

# VOX



## HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 43, Number 7

July, 2003

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

#### Club Officers

##### President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY  
duncant1@ds-s.com

##### Vice President:

Kim Hensley, WG8S  
khensley@gamewood.net

##### Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
k4rgg@arrl.net

##### Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 722-0250  
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 the second Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 43, Nr 7, July, 2003

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

### From the President

HARC is pleased to welcome seven new members in the past month. They are:

Tom Thomas, KG4RDI

Fred Kersey, WB0UCI

Bill Douglas, KG4ZMS

Jim Brown, KI4ABV

Jason Henriksen, KE4ROR

Emma Fry, KB1BTZ

Stephanie Pitts, KI4ATL

From the KI4s and late-in-the-alpha-bet KG4s, we see most of these have recently received their licenses, and to these we offer an additional welcome to amateur radio. We know you bring the enthusiasm and the trepidation of newcomers, both to HARC and, for new licensees, to the hobby. Share your enthusiasm with us - volunteer for various activities as they are announced, and become part of the regular Friday night crowd. Let us know why you decided to become hams. In turn, we hope to share our experiences with you. We do indeed represent many facets of the hobby, and hope to acquaint you with them through programs, activities, and personal contact - on and off the air.

Those of us who have been hams for at least a couple of years should be very encouraged by these new callsigns. Our Saturday morning testing team is clearly doing a good job of filling the ranks with fresh licensees and staving off the graying of the ham population. The rest of us need to do our part as elmers of one sort or another. We can elmer our technology - the nuts and bolts of our ether and equipment. We can elmer our technique - protocols and procedures - how things work on the air. But most importantly, we can elmer our time. A few minutes spent telling a new ham about your first QSO, or how good the last hamfest was, or how much fun you'll have working AO-40 during field day, ensures these

newly-planted seeds have what they need to grow.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### From The Treasurer

Hello All:

Just wanted to take a few minutes to write. I want to start out by thanking the club as a whole for once again electing me as your treasurer. I took this position back in June 1997 to make sure that payments got posted in a timely fashion and correctly. Since then, we have been through a lot. I have had to make adjustments in learning a new database, get another helper for inputting data randomly, we had to go through Don (W4NO)'s house fire where some payments got lost, and many other obstacles. I think considering we have done well. So, if any of you have any questions about whether your check has cleared,

### 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 5*

*Saturday, August 2*

*For information contact:*

*Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154*

*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*

please don't hesitate to call on me or email at hthorson@knology.nett

Also, if your wondering on when your membership expires, check the label on your vox and it shows your good through date. Due to some technical difficulties, our officer installation will occur on Friday, July 11th. I will present an updated budget at that time to get us through the year until the annual meeting in Jan. 2004 with NARA and HARC. Hope to see all of you on July 11th.

Congratulations to Tim (N8DEU) for being a wonderful Vice President this year. Tim found us lots of very interesting programs and he also handles all the packet and satellite issues as well. Your great Tim. Now, that being said a more important issue is on our plate for this

month which is FIELD DAY. We need some operators for it and want you all to come on out. We also need some move in and tear down help as well. We especially need some tear down help. The tear down will start promptly at 1:00 p. m. on Sunday afternoon. Just in case you all forgot, FIELD DAY is Friday June 27th through Sunday June 29th. Also, don't forget that Peggy (K4EGB) is hosting the picnic which will be on Sat. afternoon around 4:00 p. m. She needs a \$2.00 donation if possible to assist her in providing all the goodies. We will have the usual hot dogs, burgers, and of course everyone bring a covered dish with food in it. It should be a great FIELD DAY this year. Chris (KF4MMF) and Scotty (W4WW) are chairing the

FIELD DAY this year. Come on out and join in the fun.

A big thanks to Rolf (K4RGG) and Frank (W4HFU) for all the hard work done on assembling the club roster. Lots of hard hours are spent in a project like that. If any of you have corrections which need to me made please email them to me at: hthorson@knology.nett

So, we have lots of things going on and lots of new members as well. If you know anyone who is a ham or wants to become one, please direct them to our meetings as we will get them the help they need or be glad to answer any questions they may have. See you all at FIELD DAY.

73, Heath Thorson, KC4HRX Treasurer

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR July, 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	2 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 200.5 Hz	3 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	4 No meeting. Happy 4th--Careful with those fireworks!	5 *TWIAR  CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
6	7	8 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	9 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 200.5 Hz	10 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	11 HARC Meeting NARA Mid-Year Up- date meeting	12 *TWIAR 7-12 & 7-13 South- eastern Division Convention, Gainesville, GA
13 Southeastern Division Convention, Gainesville, GA	14	15 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	16 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 200.5 Hz	17 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	18 HARC Meeting Big Stick-On night. We need all the help we can get!	19 *TWIAR Hamfest, Rhea County ARS, Dayton, TN
20	21	22 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	23 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 200.5 Hz	24 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	25 HARC Meeting	26 *TWIAR
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 200.5 Hz	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 *TWIAR  CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
3	4	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 200.5 Hz	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting	9 *TWIAR

\*TWIAR -- This Week In Amaterur Radio, + 442.775 PL203.5 Hz 8 PM Every Saturdays  
 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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## NARA Notes:

Don't miss the NARA mid year update meeting on Friday July 11th as the HARC program. We now have an operating 6 Meter repeater (W4XE) on 53.21 minus offset with a 100 Hz tone. We also have a 1.2 Gig machine (KE4ROC) - 1291 / 1271 with a 103.5 Tone. Come to the meeting and hear more details about those machines, the IRLP system on '18 and of course the list of repairs & improvements on our plate.

443.500 will be the the focus in the short term. One request as far as the '18 machine: Please always leave the remote link in receive mode. You will notice that we have published the codes for that part only on the repeater itself. Leave it in receive so that we can hear incoming calls to the Huntsville node. Please do not leave it in Transmit as the next station that comes along and wants to have a local QSO is keying the link radio which may cause QRM not to mention the unnecessary wear & tear on the link Radio. Please put it back in receive

(\*42) whether or not you disconnect the IRLP node (73).

To answer an incoming call, just send \*43 to bring the link Tx up but remember to send \*42 and put it back in receive when you're done. Listen carefully to the courtesy tones. They are different for transmit vs receive mode. If you see that someone has left it in tx and is not there, please put it back in rx (\*42). Thanks & have fun. for more info on nodes see www.irlp.net. our node is open. just key in the 4 digit node # once the link is in Tx. 73 will disconnect the node call but REMEMBER TO PUT THE REPEATER LINK BACK IN RECEIVE PLEASE (\*42) ... \*42 .. \*42 .. \*42 ... get the picture :- ) ... thanks & have fun

73, Ron, W4VM NARA President.

## AL Army Mars:

For those who missed the presentation on MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) on June 13th, the Al Army MARS web site contains a lot of info to get you going: www.almars.org. MARS has shifted to a primary ECOMs focus now so it's good for amateur operators to know how it fits in whether they are

in the program or not. I know at least two folks who saw the presentation were interested and I'll be happy to help in any way I can. E-mail me at w4vm@comcast.net. There will be two MARS forums at the Huntsville Hamfest.

73, Ron Shaffer, W4VM / AAT4SJ

## The Giggle Box

Happy Birthday To Everybody That Was Born In July!!

A note from Giggles:

I know that it has been a few months since there was a Giggle Box. Sorry about that. Time just kept slipping up on me. I guess I was having too much fun. Steve and I are grandparents again. Chloe MacKenzie Cook was born May 12th. She weighed 7 lbs and 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. She is so pretty. When she smiles she has dimples in her cheeks. Momma and daddy are doing fine, and big sister, Sarah-Ann loves her to pieces. I'm glad that I am still young enough to get down in the floor and play with the little ones. I hope everyone is ready for

Field Day. We'll need all the help that we can get. Don't forget about the picnic. It will be Saturday at 4:00pm. Bring a covered dish and a \$2.00 donation. I hope all the dads have a wonderful Father's Day.

#### A Joke or Two

A very successful lawyer parked his brand-new Jaguar XK-8 in front of the office, ready to show it off to his colleagues. As he got out, a truck came along, too close to the curb, and completely tore off the driver's door of the Jag. The counselor immediately grabbed his cell phone and dialed 911. In less than five minutes, a policeman pulled up. Before the cop had a chance to ask any questions, the lawyer started screaming hysterically. His Jag, which he had just picked up the day before, was now completely ruined and would never be the same, no matter how the body shop tried to make it new again. After the lawyer finally wound down from his ranting, the cop shook his head in disgust and disbelief. I can't believe how materialistic you high rolling' lawyers are, he said. You are so focused on your possessions that you don't notice anything else. How can you say such a thing? asked the lawyer. The cop replied, didn't you know that your left arm is missing from the elbow down? It must have been torn off when the truck hit you. "OH, MY GOD," screamed the lawyer, "My Rolex!!!!

\*\*\*

#### NAILS IN THE FENCE

There once was a little girl who had a bad temper. Her mother gave her a bag of nails and told her that every time she lost her temper, she must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the girl had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as she learned to control her anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. She discovered it was easier to hold her temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the girl didn't lose her temper at all. She told her mother about it and the mother suggested that the girl now pull out one nail for each day that she was able to hold her temper. The day passed and the young girl was finally able to tell her mother that all the nails were gone. The mother took her daughter by the hand and led her to the fence. She said, "You have done well,

my daughter, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one." You can put a knife in a person and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say "I'm sorry", the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us.

\*\*\*

It was late at night and Heidi, who was expecting her second child, was home Alone with her 3-year old daughter, Katelyn. When Heidi started going into labor, she called "911". Due to a power outage at the time, only one paramedic responded to the call. The house was very, very dark, so the paramedic asked Katelyn to hold a flashlight high over her mommy so he could see while he helped deliver the baby. Very diligently, Katelyn did as she was asked. Heidi pushed and pushed, and after a little while Connor was born. The paramedic lifted him by his little feet and spanked him on his bottom. Connor began to cry. The paramedic then thanked Katelyn for her help and asked the wide-eyed 3-year old what she thought about what she had just witnessed. Katelyn quickly responded, "He shouldn't have crawled in there in the first place. Spank him again!"

\*\*\*

It's not easy being a Southerner! An Arkansas State trooper pulls over a pickup truck on I-40 and says to the driver, "Got any ID?" The driver says, "Bout what?"

\*\*\*

Two Mississippians are walking toward each other, and one is carrying a sack. When they meet, one says, "Hey Tommy Ray, whatcha got in th' bag?" "Jes' some chickens." "If I guesses how many they is, kin I have one?" "Shoot, if ya guesses right, I'll give you both of 'em!" "OK. Ummmmm...five?"

\*\*\*

An Alabamian came home and found his house on fire. He rushed next door, telephoned the fire department and shouted, "Hurry over here-muh house is on fahr!" "OK," replied the fireman,

"how do we get there?" "Shucks, don't you fellers still have those big red trucks?"

\*\*\*

Ida Mae passed away and Bubba called 911. The 911-operator told Bubba that she would send someone out right away. "Where do you live?" asked the operator. Bubba replied, "At the end of Eucalyptus Drive." The operator asked, "Can you spell that for me?" After a long pause, Bubba said, "How 'bout I drag her over to Oak Street and you pick her up there?"

\*\*\*

#### Jokes You Can Tell In Church

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

\*\*\*

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

\*\*\*

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

\*\*\*

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a

sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

\*\*\*

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

\*\*\*

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

\*\*\*

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

\*\*\*

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

\*\*\*

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

\*\*\*

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

\*\*\*

Did You Know: The Thought for the Month of July A BEST FRIEND is like a four leaf clover, HARD TO FIND and LUCKY TO HAVE

Solve the puzzle:

THIW ERH RRIAMEG HSE TOG A  
WEN MEAN DAN A REDSS .

73 Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB SEW  
LONG!

### Area Hamfests For July

July 12-13 2003. Southeastern Division Convention, Gainesville, Georgia. Contact Terry Jones, W4TL, by 770-967-6364 or w4tl@arrl.net. See <http://www.lanierlandarc.org/hamfest.htm>. Hours are 8:00AM to 5:00PM on Saturday and 9:00 AM to 3:00PM on Sunday. Talk-In frequency is 146.67(-) 131.8 PL. Admission is \$6.00.

July 19, 2003. Rhea County ARS, Dayton, Tennessee. Contact Tommy Mize, KO4SY at 423-570-0840 or ko4sy@arrl.net. See <http://rcars.net>. Admission and parking is free. Talk-in frequency is 147.390(+). Park opens at 6AM.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

### ARRL Bulletin 040, 5 MHz allocation update

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT June 18, 2003 To all radio amateurs

When the five new 60-meter channels become available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12 AM) local time on July 3, the rules will impose a new record-keeping requirement for hams. The requirement applies only to those using something other than a simple half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation.

According to Part 97.303(s), a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation will be presumed to have a gain of 0 dBd. "Licensees using other antennas must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain," states the newest addition to the FCC's Amateur Service rules.

Because the new rules also require hams to run no more than 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) on the new channels, the choice of antenna becomes an important compliance factor. The FCC rules stipulate, "For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP will be multiplied (by) the antenna gain relative

to a dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels."

ARRL has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) concerning 5 MHz operation on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty](http://www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty).

### From The Editor's Wastebasket

It's good to see the Giggle Box back in the Vox this month. I had been wondering if Giggles had decided to stop writing it or something. Turns out she's been busy with spoiling another grandkid. Brings to mind a plaque I've seen that says "Granny's My Name and Spoilin's My Game".

Judging from the performance turned in by last year's officers, I'd say we can expect another good year. Our thanks to the 'outgoing' officers and congratulations to the 'incoming' officers.

Along with this Vox you'll be getting the current copy of the HARC membership list and constitution. We've made all kinds of efforts to make sure it is accurate, but I've already found one omission. Somehow, Jason M. Henriksen, KE4ROR failed to make it into the list. As you identify other lapses or errors in the roster, let me and Heath know and the next Vox will contain an errata sheet with any corrections that have been identified. If anybody feels moved to comment on the rather bold colored cover on the roster, just think of the color code and remember this is 200'3'.

Apologies to Jason for leaving him out. For now, it's:

Jason M. Henriksen, KE4ROR  
8305 Whitesburg Way Apt 314  
Huntsville, AL 35802  
256 883-1477

I hope everybody turns out to help make Field Day a success this year. Chris and his crew seems to have everything planned out well. All that remains is the need for a good turnout and good propagation. Preferably good propagation centering on Madison County, Alabama. It'll be OK if it is bad for everybody else as long as they can hear and work K4BFT.

Speaking of turning out, we have the Huntsville Hamfest coming up August 16 & 17. The hamfest runs on ham-power and we need participation

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from all the local ham population to make it a success. Jim Wallace will be contacting you before long asking for help with move-in and hospitality chores. Be sure and respond to his call and do what you can. Remember, when you go to the Podunk Hamfest you're a guest and it's up to the Podunkians as hosts to do what they can to make your visit a pleasure. At he Huntsville Hamfest, you are the hosts. It's a reflection on the Huntsville ham population if we don't put out the effort to make our visitors feel welcome. We've got a good record of our visitors welcome in the past and I hope we can continue to be

known as the "Friendly Family Hamfest".

Another opportunity to help the Hamfest comes up in July. The Big Stick-On is scheduled for July 18. I'll be preparing over 19,000 labels which will be applied to hamfest flyers on that night. We'll need a good turnout of willing label stickers to make sure it doesn't turn into a LONG night.

As information about hamfest plans gets to me it gets included on the Huntsville Hamfest web site. Check "www.hamfest.org" periodically to see what's going to happen.

There will not be a Vox for August as hamfest preparations get too much in the way. I'll start the next Vox the week after the hamfest. Anything you want to go in the September Vox will be due that week. Remember that's a good time for a Field Day recap and for stories about the great things that happened during the hamfest. You've got plenty of warning, so It won't hurt a thing if you send me material before the hamfest. I'll put it in the hopper to start with the Monday after.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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