived today! Karl Henry, one of the instructors at Drake Technical Institute told me today at GigaParts, he will be delivering 17 more hams this class cycle as he has made a Ham license a requirement for completing his curriculum. Bravo! Chuck Lewis, N4NM, our Volunteers Active in Disasters liaison is at the Martin Luther King School Friday introducing Ham radio to 4th and 5th graders as part of their Emergency Preparedness introduction together with Fire and Rescue personnel on the scene.

Thank You all for your contributions to Ham radio, the Club and the community as a whole. We can't do without you!

We started off with a bang and it promise to be a great year! I'm glad you're part of it.

Be well, do good work and stay in touch!

*73 de K4RGG Rolf Goedhart
Your president*

ARES District 6 Report

Do you know how to be a mentor? Do you know why you should? A mentor is a coach, counselor, guide and friend. In ham radio terms, a mentor is called "Elmer." There are lots of young folks that really want to get involved in technical programs at school, but can't — mostly due to lack of a mentor. For example, you have probably heard of LEGO, the maker of great bunches of colorful plastic blocks that link together.

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:
Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG
K4RGG@arrl.net

Vice President:
Robby Lock KG4PLK.
huntsvilleweather@gmail.com

Secretary:
Elizabeth Wilhour, KI4VQJ
bluebunny@mail.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 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, Nr2, February, 2008
A Newsletter published monthly by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club,

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 2
Saturday, March 1

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244
kr4gu@hamfest.org

Org

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, WARKH, 461-7905

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR February, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting Commemoration of US 50 Years in Space	2 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
3	4	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting	9 *TWIAR
10	11	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 HARC Meeting What you need to know about genes (tentative)	16 *TWIAR Exams, Athens EOC at 1L00 PM
17	18	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 HARC Meeting	23 *TWIAR
24	25	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	29 HARC Meeting Auction	1 *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

GigaParts
www.gigaparts.com

✓ **Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store**

NEW LOCATION!

Map showing location at the intersection of University Dr. - Hwy 72 and Research Park Blvd. Landmarks include Back Yard Burgers, Providence, and Target.

**Mon - Sat
10am - 7pm**

Brands: HEIL sound, ICOM, KENWOOD, YAESU (Choice of the World's top DX'ers™), ALINCO, DIAMOND ANTENNA, MFJ.

But the same company also makes great robot kits, appropriately named Lego Robotics. Unfortunately, they are expensive for an aspiring roboticist. It's also hard for a young person to even get the idea about how their lives intersect technology — mostly they are trained for sports-oriented stuff in schools. Their only idea of technology is surfing the web and using Facebook and IM chat. Well, that's where you, as an Amateur radio operator can help out.

What is FLL? FIRST Lego League (FLL) exposes young folks to science and technology, and forces them to think about things in a scientific way. How are they going to do that without your help? You passed a difficult technical test, and you're proud to be an accomplished radio operator. Now you can inspire a youngster by helping them build autonomous robots. FIRST is a special kind of organization (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) that was founded by Dean Kamen, one of the bright minds of our time. There are over 90,000 kids who have been part of this great pro-

gram. I mentored a team, and I probably learned more than they did. It was very refreshing to see the world through kids' eyes. Look at www.usfirst.org and become a mentor. By the way, some of the kids that participate get college scholarships — how cool is that!

Now, while I was busy working with this great group of kids, I did happen to mention ham radio (just a bit). While they learned about electronics, math, mechanical engineering (yes, I'm a tough mentor), they also saw me talking on the handheld radio. That fascinated them. So then we talked about radio, Morse code, communications stuff, etc. Then it dawned on them that they could use the radio to control their robot — Boing! — that worked! Think about it: the way to build hams is to build robots — Surprise!

Let me tell you how to become a mentor — just step up and volunteer. We have many opportunities in the Tennessee Valley. Our schools need you, and the kids need you. Coordinate through the District 6 Served Agencies Liaison, who knows all about volunteer

activities in the area (Chuck is very easy to work with, too). I guarantee you that you will change some lives. And for those of you who are regular mentors, Thanks! But please don't tell our little secret: the mentor benefits the most!

If you would like to discuss ARES, RACES, EMCOMM, WinLink, Army MARS, or any District 6 issues, I want to hear from you. email [AL_ARES_DIST6_EC \(at\) YAHOO \(dot\) com](mailto:AL_ARES_DIST6_EC@YAHOO.com)

73, Doug Hilton, WD0UG / AAV4YP
AL ARES District 6 EC, ARRL

The Giggle Box
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN JANUARY!!

A note from Giggles: Happy New Year to everyone!! I hope this year will be the best year ever. Today is the 15th and January is half over. I am looking forward to Spring and I hope that those bulbs that I planted in the Fall start popping their heads out of the ground soon. I like Alabama weather because it is cold for a few days and then we get some that are not so cold. It gives you a

chance to let your teeth stop chattering for a while.

In the past, I thought I was just wasting my time writing this article because I didn't think anyone was reading the VOX. A few people have told me that they read "The Giggle Box" first and go to the other important stuff later. I have reached my goal of giving people something to enjoy. The Giggle Box is sort of like an appetizer til you get to the good stuff.

I have become more like my daddy everyday because he always wanted to make people laugh. Sometimes he would tell some wild yarn that he made up just to get people to laugh. They were stories that he made up and they were really funny. Sometimes he would just bust out laughing and my mom asked him what he was laughing about. He would laugh so hard that he couldn't talk. After a few minutes, she gave up on him. Sometimes we never knew what he was laughing about. I guess it was his little secret. I love and miss you, dad. CUL

A Story or Two To all you OWLS (Older Wiser Laughing Souls)

Wisdom from Grandpa

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better, or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past - but never the present

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washin', ironin', cookin' and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna "work"."

Many girls like to marry a military man - he can cook, sew, and make beds and is in good health, and he's already used to taking orders.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their odometers.

Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

You know you are getting old, when everything either dries up or leaks.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

Have a GREAT day....and keep Laughing! It's good for the soul. (When I read this line, I remembered Marg Berisford saying it so many times, but she was referring to country music.)

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back

Time - Words - Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person

Anger - Pride - Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose

Hope - Peace - Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable

Love - Family - Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain

Fortune - Success - Dreams

Three things that make a person

Commitment - Sincerity - Hard work

Three things that are truly constant

Father — Son — Holy Spirit

GIVING UP WINE

I was walking down the street when I was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless woman who asked me for a couple of dollars for dinner. I took out my wallet, got out ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy wine with it instead of dinner?"

"No I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless woman told me.

"Will you use it to go shopping instead of buying food?" I asked.

"No, I don't waste time shopping," the homeless woman said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive."

"Will you spend this on a beauty salon instead of food?" I asked.

"Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless woman. "I haven't had my hair done in 20 years!"

"Well," I said, "I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you out for dinner with my husband and me tonight."

The homeless woman was shocked. "Won't your husband be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty, and I probably smell pretty disgusting," I said, "That's okay. It's important for him to see what a woman looks like after she has given up shopping, hair appointments, and wine."

The Hint for the Month of January

When you mix ground meat with other ingredients, put the meat and ingredients in a plastic bag and zip it shut. Then knead the mixture in the bag. This way, you don't have to wash either a bowl or your messy hands afterward. You can also freeze whatever you don't use right in the bag.

The Thought for the month of January

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Solve the puzzle: TMOS FO HET FTUSF PPOELE RYOWR OUTBA IN'TA EEVRN NNAOG NAEHPP YYAANW.

Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB

pbell@hiwaay.net

SEW LONG!

From The Editor's Wastebasket

We had a good turnout for the Joint HARC/NARA Membership meeting on January 11. I haven't heard yet what the results were on getting folks to re-up and getting new folks to join up. I presume we'll hear about that later.

If you haven't re-upped yet, get busy and get your paperwork and check in to the HARC and NARA Treasurers. You don't want to miss out on what's going on for the next few months.

The NARA folks gave a good presentation on the status of and plans for the repeater system. Looks like things are in really good hands there.

I hope the Extra preparation class is as big a success as the General class was last year. They are still working on figuring out who will lecture on what and when they'll do it. I hope we can print a brief schedule next month.

I hope everyone was able to take advantage of the Holiday Season and that noone get overdosed on bowl games. Seems there are new bowl games everywhere you look. I only watched one and you can probably guess which one that was.

It's neat that, even though February is the shortest month, this year it manages to have five Fridays. Be ready for an auction on the 29th.

We regret to pass on the news that Jim Brashear, WB4EKJ, who was an active member of HARC and the traffic nets while he lived in Huntsville is now a Silent Key.

Looks like this will be a somewhat abbreviated issue of the Vox. I hope we can get more folks inspired to contribute for next month.

I know there are a coupla months of cold, messy weather to go, but. Like Miz Peggy, it is already time to start thinking about how things will be this spring. I can't wait, myself.

Enough for now. Stay warm & enjoy the staying in and operating season.

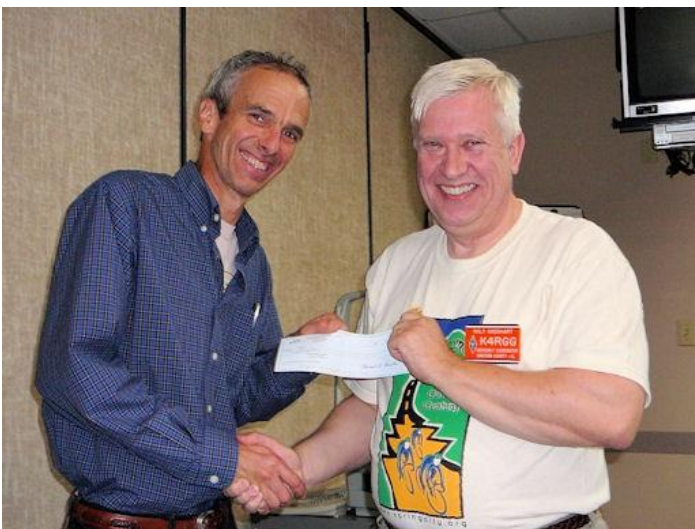
73, Frank Emens, WAHFU



Hamfest Rewards



Swearing In Of HARC Officers For 2007/2008



SCCC Check



Preparations For Membership Mailout