

# VOX



## HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 42, Number 7

July, 2002

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

#### Club Officers

##### President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY  
Duncan1@ds-s.com

##### Vice President:

Tim Cunningham, N8DEU  
Tim\_cunningham@mindspring.com

##### Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
k4rgg@arrl.net

##### Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 722-0250  
heath.thorson@comcast.net

The club's address is Box 423, Huntsville, Ala. 35804. Meetings are held each Friday night at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross Building, 1101 Washington Street. Dues are \$12.00 per year, family memberships are \$15.00 per year. The club maintains a Web Site at "http://www.harc.net"

The North Alabama Repeater Association operates repeaters on 146.34 / 146.94, 147.78 / 147.18, 223.34 / 224.94 and 448.5 / 443.5. NARA dues are \$16.00 per year and may be sent to NARA at P.O. Box 18941 Huntsville, AL 35804-8941.

The club's packet radio interest group, HUNTSPAC, maintains an extensive packet network for the Huntsville area. Dues for use of this network are \$15.00 per year, and can be paid through the HARC Secretary-Treasurer listed above.

The club's ATV special interest group, TVATV operates an ATV repeater. It's input frequency is 439.25 MHz and its output is 421.25 MHz. A voice coordination repeater is operated with output frequency of 145.33 MHz, input 600 kHz down.

The Vox is published the third Friday of each month except for August. Editor of the Vox is Frank Emens, W4HFU, 3714 Lakewood Circle, Huntsville, Ala. 35811 or femens@hiwaay.net. Material of interest to the HARC membership should be submitted to the editor by the

"Vox", Vol 42, Nr 7, July, 2002

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

### The New Prez Sez

Elections, Field Day, VOX's off month, preparations for Hamfest, summer weather and vacations are hallmarks of another new year for HARC. Let us consider what we want from HARC, both individually and collectively, and what we might need to contribute over the next year to achieve these goals.

Each of us fits in to the amateur radio community in different ways based on our differing talents and interests. We may have a mostly technical bent, perhaps for TV, or satellite communications, or for building and maintaining repeaters and repeater networks. We may see ourselves as operators, interested in emergency communications, or storm spotters, or we may be DXers or contesters or just plain rag chewers. Maybe we have an affinity for certain modes and bands, or for low power, or portable, or mobile operation. Perhaps we deal mostly with public service functions, or by supporting ham functions like field day, hamfest, and other outings.

None of us had our call signs assigned at birth (although thankfully we have a few very young family members): we had to first learn and practice to get our tickets, and then learn more about the niches of amateur radio, to find our own interests. Some of us found one interest, some found many, and some are still finding more. It is at this level, where we are all "just hams", that HARC serves its members — and through its members, the community at large — best.

So there is one more area of interest that as HARC members we all have: supporting the camaraderie of amateur radio. In this spirit, we invite the special interest ham groups in the area to use HARC meetings to publicise their organizations to prospective members, though announcements, joint meetings, programs, etc. When the Tennessee Val-

ley 24 GHZ QRP TV Contest Club mounts its first DXpedition to the moons of Jupiter, let's hope new ham, newcomer to the area, and HARC old timer alike can say "we heard it first at a HARC meeting"!

*73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY*

### From The Outgoing President

I would like to take this opportunity as outgoing president of HARC to say a quick thank you to everyone for your support of HARC throughout the past year. Thanks to everyone, HARC has had a great year. Lots of fun and support of the community was given by our members. I would also like to thank all the officers for their assistance. Vice-President, Tom Duncan KG4CUY, has been elected as your new President. Tom will serve the club well as President. Scott Worsham, W4SSW, has kept the record of all the happenings at the HARC meeting over the past year. In addition, he help to greet and welcome our visitors with a smile and provide them an application for membership. Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, has kept the finances of HARC in order and has been re-elected for a 5th consecutive term. Thanks guys!

### CAVEC Amateur Radio License Exams

*Exam sessions are held the first Saturday of each month unless a holiday causes the session to be delayed for one week.*

*Upcoming sessions are:*

*Saturday, July 6*

*Saturday, August 3*

*For information contact:*

*Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154*

*KR4GU@bellsouth.net*

*Or*

*Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904*

*dtunstil@hiwaay.net*

Congrats to the new officers. Officers were elected on June 07 and installed on June 14. The 2002-2003 HARC administration is as follows:

- President, Tom Duncan KG4CUY
- Vice-President, Tim Cunningham N8DEU
- Treasurer, Heath Thorson KC4HRX
- Secretary, Rolf Goedhart K4RGG

I encourage everyone to support our officers as they volunteer their time to lead our club.

Thanks to everyone who made Field Day 2002 a success. Everyone pitched in and worked hard to make things go smoothly. Thanks to all the station managers and to Scotty Neusteder, W4WW for helping to co-chair this year's effort. Peggy Bell, K4EGB organized a great picnic and of course there was lots of dishes with great food in them. Thanks to Steve Bell, KD4TFN who pitched in to help Peggy with the picnic. Most of all, Field Day wouldn't be possible without the folks at Intergraph. Thanks to Intergraph for allowing HARC to be their guest for a weekend. Bill Stewart, KF4WUC, acted as liaison for Intergraph this year and re-

served the site. I hope everyone got a chance to operate and most of all have plenty of fun. See you next year for Field Day 2003.

Hamfest is just around the corner and this will be the last Vox you receive until the September issue due to hamfest. Put on those smiles and welcome folks to the Rocket City. Vendors who come year after year always return because of the hospitality they receive in Huntsville. Again, it's the HARC members who make this possible. Thanks in advance for all of your efforts.

73, Chris Reed KF4MMF

**Riley Hollingsworth At Dayton**

For those unable to attend Dayton, you missed hearing Riley Hollingsworth speak on enforcement issues. It was excellent.

He reminded us that most of the behavior we complain about (from lids, etc) isn't actually illegal, just stupid. In fact he was told that the two most common elements in the universe were in fact hydrogen and stupidity. "Can't regulate stupidity", he reminded us.

Second issue of note was about CCR/Deed Restrictions. He approaches the problem from a different perspec-

tive. He reminded us that we are the only fail-safe communications service (focus on the word "service") in existence. We have no central structure, and we can't be taken out of service through terrorism, weather, etc. Individuals might, but the service cannot be taken down. But CCRs in some parts of the country (not all) threaten the viability of the service, which is of prime importance (at least to Riley). The Commissioners obviously disagree, because they basically demanded a mandate from Congress to proceed (thus the recently introduced legislation).

He reminded us that there were distinct warning signs of impending episodes of stupid. First being feeling like you know what is best for everyone, and second, being compelled to tell everyone. What follows is most likely — stupidity. (I'm guilty on both counts, by the way!)

Perhaps the most important idea he left for us is that our in-band squabbles appear to cast Americans in a poor light around the world. And, to the extent we demand FCC involvement, they have their attention diverted from really important issues like unlicensed operation and intentional interference.

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR July, 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting	6
7	8 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting	13
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21	22 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 Southeast Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	25 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 HARC Meeting	27
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We need to remember how to self-police (which is basically ignore the lids on the bands).

My thought is that we (as QRPers) need to champion the return to "minimum power necessary" under Part 97. I think that will eliminate a lot of interference from those who believe they need to run 1500 watts to talk cross-town on 80 meters. To me, common sense means that minimum power necessary keeps your signal 1 to 2 S-units above the noise (not 60dB over S9). I believe if people turned the power down to achieve that level (back up for a CQ is ok, I think), we'd be well on our way. Much easier to sell than to ask the QRO crowd to start at 5 watts.

73, Marty Watt, N5NW/8  
Bellbrook, Ohio

Marty posted this review on the QRP-L mailing list and I thought you'd find it interesting.

## APRS News

### APRS continues to show growth.

Steve Dimse, K4HG, the developer of the famous findu.com web site recently

won the EarthLink R&D grand prize for its open standards-based Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) device application development contest. The competition was designed to explore new and future vehicle telematics applications. Back in Feb- 2002, Dimse was designated the winner of the "Overall Favorite Application" category in the EarthLink AVL Developer Contest, the top prize! He won the grand prize for his proposal to integrate the AVL device into the existing Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) worldwide tracking system.

**Steve's accomplishments do not stop there.**

Each year NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) gives a number of Environmental Hero Awards to people who don't work for NOAA, but have contributed a great deal to NOAA's ongoing job of providing environmental services to the citizens of the United States. This year NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Office gave five of these awards

and one of them went to an amateur radio operator deeply involved in APRS.

On April 6, the office of David Evans, the Associate Administrator of NOAA in charge of research sent out an e-mail with this statement, .....

I am pleased to announce the NOAA Research winners of NOAA's Environmental Hero Award. This award is for "real people" outside of NOAA who have volunteered their time or who have worked closely with NOAA through their respective organizations. Please join me in extending congratulations to the winners.

Name: Dr. Steve Dimse

Organization/Location: Cudjoe Key, FL

Accomplishment: real-time citizen weather observations

NOAA Nominating Division: NOAA Research

If you are not familiar with the Citizen Watch program, check out the web site [http://www.noaa.gov/citizenwatch](#)



**THE THINGS YOU MISS BY NOT ATTENDING HARC MEETINGS**  
*Excitement of the 2002 Primary Election Campaign carried over to HARC's Election of Officers this year as you can see from the campaign sign sported by Peggy Bell, K4EGB*  
 Photo courtesy Corry Lee Smith

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/CWO P-Main.html>

This site will contain information on how to obtain your own personal CW number to participate. If you are a HAM, then you can use your APRS software, attach a weather station (Davis, Peet Brothers, etc...), and let the APRS software transmit your home weather station data over the APRS airwaves. Since we have a local Internet Gateway in our area, your weather information will automatically be placed on the weather net (no need for an Internet connection at your weather station). Whether you send your home weather station information via APRS or CWOP, your weather data will appear on the NOAA Mesonet Map Display at <http://www-frd.fsl.noaa.gov/mesonet/>

73, Tim - N8DEU n8deu@arrl.net

**The Giggle Box**

Happy Birthday To Everybody Who Was Born In July!!

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer. Have fun and enjoy yourself. Remember, you are making memories. By the time some of you get this newsletter, Field Day will be over. I hope everyone will be safe and will enjoy it. I

know that I will have fun with the picnic.

**A Joke or Two**

There was a man who had worked all of his life and had saved all of his money and was a real miser when it came to his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and just before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen. When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. Because I wanna take my money to the afterlife with me." And so he got his wife to promise him with all of her heart that when he died, she would put all of the money in the casket with him. Well one day he died. He was stretched out in the casket, the wife was sitting there in black, and her friend was sitting next to her. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a minute!" She had a box with her, she came over with the box and put it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked the casket down, and they rolled it away. So her friend said, "Girl, I know you weren't fool enough to put all that money in there with that man." She said, "Listen, I'm a Christian, I can't lie. I promised him that I was gonna put that money in that casket with him." "You mean to tell me you put that money in the casket with the man?" "I sure did," said the wife. "I wrote him a check."

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Isn't it amazing how God works in our lives? On a Saturday night several weeks ago, this pastor was working late, and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone. The pastor let it ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer, but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways. The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man on the phone wanted to know why he had called on Saturday night.

The pastor couldn't figure out what the man was talking about. Then the man said; It rang and rang, but I didn't answer. The pastor remembered the mishap and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife. The man said; It's really OK, but I'd like to share with you what happened because of your call. You see, I was planning to commit suicide that Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God, if you're there and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.' Right then my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID and it said, 'Almighty God'. I was afraid to answer!

The reason the man's caller ID showed that the call came from Almighty God is because the church that the pastor attends is called the Almighty God Tabernacle!

\*\*\*

Heard on a public transportation vehicle while in Orlando."When you exit this vehicle, please be sure to lower your head and watch your step. If you



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fail to do so, please lower your voice and watch your language. Thank you.

\*\*\*

A man in a supermarket was pushing a cart which contained, among other things, a screaming baby. As the man proceeded along the aisles, he kept repeating softly, "Keep calm, George. Don't get excited, George. Don't yell George." A lady watched with admiration and then said, "You are certainly to be commended for your patience in trying to quiet little George." "Lady," he declared, "I'm George!"

\*\*\*

The policeman arrived at the scene of an accident to find that a car had struck a telephone pole. Searching for witnesses, he discovered a pale, nervous young man in work clothes who claimed he was an eyewitness. "Exactly where were you at the time of the accident?" inquired the officer. "Mister," exclaimed the telephone lineman, "I was at the top of the pole!"

#### Have You Heard Anyone Say This?

It's hotter today than, two gerbils humping in a wool sock!

"Well knock me down and steal muh teeth!"

"Well, butter my butt and call me a biscuit."

"I'll slap you so hard, your clothes will be outta style."

"This'll jar your preserves."

"Cute as a sack full of puppies."

"If things get any better, I may have to hire someone to help me enjoy it."

"Gooder than grits."

"It's so dry, the trees are bribing the dogs."

"It's been hotter'n a goat's butt in a pepper patch."

"Wintery roads are said to be "slicker than otter snot."

"A bothersome person is "like a booger that you can't thump off."

"When something is bad then you say, "that ain't no count."

"If something is hard to do, it's "like trying to herd cats."

"A hectic schedule keeps you busier than a cat covering doo-doo on a marble floor."

"She's uglier than homemade soap."

"Your momma's so fat, when she got on the scales to be weighed, it said, 'To be continued'."

"He fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down."

"Uglier than a lard bucket full of arm-pits."

"The wheels still turning, but the hamsters dead"

"I'm just about as welcome at my inlaws, as a hair in a biscuit."

"If I was any better, I couldn't stand it."

#### The Thought for the Month of June

Plan a good chuckle to ward off illness.

#### Did You Know...

Minnie Pearl adorned a straw hat with a \$1.98 price tag hanging from the brim. She had rushed out to a store to buy some new flowers and fruit for her battered straw hat and in her haste, she didn't notice the tag still on the fruit. It soon became her trademark.

#### Solve the puzzle:

EHT EEYS ERA LYUTR HET  
DWSNIWO FO A ULOS

A few Sundays ago, Steve and I went for a Sunday drive. He decided that we would go hunting for alligators in the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. We drove around for a while and then made the wrong turn. We found out that we were blocked by a fallen tree in the road. Since we were in a large station wagon, there was no where to turn around. We drove backwards for quite a while until he became tired and decided that he would make a way to turn around. We never did see those alligators. And it was a lot cooler among the trees. We saw a lot of trees and stuff, but no alligators.

We also went down County Line Road and saw an airplane getting ready to take off. I decided that we would race with the airplane, but of course, we lost. It was beautiful to see that bird take off and look so free. I would have really enjoyed our Sunday drive, if it hadn't

been so hot. Oh, well, a few months ago, it was too cold.

Have a great day,

73, Peggy (Giggles) Bell, K4EGB

*Your choice of friends will determine the type of people your children are attracted to as they seek friends.*

#### Field Day Satellite Style

Well another Field Day has come and gone. I hope you got a chance to see the Satellite Station on Field Day and were able to witness the operation of AO-40. Leila, the alligator eater, was in full action giving warnings to ground stations with strong uplink signals to signal them to reduce their power. This is a nice feature of our new bird to allow weak stations a chance to be heard on the satellite by keeping the AGC level acceptable to receive their signals. We had AO-40 in range for over 15 continuous hours providing many interesting DX opportunities from Europe to the Orient all night long. It was a lot of fun and I hope you had a chance to see what it takes to operate the satellites and how well the signals can be heard on the ground. The antenna or dish used to receive the downlink on AO-40 was very small.

Many thanks for all who helped setting up the station, operating, and tearing down the equipment after an active time on the Satellites.

We have been the station to beat for the past 3 years in the AMSAT Field Day Competition and you can be sure we had a lot of stiff competition with AO-40 bringing many hours of operation. Two years prior to our string of wins we held the number 2 spot for 2 years. It was a great deal of fun!

Thanks to all who participated.

73, Tim, N8DEU Satellite Station  
Manager

#### July Hamfests

July 13, 2002.

- Georgia State Convention, Gainesville, Georgia. See <http://www.lanierlandarc.org/hamfest.htm> or contact Terry Jones, W4TL, 770-967-6264 or [w4tl@arrl.net](mailto:w4tl@arrl.net)

July 13, 2002.

- Cleveland ARC, Cleveland, Tennessee. Contact Ray Myers, KG4LZB, 423-472-1660 or bgault@wingnet.net .

July 20, 2002.

- Rhea County ARS, Dayton, Tennessee. See <http://www.volstate.net/~ko4sy> or contact Larry Lyda, WA4PJP, 423-365-6684 or wa4pip@arrl.net .

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

**Lost & Found**

**Found**

On Monday May 6th at the American Red Cross Chapter Building in Huntsville. A Handy-Talkie. Call 256-536-0084 Extension 210 and describe it or contact Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM at his beeper number 512-2436.

**From The Editor's Wastebasket**

Handover of the conn for HARC seems to be proceeding without a hitch. I hope you all continue to support the club in the way you have in the past. It is

a fact that the amount of enjoyment and satisfaction you get from a club like HARC is directly related to your level of participation. Coming to a meeting every once in a while and looking to be entertained for an hour or so gets you little in return. Getting involved with the club's activities will return much in terms of self satisfaction and enjoyment. **HARC — BE A PART OF IT!**

Plans are ramping up for the annual Huntsville Hamfest. It is time for me to drag my old but true chestnut — When you go to any other hamfest, you are there as a guest and should expect to be made welcome. When you attend the Huntsville Hamfest, you are a host, charged with the responsibility to make sure our guests leave with great memories of **OUR** event.

We will have the Big Stick-On the third Friday in July. The size of the mailing list will be about the same as last year. We need a **BIG** turnout to get that job done so everyone can get home at a

reasonable hour. If we approach it with the right attitude, it can be a fun evening. We have had suggestions about using commercial mailing outfits to do that job for us, but I've looked into the cost and they are much more than we can do it for ourselves. The hamfest does not normally run with enough of a margin to allow us to increase our mailing costs that much.

You'll soon be hearing from Jim Wallace, W4NYC, about volunteering for various functions during hamfest weekend. It takes a lot of people working on the hamfest weekend to make things a success. Make Jim's job easier by stepping up and volunteering early to help out.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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