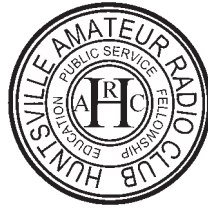


VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 47, Number 1

January, 2007

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 1, January, 2007

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

From The Prez

Happy New Year! I hope you received numerous presents last month, and have low minimum credit card payments this month. If you still have some cash left after the holiday season, remember that the HARC/NARA membership meeting is on January 12th. In other news, the incorporation fact finding committee has made some more progress, and Rolf will discuss it in his article in this VOX.

Over the years I have heard numerous people lament that aside from our participation in Field Day our club is little more than a weekly social group. To keep our club from being considered "dead", we need to provide reasons for hams to join our group and to encourage our membership to actively attend meetings. In order to help achieve this, club projects will resume in February. Our first project will be the TinkTrak3 APRS Beacon from Byonics (www.byonics.com). Assembly time should be 1-2 hours and help will be provided (if needed). More details and finalization on which February meeting date will be posted in the February VOX.

73 Christopher, KB3DXR

From the VEEP

What a year it has been! We started with the discovery that somehow HARC was not incorporated even though all our paperwork suggested it did. We end the year with a proposal for incorporation on the table and consequent application for non profit status.

We modeled our proposed articles and bylaws after the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club which has been a 501c 3 for a long time. The committee was duly impressed with the thoroughness of the bylaws. We will have a copy available for you to review very soon and hopefully we will bring it to a vote early next year. That would make an excellent start of the new year!

It has been an active year as well, we score 4th in group 5A this year in field day! (A big thank you to the Space and Rocket Center for hosting Field Day.) We had numerous public service events, Cotton Row Run, 2 full day bicycle events, a motor cycle event, a 2 day car racing event and of course the yearly marathon. On going we have the Ares group that meets weekly on 146.940, the Skywarn and Races volunteers. All who participated, a big thank you! Numerous volunteers worked behind the scenes in organizing Hamfest (which turned out better than expected), club parties, picnics etc. You know who you are, a big thank you to you too! Last but not least a thank you to my fellow officers and the numerous committee members for their hard work and dedication. We would not have a club without you!

I am sure I have missed people and activities partly because work takes me out of Huntsville from time to time so I hope you forgive me in advance.

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 6

Saturday, February 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

Next year promises to be even more exciting, we are lining up new programs: we will bring back an old favorite: Fox Hunt, the same name as VOX night, 3rd Friday of the month. In January we hope to have a few FOX experts teach some of us newbies the ropes of how to do it.

A big thank you of course to the folks at NARA who do a great job in keeping up our repeaters and constantly adding new features, come and join them 2nd meeting in January and hear the latest on our great repeater network.

We hope to get started with basic Red Cross Volunteer training on regular club evenings. Preparation is everything when it comes to a disaster and I believe you can not be trained enough. If you haven't yet ,do your back ground check online with the Red Cross, so that is out of the way too.

Then we hope to do so more hands on stuff, starting off with building

some TinyTrak modules to transmit GPS data on APRS or in the squelch tail after a regular voice transmission. Imagine what it would do for a net control operator, if he could just look at a map and immediately see where all the check-ins came from!

We also hope to bring you a special NASA program involving their Digital learning system although the presenter has taken on a bigger travel schedule we still hope to pull this demo off sometime soon.

We also hope to make good on the discussion to bring classes to the club so we can increase the number of Generals and Extra's.

We hope to end the year with a bang as project Hello, celebrating 100 years of voice communications, comes to a close. Space and Rocket center has set up a special event station for that purpose and we hope that many of your will participate. Our club president Chris is willing to open the ham

shack during those days so if you want you can operate from the Red Cross. Tom Duncan is the coordinator for the Space and Rocket Center station. See the arrl.org website for more details on project Hello.

It has been an exciting year and next year promises to be even more exciting. Jan 12th is our big membership drive, so we hope you will be there to renew your membership with HARC and NARA or if you are not a member yet, we hope you consider joining. We love to have you!

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73 from your VEEP Rolf, K4RGG

NARA Notes

Last installment I reported we were making great strides toward the voter implementation on 146.94. I'm happy to report that all of the hardware is ready to be moved up to the channel 31 site. The goal is to have it completed during the holiday break. I'll person-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR January, 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting	6 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
7	8	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting Jopiont HARC/ NARA Kickoff Meeting	13 *TWIAR
14	15	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting Fox Hunt Discussion Vox Night	20 *TWIAR
21	22	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	25 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 HARC Meeting	27 *TWIAR
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

*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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ally be glad to have this done as it's currently spread all over my lab bench at home!

I'll remind the users to bear with us as we get the kinks worked out of the .94 voter system. I'm sure it'll take a time or two up at the site(s) before all the kinks are worked out

We managed to squeeze in a 147.18 tower climb the end of this tower climbing season. It was a long cold day for several of us (Ron, Leigh and myself), but my hat is off big time to Archie for braving a cold weather climb on the tower! Thanks to all for their efforts!

We've reinstalled the 146.94 GE power supply with automatic battery backup. Let's hope second times a charm. The main RF PA was also reinstalled after a quick bench checkup. We also installed a replacement GE UHF Phoenix radio for linking to 147.18. After the install we found out the HUM wasn't from the original Phoenix radio and corrected the cause. While the old UHF GE Phoenix radio is freed up, I'll bench test it for grins.

Now that the hum is gone, the south Green Mtn .94 remote site is once again available to use and listen to. Remember to change to a 107.2 Hz tone to use the Green site. However we wont have to remember to change tones much longer. The voter will take care of this automatically and pick which receiver has the best sounding signal!

We have checked out both sides of the UHF link between 146.94 and 147.18. It should be ready to perform for the upcoming Rocket City Marathon event. The two systems will be full time linked together during the event. This will give us repeater coverage in the combined footprint of both repeater systems.

We've made various other improvements to the systems and I'll save that for the upcoming meeting.

Speaking of the meetings, we will have the joint HARC / NARA annual kickoff meeting January 12th, 2007. There will be an election of the new North Alabama Repeater Association officer slate for 2007. Ron W4VM will

be presiding over the election again this year. If you have any interest in serving as an officer, please contact Ron or myself. We will have a status on the repeater systems and be discussing upcoming plans.

You should be receiving any time now the annual HARC / NARA mail out for new and renewed membership drive. You can mail back in your membership fees or see us at the meeting. Both clubs need your continued support! Thank you!

I hope to see you all at the meeting.

*Happy Holidays, Ralph W4XE NARA
President W4XE@qsl.net*

ARES / RACES Update.

Exciting times as we are going digital. In the club as well at the EOC we have done Winlink demo's. Well, the good news is that the budget request for an HF rig and modem have been approved by the EMA director and Winlink is on the air by the time you read this newsletter. Next step is to

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 Winingar, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

connect the HF link to a local VHF network. See Gary Dion's article for that.

Thank you to Doug (District 6 EC) for bringing us into the digital age. Scott (EMA) for proposing the budget, Rusty (EMA Director) for approving it and Gary (Assistant EC) for making the cables (so we could stay within the budget) as well as the installation and Chris (EMA) for staying late to make it all happen in time for our meeting. Great and fast progress gentlemen! Doug, Chuck (VOAD: Volunteers Active in Disasters) and undersigned worked on an exercise and demo plan. Chuck was actually interviewed on broadcast radio this week!

The ARES/RACES group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, just before this newsletter goes to press. You are always welcome to join or visit and consider membership. We meet at the EOC on Fountain circle at 6PM sharp. We usually have pizza, so you don't have to stop for dinner first. We require that you do a storm spotter training at least every 2 years and get trained in CERT as well as a few online FEMA courses, but we give you at least a year to complete it. So come on over and check us out. Volunteer work is very gratifying. For general information checkout: www.MadisonCountyAres.com

This week meeting we spent a good deal of time getting proficient in working with the HF Winlink features, but it will be a few meetings before everybody is proficient on it. In the mean time we can start expanding the VHF network.

Thank goodness it was a quiet year. The active hurricane season that was predicted never manifested and frankly I like it that way; I'd rather keep practicing for an event that never happens then the other way round. I

want to thank everyone that has volunteered this year and put numerous hours in getting trained. Special thanks to our section manager Greg, district 6 EC Doug, special needs liaison Michael and my assistant EC's Gary, Robby and Chuck, and of course our friends at the EOC: Scott, Chris and Jared. Thanks a million and keep up the good work!

Have a safe and blessed holiday season, no matter how you celebrate it.

73 de Rolf Goedhart

*Madison County Emergency Coordinator.
K4RGG@arrl.net*

K4BFT To Be Part Of Project "Hello"

K4BFT has signed up as one of the "official" stations for the 12/29-12/30 Project "Hello" Going Out with Voices celebration of 100 years of voice communication over radio. The snippet below was added to the Hello web site, www.hello-radio.org <http://www.hello-radio.org/>:

Huntsville (AL) Amateur Radio Club station K4BFT will be participating in Going Out with Voices from Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL.

Right now we have the HF station ready to go, and IRLP/Echolink soon to come. We plan to operate from 12/29 2000 to 12/30 0200 and 12/30 1430 to 12/30 2000 GMT.

About 100 Space Camp attendees (generally youngsters 11-17 years of age) will be present at the Space and Rocket Center, and we plan to get as many as possible to come by and say "Hello". The station will be set up in Space Camp's new administration building auditorium.

Melissa Snider, KI4CWU is putting together a public service announce-

ment about this and will record it in the next couple of days, to air around 12/26 through 12/28.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Media Blitz

QRP Quarterly editor Mike Boatright, KO4WX has achieved a popular press media coup for ham radio - see

http://www.diynetwork.com/diy/hb_diyypeople/article/0,2033,DIY_13875_2277976,00.html

giving a glimpse into homebrew QRP projects. Prominently displayed are homebrewed icons including a Tuna Tin 2 and an Altoids-can project.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Yahoo 900MHz Discussion Group Formed

In following with the recent success of the AL-DStar list, I would like to announce that I have started a mailing list for discussing use of the 900MHz band for any purpose (i.e.: weak signal, FM, data, spread-spectrum, etc.) and would like to encourage any amateurs interested in the 33cm band in the state of Alabama to join this email list:

al900mhz@groups.yahoo.com

or see the following site to sign up:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/al900mhz/>

*73, Kris Kirby, KE4AHR
kris@catonic.us
Birmingham, AL
(formerly of Huntsville, AL)*

E-mail, sans Internet?

Ok, let's have a show of hands. Who here has a packet TNC covered in dust? I don't have see you to know many hands are raised. Seems it's been quite a while since our local packet

BBS has seen a connection, and even longer since it has passed a personal message. And why is that? I would bet it's because of something we've all come to know and love: e-mail! All made possible by today's Internet. It's fast, dependable, and completely dependent on an all-important last-mile connection.

What? Your connection is down due to flooding, an earthquake, a power outage, or even the \$%!@ cable company again? What if that's the situation for the entire county? Wouldn't it be nice if you could still send to and receive e-mail from a loved one or a Red Cross shelter sixty miles away? Gee, seems like your trusty old packet TNC used to do something just like that at one time.

Ladies and gentlemen, it still does! But now it's even better. Through the miracle of modern science, the old and the new are joined through something called Winlink. Winlink has been around for several years now, is a service which currently serves over 9,000 users, and passes more than 150,000 messages per month. And what's great is that these messages are passed to and from anyone with valid e-mail. Your aunt Milfred needs to tell you of a new peanut pie recipe while you are out on the lake? Why not? You need to send a list of shelter occupants straight to a someone with a redcross.org address? No problem! The beauty really is that the person on the other end doesn't need to know anything about radio to get their message across or receive important data.

What makes this possible is a network of participating stations which bridge the gap between the Internet and your radio signal. These exist on HF by supporting various modes including Pactor, and on VHF/UHF by supporting packet, our old friend. With VHF packet, we could be many miles from a location that has connectivity to the outside world. With digipeaters, we can extend that range even further. What's great is almost any station with packet capability can serve as a gateway to other users. In fact, we have one right here just north of Huntsville graciously hosted by Travis Hardin. His gateway callsign is KE3Y-10 and it can be found on 145.65. Not to steal his glory, but it's actually

easy to put up a gateway, which is ideal for emergency situations!

So you may be asking yourself, "What do I need to get in on the action?" Well, if you have a packet station, you're already there! And even if you don't have a hardware TNC, odds are good that with a modern PC you can emulate a TNC with your computer's sound card! There are actually many ways to hook your computer to your radio. Software-wise, for a full-up Winlink client station you may elect to run the Airmail program, but guess what... even an old terminal program will do in a pinch.

I'm tempted to go on, but I'll run out of space here soon. Don't get me started (actually, feel free, I'll follow-up next month) on how you could be thousands of miles from a PMBO and connect on HF using Pactor, or how you can send and receive e-mail through Winlink over APRS! So for more information go to www.winlink.org or contact me directly at n4txi@winlink.org, an address I can check regardless of whether I have Internet access or not. Can you say that? I speak for our Huntsville / Madison County ARES / RACES office by reporting that we have this capability right now!

*73 from Gary Dion, N4TXI
Assistant Emergency Coordinator
Madison County*

Welcome 2007!

This year will be an exciting year for Huntsville amateur radio!

The Huntsville Hamfest is transformed into the ARRL National Convention this year and we are excited! This is a big deal for Huntsville and amateur radio. This is our chance to once again make Huntsville and Alabama shine.

Digital D-STAR technology! Alabama leads the Nation in digital D-STAR repeaters, technology and innovations. A handful of amateurs from Huntsville have got Huntsville D-STAR connected and have contributed to the Alabama D-STAR success.

Our National Weather Service is getting a HF radio and is digital ready. By the time you read this a HF radio and antenna will be added to the NWS for amateur use.

Much progress has been made in the public service area. Our capabilities and relationships have increased with the NWS, EMA, Red Cross, VOAD and other counties. We have better understandings and operating procedures with our served agencies.

Huntsville has put in a bid for an international emergency communications conference, keep your fingers crossed!

2006 was a great year! Successful Huntsville Hamfest, Alabama placed as National D-STAR leader, successful Field Day and Alabama Be Ready Day and many more.

We are moving forward so let's keep the momentum going. Whatever your interest is in amateur radio, grow it, make it better, do your part to put it on the map, and have fun.

Thank you for contributing to this success.

*73, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK ARRL Alabama
Section Manager*

A District 6 Christmas Card.

Chuck Lewis (N4NM) is our Special Liaison for Volunteer Activities. Chuck used to work for NASA (yes, he IS a rocket scientist). But now Chuck helps integrate our ham radio operators with other volunteer groups. Chuck attends meetings with VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters), and brings the message of who "we" are, and what "we" bring to an emergency. A lot of folks never heard of Amateur Radio, and most folks have no idea what we're capable of. I'm just glad that we're sending Chuck to those meetings. If you don't know what a quality person Chuck is, you're missing out. Thanks Chuck and Merry Christmas!

Mike Werner (KF4BOG) is our Special Needs Liaison. Mike is an active ham, and a very nice young man. In spite of what many people would think of as having some physical problems, many great hams contribute a lot — in spite of their problems. I know a couple of blind hams who are great Army MARS net control stations, and if you think that's easy, please put on a blindfold for the next couple of years and let me know how many nets you are able to run during that time. Hams with special needs are a valuable resource during EMCOMM activities —

they can provide great fixed-base operations, etc. Thanks Mike and Merry Christmas!

Robby Lock (KG4PLK) is our Young Ham of the Year. Robby is always there, and is always giving of himself. At his young age, he is already an experienced communicator, and knows how things work, at a deep level. He is a shining star in our ham community. Thanks Robby and Merry Christmas!

Greg Sarratt (W4OZK), our Section Manager, is a tireless champion of Amateur Radio. His list of radio activities would make you wonder if he works for a living (he does). Greg embodies the special characteristic of leadership that very few people have. All of Alabama and the Gulf Coast states know who Greg is, but you'd be surprised to find out how quiet he is about his accomplishments. Ham radio is well-served by this kind of leadership. Thanks Greg and Merry Christmas!

Jay Isbell (KA4KUN) our Section Emergency Coordinator. He's constantly active in a tough role. His unofficial job description is "cat herder" — I bet you all know what that means! Thanks Jay and Merry Christmas!

Rolf Goedhart (K4RGG) our Madison county Emergency Coordinator. He is a very pleasant fellow, who is able to find a little humor in almost any crisis. Rolf could use some of your help, and I hope that you will send him an email and tell him what your qualifications are, so that Madison county will be prepared for the next emergency. Thanks Rolf and Merry Christmas!

Gary Dion (N4TXI) the Madison county Assistant E.C. Gary always has a kind word and a smile. He is always on the front-line of volunteers, and has no problem with jumping right in. Thanks Gary and Merry Christmas!

Ron Shaffer (W4VM) Repeater Guru Extraordinaire. I can't begin to list all of Ron's contributions. Thanks Ron and Merry Christmas!

XYL Diane (KI4LMO), and please insert your XYL's name here: _____ Thanks and Merry Christmas!

Thanks to the many EC's, AEC's, ham radio clubs, SKYWARN members, and the hams who always show up to help out. Thanks HARC and Frank for putting out this newsletter. Thanks

NARA for the use of the repeater. I sincerely apologize for hams that I forgot to put into this letter, but: Thank you and Merry Christmas!

To our Served Agencies, with too many hams and friends to list, but Thanks for letting us serve you and Merry Christmas!

Finally, remember our friends who are in harm's way this Christmas — Support Our Troops! Send a MARS gram (www.MARSgram.com) or an ARRL RadioGram (via the National Traffic System) and wish them well. If you get a chance, please check out this DoD website: <http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil> Remember that freedom is not free, and send a kind thought to our service personnel.

73, Doug Hilton, AG4FL / AAV4YP
Alabama ARES District 6
Emergency Coordinator
ARRL, Alabama Section web site:
www.arrl-al.org

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN JANUARY!!

A note from Giggles: Hi guys! We had a great Christmas party at the HARC meeting, a few weeks ago. I want to thank all the people that brought covered dishes. We played Dirty Santa and it seemed like everyone was having a wonderful time. I miss the times when my parent's families got together at Thanksgiving. The families had gotten so big that everyone was dreading Christmas because there was so many to buy for. Someone decided that we should draw names and it seemed like a great idea. Then everyone was asking each other whose name they got. Some would tell, some would swap names and others wouldn't tell or swap. They were no fun. It was fun to see everyone swap presents and see their faces light up (or have the look like they were wondering what they would do with THAT). I still like swapping names, but I guess Dirty Santa is the present day game these days. Anyway, I hope everyone has a great Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2007. CUL

A Joke or Two

Football FINALLY makes sense..... A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience. "Oh, I really liked it but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her date asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was: 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' I'm like...Helloooooo? It's only 25 cents!!!!"

*** A Department of Agriculture representative stopped at a farm and talked with the old farmer. "I'm going to inspect your farm."

The old farmer said, "You better not go in that field."

The Ag representative said in a wise tone, "I have the authority of the U. S. Government with me. See this card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish on agricultural land." So, the old farmer went about his farm chores. Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the Department of Agriculture rep running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a full nest of hornets and the bull was gaining at every step.

"The old farmer called out, Show him your card!"

*** A grandmother was surprised by her 7-year-old grandson, one morning. He had made her coffee. She drank what was the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she got to the bottom, there were three of those little green army men in the cup. She said, "Honey, what are these army men doing in my coffee?" Her grandson said, "Grandma," it says on TV, "The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!"

*** A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster.

"No", said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close...

"They use the dogs", she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

The Hint for the Month of January

Cracked, Dry Cuticles: Rub sweet oil into cuticles and hands, put on old cotton gloves and wear while you sleep.

Stubborn Cuticles: Use a solution of half vinegar and water or mild soap and water and soak your cuticles for a few minutes. Then apply sweet oil or pure glycerin to soften the cuticles. Then, using an orangewood stick or a toothpick wrapped in cotton, gently push cuticles back.

Weak, Brittle Nails: Put decolorized iodine on the tips of your nails every night for one week, then once a week or less often just to maintain hardness.

Thought for the Month of January

Until you value yourself, you will not value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it. - M. Scott Peck

Solve the puzzle: SKNIDENS SI
HET GGUNALAE HICWH ETH
EADF NAC HREA DAN HET LINDB
ANC ESE. - MARK TWAIN

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

From The Editor's Wastebasket

It may seem strange to be passing along Christmas Greetings and Wishes in the January issue of this newsletter, but it becomes available to the membership a week or so before Christmas, so it is appropriate to hope that everybody who receives this newsletter has a great Christmas and a very happy New Year.

It is a good time, however to think about resolutions for the New Year. One thing I'd like to see in 2007 is for the Vox to go back being a voice for the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club. If you look at the last several issues, you'll see that the newsletter has done a great job for ARES, NARA and the ARRL, but there is precious little content about the HARC. I certainly don't intend to scale back the participation of the other groups, but we need someone who'll put together a few lines each month about what's happening with HARC -- What happens at meetings, what is going to happen at meetings, what activities are being supported by HARC, who is doing what -- and with what. This issue seems to have improved on that. Let's hope it can continue.

And now a few words to the members who receive the Vox via U S Mail.

You are getting a mailed copy because either:

- we know you don't have internet email capability
- the email address we have for you is faulty
- we don't have an email address for you
- or you have requested a hard-copy Vox.

If you get this by U S Mail and you do have working email capability and could receive the Vox at <http://www.hamfest.org/newvox.pdf> please get us your correct email address so we can put you on the email notification list and take you off the Postal Mail list. In addition to speed of distribution, the internet distribution saves money for the club. It costs approximately seven bucks a year to print and mail newsletters for one member. This is addressed to members only. Folks who receive the Vox for information purposes or as part of a newsletter exchange will continue to receive a hard-copy.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

