

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 45, Number 1

January, 2005

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

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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.

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

FROM THE PREZ

I wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

As I have been called out of town Monday mourning. I regret that, I will not see you until after the New year. I will miss you all while I'm out of town.

It is good to have Leigh Bartlow back in town and out of the hospital. I think he can safely say it was a vacation from Hell. he promises a program about his experiences.

I would like to thank Chris Reed and all the others who helped with the Huntsville Marathon. We found out that we could do it with out Leigh, but we missed him.

73, Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM

Rocket City Marathon

I hope Ole St. Nick was good to you this year. It's hard to believe we're about to ring in 2005 but it is time to change the calendar. Our annual support of the Rocket City marathon was a success. One important member was absent for this years effort, WD4CPF Leigh Bartlow. We're thankful that Leigh is home and on the road to recovery. I understand he is planning more travels. Get well soon Leigh. We hope to see you back in the driver's seat for next year!

The weather was a bit nippy for the 28th annual Rocket City Marathon but that didn't stop our HARC faithful from providing communications support. Several folks not only manned an aid station but quickly completed their duties and moved onto to another checkpoint down the course. Thankfully, there was only a few folks that needed pickups from the race course but HARC volunteers in the sag wagons assisted the Huntsville Track Club with the safe transport back to the Hilton. Members from HEMSI were pleased with the coordination between them, HTC and HARC. This allowed their urban responders to stay on the course and be prepared to deal with any injuries. I don't know if this is a record, but no

one had to be transported to the hospital by ambulance. The track club checked in throughout the race to monitor the progress of the marathon and get updates on lead changes.

At least one amateur's XYL ran in the marathon and expressed their appreciation of HARC's support. I would also like to express many thanks to those who helped with the coordination, provided equipment and technical support. A special thanks to those who braved the elements to help with marathon communication.

73, Chris Reed KF4MMF

Alabama State Defense Force Creates a "Stripes for License" Program

Probably one of the best kept secrets in Alabama concerns a military reserve force controlled by the Governor of the state. That force is the Alabama State Defense Force (ASDF). The ASDF is 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, January 8

Saturday, February 5

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

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

non-paid professional military force authorized by the legislature and executive order of the Governor of Alabama. It is the third member of the Alabama Military Department, lining up behind the active and federal military reserve forces, and the National Guard. Consisting of retired and former military personnel along with professionals from all walks of life, the ASDF serves as a backup to the National Guard for state missions during times that the Guard is activated for federal service. Unlike the National Guard, which has both a state and a federal mission, the ASDF has no federal mission and cannot be deployed outside the state. Alabama is one of 23 states and Puerto Rico that have SDFs, although all states are authorized to have such forces. While the ASDF is indeed a military organization, it is unusual in that no physical exam is required to join, there is no

physical training, and there no enlistment contract! Normal age limits are 17-64. Drills are a few hours a month and summer camp is a couple of days a year. You join and stay as long as you wish, but you also can resign any time, just as you would from any civic organization. If you have prior military service, this is an asset for you and the ASDF, but if you never served in the military, this is no problem. Men and women find this the perfect opportunity to do something they always wanted to do. You bring your skill to the ASDF and the ASDF gives you a chance to put those skills to work for our state in times of need.

This brings us to the point of this article. Like any other organization that responds to emergencies such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, chemical spills, etc., the Alabama State Defense

Force recognizes communications as a key element of their operations. Add to natural disasters the possibility of terrorist activities against targets right here in north Alabama, and communications isn't just a key element, it is a critical element! The 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Huntsville, has recognized this need for communications support and has turned to some of the best communicators in the business, Amateur Radio Operators. Specifically, 1st Brigade looks to recruit amateurs who are also members of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

Like so many organizations today, Army MARS has changed a great deal since the attacks of 9-11. Phone patches and "Hi Mom, I'm here", messages are no longer the mainstay of MARS work. A new "service mission" oriented on communications support during emer-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR January, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	29 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	30 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	31 No meeting Happy New Year!!	1 *TWIAR
2	3	4 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	5 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	6 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	7 HARC Meeting NARA Repeater Training Class	8 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams. 0900 Red Cross Bldg.
9	10	11 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	12 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	13 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	14 HARC / NARA Kickoff Meeting	15 *TWIAR
16	17	18 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	19 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	20 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	21 HARC Meeting Vox Night	22 *TWIAR
23	24	25 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	26 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	27 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	28 HARC Meeting	29 *TWIAR
30	31	1 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	2 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	3 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	4 HARC Meeting	5 *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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agencies and Homeland Security situations is the order of the day. Alabama Army MARS training is very serious and is oriented toward supporting organizations such as FEMA, Alabama EMA, Alabama National Guard, Department of Homeland Security, and now, the Alabama State Defense Force. If you have been around amateur radio very long, you have heard of situations where amateurs offered their assistance in emergencies, but could not get local, state or federal agencies to let them help. By contrast, the ASDF has opened its ranks to amateurs and MARS members to use their expertise in serving Alabama.

The 1st Brigade has designed a Communications Platoon to be made up entirely of amateurs who are now, or who are willing to become Army MARS members. This is likely the first model of its kind anywhere. As a Communications Specialist in this platoon, you will operate HF and VHF using voice and digital modes on state MARS nets. Like the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), you will often use your own equipment to communicate for the

emergency period. Unlike the ARES, you use Army procedures on MARS circuits (freqs), talk to other MARS and military unit stations, and you wear a uniform. You will also send encrypted and coded radio traffic which you cannot legally do on the amateur bands.

If you ever wondered if upgrading your ticket had any real advantage, you will see it does here! Technician class amateurs who are qualified MARS members (or who are willing to join MARS) can enter the unit as a Communications Specialist with the rank of Corporal E-4 or Sergeant E-5. General or Extra class licensees who are qualified MARS members (or who are willing to join MARS) can enter the unit as a Sergeant E-5 or Staff Sergeant E-6. Experience, education, prior service and other qualifications can qualify you for even higher rank upon entry. The intent of this program is to let your efforts spent in the FCC licensing process and the MARS qualification training serve as the basis of training for the Brigade's communications personnel. Corporals who have Tech tickets can immediately become Sergeants by upgrading their

tickets! Desire for added responsibility and rendered service brings additional rank. Remember, no "boot camp" and no "PT" here, just come in and start communicating.

Currently the 1st Brigade Headquarters MARS station sports a 100 watt HF rig and a 30 watt VHF rig operating on MARS frequencies using a planned variety of antennas. Digital modes will soon follow. The Brigade Communications Officer is NX4S/AAA4AL, and he is the Alabama State MARS Director. If you are not a MARS operator, you can easily join and a mentor will help you get established. The ranks are open and Alabama needs your expertise. Want to know more?

HARC member LT COL Bob Patterson of the ALSDF (K5DZE - AAV4WW) will be the speaker for a future meeting of HARC. He will present a Power Point talk about the ASDF and Army MARS followed by a question and answer period, so come and join us. This opportunity is truly volunteerism in its best form.

Can't wait? For questions or more information now, contact me at K5DZE@ARRL.NET

73, Bob Patterson, K5DZE

NARA Training Meeting

NARA will hold an 'Introductory repeater training class' on Jan 7th during the HARC Friday meeting.

In the past each of our NARA repeaters was of a different make/model. Very few individuals knew anything about this equipment. This made maintenance a big issue. We have now achieved our long term goal to standardize all of our three main repeater system's RF hardware around GE Master 2 radios. There is only one type of radio to learn about and maintain.

In recent NARA meetings we have mentioned the formation of a 'NARA technical committee'. Several of you have already come forward with an interest. If you are hardware savvy or just want to learn, we need your help!

This will be the first of two training sessions. The first training session will be specific to NARA repeaters. It will go through a 'Repeater Site Technical Manual' that has been created to serve as a reference handbook for the technical committee. A later class will be a thorough look at GE Master 2 repeaters.

Repeater Site Technical Manual topics to be covered are:

- Repeater basics 101
- Repeater hardware terminology
- What does a repeater controller do?
- Standards used by NARA
- NARA repeater sites and hardware
- Conversion of GE Master 2 Mobiles into repeater
- Remote base radios

We will be creating a reference CD containing these presentations and hundreds of Megabytes of related PDFs and other neat information for committee members.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to help support NARA! If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please attend the Jan. 7th meeting! Also, don't forget that the bi-annual

joint HARC / NARA meeting will be on Jan. 14th!

73, and I hope to see you there! Ralph Hogan W4XE NARA Technical Advisor

NARA Notes

The communications support for this years Rocket City Marathon was a great success. It seems fitting that as Leigh: WD4CPF was recovering and not able to be with us that we were able to bring about something he had long envisioned: Namely, linking of the '94 and '18 repeaters together for marathon support.

It worked great for covering the whole race course and we will do it again as needed for other special events. Kudos to Chris: KF4MMF and all who participated!

One other thing we did was test the coverage of a temporary remote receiver to '94 on my tower just south of Airport road. It worked surprisingly well and may provide a good burn in point for the remote hardware till we get it to the mountain top. You'll hear more at the big kick-off meeting coming up on January 14th. See you there! NARA elections are January 14th. Since I'm not running for any NARA officer this year, I'm serving as the nominating committee chair.

While we do have a full slate nominated, there are a few who always say - well, if someone else wants to jump in You get the Idea - call me at 881-8105 if you are interested in being nominated. Ralph Hogan: W4XE has not only done a superb job as the NARA technical advisor, he is now stepping up to the nomination for NARA president! Look elsewhere in this Vox for a sample of Ralph's work. The Repeater Builder Class he is putting together for January 7th promises to be outstanding! I've seen the draft slides - this is quality stuff!

I will be on the NARA technical committee (under the able direction or our technical advisor nominee: Gary Dion: N4TXI) and will be the point person responsible for maintaining 1 repeater.

Who will the rest of the point people be? - one of them could be you after being well trained by this and follow on classes! - So remember, two great meetings to start the year: Repeater Builder/Maintainer class on January 7th and HARC Kick-off meeting on January 14th.

This may be my last Vox article for a while given I'm stepping down as NARA president. My plate was way too full and something had to give. I may still write an occasional article as president of the Alabama Repeater Council.

So thank you for all of your generous support and please continue that tradition for Ralph

73, Ron Shaffer, W4VM: NARA President

Whitesburg Heritage Bible College Graduates Class of new Technician Class Hams

Under the team teaching of Ron & Sandie Shaffer: W4VM and KE4LRX, 8 people passed their tests on Dec 6th. A few others who narrowly missed passing may also be licensed after the January test session.

Look for these new hams on the air soon and welcome them on board! Thanks to Larry and the rest of the VE team for testing this class of all ages.

I just looked their shiny new calls up - they are Sarah Buffaloe: KI4IAR, Rebecca Clements: KI4IAS, Pamela Evans: KI4IAT, & Mom Paula Evans: KI4IAU (proud papa & husband KE4OLR), Jeremy Lawrence: KI4IAV, Kelley Shaffer: KI4IAW (proud parents mentioned above), Danny Yates: KI4IAX and (Dad) Phil Yates: KI4IAY. Bill Hey (KI4HGC) took the test after about of the class and already has his initials in the call KB4GDH.

Congratulations to the group!

73, Ron Shaffer, W4VM

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN JANUARY!!

A note from Giggles: I look forward to another year of writing my article. I want to thank all the people that have emailed me with fodder for my article in 2004. I hope everyone will enjoy reading the stuff that I submit. If you don't, then let me know. We had the HARC Christmas party the first Friday of December and if you weren't there, you missed a good time. Last weekend, Steve and I helped with the Rocket City Marathon and had a lot of fun. It was a little chilly and damp, but the runners like it chilly.

A Joke or Two

Southernosity:

- Only a Southerner knows the difference between a hissy fit and

a connoisseur fit, and that you don't "HAVE" them, you "PITCH" them.

- Only a Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc., make up "a mess."
- Only a Southerner can show or point out to you the general direction of "yonder."
- Only a Southerner knows exactly how long "directly" is — as in: "Going to town, be back directly."
- Even Southern babies know that "Gimme some sugar" is not a request for the white, granular sweet substance that sits in a pretty little bowl in the middle of the table.
- All Southerners know exactly when "by and by" is. They might not use the term, but they know the concept well.
- Only a Southerner knows instinctively that the best gesture of solace for a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fried chicken and a big bowl of cold potato salad. If the neighbor's trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana puddin'!
- Only Southerners grow up knowing the difference between "right near" and "a right far piece." They also know that "just down the road" can be 1 mile or 20.
- Only a Southerner both knows and understands the difference between a redneck, a good ol' boy, and po' white trash.
- No true Southerner would ever assume that the car with the flashing turn signal is actually going to make a turn.
- A Southerner knows that "fixin'" can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb.
- Only Southerners make friends while standing in lines. We don't do "queues," we do "lines"; and when we're "in line," we talk to everybody!
- Put 100 Southerners in a room and half of them will discover they're related, even if only by marriage.
- Southerners never refer to one person as "ya'll."
- Southerners know grits come from corn and how to eat them.
- Every Southerner knows tomatoes with eggs, bacon, grits, and coffee are perfectly wonderful; that red eye gravy is also a breakfast food; and that fried green tomatoes are not a breakfast food.
- When you hear someone say, "Well, I caught myself lookin'," you know you are in the presence of a genuine Southerner!
- Only true Southerners say "sweet tea" and "sweet milk." Sweet tea indicates the need for sugar and lots of it — we do not like our tea unsweetened. "Sweet milk" means you don't want buttermilk.
- And there's the ole time favorite of "goin'" back home to see mommernem" for some "down home cookin'".
- And a true Southerner knows you don't scream obscenities at little old ladies who drive 30 MPH on the freeway. You just say, "Bless her heart" and go your own way.

Longevity* A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning. The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93. When he died, he left 14 children, 35 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

Thank God for Children Saying Grace... Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't

even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer.

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart," the man replied. Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."

Seeing Eye Dog A man was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane stopped in Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. The man had noticed him as he walked by and could tell the gentleman was blind because his seeing eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of him throughout the entire flight. He could also tell he had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached him, and calling him by name, said, "Keith, we're in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind man replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs. Picture this: All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Seeing Eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not

only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines! True story... Have a great day and remember... things aren't always as they appear!

Did You Know: The state of Rhode Island could fit into Alaska 425 times.

The Reminder for the Month of January: Friendship is when you may not see eye to eye but you can walk arm in arm.

Solve the puzzle: KAME NSDSIKEN
A AILDY BITAH

73 Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB
pbell@hiwaay.net SEW LONG!

Local Area Hamfests for January:

Jan 8, 2005 Hugh Warinner Jr. Morristown Hamfest Lakeway ARC
http://www.lakewayarc.org Talk-In: 147.030 no tone Contact: Jim Sipprell, K2HYQ 2835 Homestead Drive White Pine, TN 37890 Phone: 865-674-8785 Email: jmsip@lakewayarc.org

73, Steve Bell, KD4TFN,
sbell@hiwaay.net

Flea Market

QSTs & CQs

- I am cleaning out my ham shack of old QST and CQ magazines from the 60s, 70s and 80s. They are free to anyone who wants to hall them off. Drop me an e-mail at k5ry@arrl.net to arrange pickup. Thanks, Tom, K5RY

From The Editor's Wastebasket

All the membership was saddened to hear of the passing of George Duncan, K4TFJ on Novembe 23. George, among other things, was the faithful arranger of the rental and transportation of campers for the Field Day station setups. He will be missed.

It's been a busyish week here - printing up labels for the joint HARC/NARA mailout, getting this Vox out and trying to cope with the Christmas Card list all at once. Since this will reach most of you before the sleigh flies, I'll use this as an opportunity to wish the best of the season to all of you. There, that just took care of 250 cards.

It's good to hear that Leigh, WD4CPF is doing well. I hope he recovers enough to make it to a meeting soon. I can't help wondering when he and Iona will be traipsing off to some exotic spot again. There's no doubt it'll happen, just wondering when & where.

Thanks to Steve Bell, KD4TFN, who will be sitting in for John Farr to dig up hamfest information for a month or so.

As seems to be the usual case, I forgot to listen in to see how the Rocket City Marathon support went. From Ron & Chris's descriptions, it sounds as if things went very well. That's good. Our support of such activities is a great public service in itself, but also good training for what we might be called upon to do in emergency situations.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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