

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 46, Number 7

July, 2006

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR
kb3dxx@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 46, Nr 7, July, 2006

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

From the VP.

3 Years and secretary no more... Thank you Robbie Lock for taking on that task. I'm sure you'll do a great job. Now that you have elected me Vice President, my main task is going to be to create a program for each of the HARC meetings, but I am going to solicit your help with that. Because without your input I don't think I can fill 50 weeks of great programs. So please send me your program ideas to my e-mail address k4rgg@arrl.net. Let me know what you would like to see. Who do you know that you think might do a presentation etc. etc. Maybe you are able to make a presentation yourself. You get the idea.

Help me make it great year for HARC and send me those ideas.

73 de Rolf K4RGG

ARES News

Recently, I talked to Jeff Loudin, the new Madison County ARES Emergency Coordinator. I told him that we need to get our ARES operators qualified to some basic standards, which I don't think is very controversial. For example, I think that all ARES members should complete the online "Independent Study" courses on the FEMA website "http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp", specifically:

1. IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System
2. IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
3. IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
4. IS-800 National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction

Jeff and I took a bunch of these FEMA courses last year, because they were required in order for us to be Army MARS radio operators in the Al-

abama State Defense Force. It was no big deal to do. Some of the courses take a couple of hours, the rest, a day or less. I made a game of it, with a ham friend in Birmingham, who took a few extra, then I took a few extra, etc. I wound up taking 30 courses over a period of a couple of months, but lost out to my friend - he took all of them.

Jeff (nervously) asked a question that you might ask: "There's nowhere in the ARES SOP that requires these courses for anyone. What if someone challenges it and just doesn't want to take them?" Here's my reply.

First, we need to be able to "get into" the emergency site. Without IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 completion certificates, emergency personnel were turned away during the Katrina/Rita emergency. Right now is the time to prepare for the next emergency. I have read in several places that volunteers who show up in an emergency with-

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, June 3

Saturday, July 1

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. They are held at the Athens EOC.

For information contact Bob Hudson,
W4RKH, 461-7905

out knowledge of the Incident Command System are more of a burden than an asset. Since I haven't personally encountered that, I don't know that it's a fact, but I know that I keep seeing the same story in various ARES newsletters, and ARRL and other publications.

Second, we want to raise the level of professionalism of hams who participate in emergency activities. For example, if someone knows about Incident Command System beforehand, it is easier to integrate them into a team during an actual event. If the NRP is put in place, due to a serious accident at Brown's Ferry n-Plant, it's no time to figure out what to do - it's time to

do what we've trained for, and make a smooth transition to emergency mode.

Third, we need to leave a lasting impression on our customers, whether it's the Red Cross, a local EMA office, or an emergency field tent that we set up when all he__ breaks loose. The hams that we send to the field are the best that we've got. Of course they are all licensed communicators, but beyond that, we, as their leaders need to have confidence that they will be as prepared as possible, for anything possible. The last thing that we need is for an EMA director somewhere to call up and say "how do we get rid of this fool?"

Fourth, we are proud, professional communicators and we represent ARES and the ARRL, which is the national organization for Amateur Radio. We bring the strength of "dedicated volunteers" to bear on the problem of emergency communication. We train, and prepare for the worst, and then we deliver our best. Whether it's a guy who just memorized the answers and got his ticket to do 2 meter ragchew, or a ham who has been volunteering for stuff for 50 years, we get a special feeling whenever we're able to help the people of our community during the worst possible times — we just show up and help, it's in our nature. I say: let's be fully prepared.

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR July, 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	28 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	29 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	30 HARC Meeting	1 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900, Red Cross Bldg.
2	3	4 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	5 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	6 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	7 HARC Meeting	8 *TWIAR
9	10	11 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	12 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	13 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	14 HARC Meeting	15 *TWIAR
16 MCARC Hamfest McMinn county ARC, Athens, TN (If it doesn't rain)	17	18 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	19 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	20 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	21 HARC Meeting Big Stick-On Night	22 *TWIAR
23	24	25 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	26 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	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 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	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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Come see us next to Chili's!

Finally, I said that this is just a beginning. For example, I think that all ARES members should join the local RACES organization. I also think we all need to complete the ARRL EC-001 and EC-002 courses (over-achievers will want to try the brand new EC-003 course). Since these courses cost money, and can be time-consuming, it may be a fun program for a local club to coordinate and fund. I also think that the free CERT program that run by various counties provides invaluable training for actual emergencies. When everyone is screaming and rushing around, and all is lost - a few people will be taking charge because they are prepared - will that be you, proudly wearing your "Emergency Communicator" credentials? If your wife, your mother, your brother, your sister is in dire need of help after a tornado rips through the Tennessee Valley, will you be trained to help them, plus all the other people who will need help so badly, or will you be

wondering why it takes so long for emergency responders to get there?

Our biggest problem is to get Amateur Radio operators engaged and trained, and I'm sure that Jeff's question was really a courteous way of saying "how are we supposed to recruit new hams to ARES, if they actually have to complete some courses and do some training, and check into the nets, and all that stuff?" He is afraid that hams won't step up if they actually have to "do something". My bet is that YOU will want to become the best possible emergency communicator during the next emergency, which I believe will happen "right soon now". Did you talk to our ARRL Section Manager, Greg Sarratt after Katrina/Rita? He just stepped up and took charge. He was trained, qualified, and ready. He is an example of what an individual ham is capable of: he made a difference, when and where it

was really needed - and here in Alabama, he is our leader.

My email is listed below and if you can contribute any ideas that will help out, I would appreciate it. I don't think that we'll lose any ARES members because of training requirements, and I hope that it will get hams "re-engaged" in this vital hobby. I think that most hams will agree with my idea of well-trained "holistic emergency communicators". Let me know what you think.

73, Doug Hilton, AG4FL
Alabama ARES District 6 Emergency
Coordinator
AG4FL@ARRL.net

**Hello From Charlie
Emerson/N4OKL,**

Well, it's about time to start thinking seriously about the Huntsville Hamfest, and who will be able to help with the Big Show this year. Let me say right off the bat, that we really appreciate more than we can say, the

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

tireless and dedicated help from all those that took the time to help last year.

As you know, the Hamfest could not take place if it were not for the fine Folks that help with all the logistics involved. This year will be a little different in that, I'm going to email all the Worker Requests that I can. Be looking for an email with a .doc (Microsoft Word) file, that will allow you to fill out the Request Form on line and email it back to me. The Job Descriptions and information, along with your individual assignments will also be emailed. That way we can cut the cost of "Snail Mail" dramatically.

There are several that receive The VOX that do not list an email address in the Member Database. I'll mail the Requests to those. Again, and as always, thank you so much for your time and effort. Please give serious consideration to helping as much as you can. The more the merrier. For your effort, you'll be given free admission both days of The Hamfest and you'll receive five free tickets for the fine prizes that will be available. Thank you in advance for any and all help.

If you need to contact me, email me at charlieemerson@hamfest.org or (256) 882-9137.

*73, Charlie/N4OKL
 Vice-President, Huntsville Hamfest
 Association*

From: Michael Werner

Sent: Saturday, June 10, 2006 9:48 PM
 Subject: Vox Report

Greeting's to all Hams , My Name Is Michael Werner and My call is kf4bog. I run a website called werner's weather Online and I am also a Member of my local radio club and a national club called handihams which helps new hams with special needs get there amateur radio license.

I Got my first ham ticket in July 1995 then in August 1996 i upgraded to the tech+ . I have Training in Tracking storms using doppler radar and other weather service maps . Storm spotter trained since 2003 . I am the only ham that uses weather radar to report severe weather to our local NWS.

I've enjoyed the hobby. I'm hoping that other's that have a handicap and have a interest in radio will join in the fun . Please feel free to visit my website at <http://michaelwr.shorturl.com> today .

*73 de Mike, Kf4bog
 mgwerner@comcast.net*

The Giggle Box

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
 EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN
 JULY and AUGUST!!**

A note from Giggles: Its almost time for Field Day and before you turn around we will be having the Huntsville Hamfest.

As most of you know, we will be having a picnic at Field Day. This year's Field Day site is in front of the Marriott at the Space and Rocket Center. The picnic will be Saturday at 4:00pm.

Bring covered dishes, lawn chairs, coolers and sun screen. There will be

hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks and water. If you would like to bring a gallon of tea, feel free to do so. Also, if you would like something besides a hamburger or hotdog, bring it and we will throw it on the grill too.

If you would like to make a donation toward the food and drinks, there will be a container for donations somewhere on the tables.

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, contact me or my husband, Steve. For complaints, we promise not to bite your head off, but will try to make it better next time.

I look forward to seeing you at Field Day. CUL

A Joke or Two

Dear Mrs. Fenton,
 Over the past six months, your husband, Mr. Bill Fenton has been causing quite a commotion in our store. We cannot tolerate this type of behavior and have considered banning the entire family from shopping in any of our stores. We have documented all incidents on our video surveillance equipment. Three of our clerks are attending counseling from the trouble your husband has caused. All complaints against Mr. Fenton have been compiled and are listed below.

*Mr. Wally Worrywart President
 Wal-Mart Complaint Department*

Re: Mr. Bill Fenton - Complaints - 14 Things Mr. Bill Fenton has done while his spouse/partner is shopping:

1. July 2, set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.

2. July 7, made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the rest rooms.

3. July 19, walked up to an employee and told her in an official tone, "Code 3 in Housewares..." and watched what happened.

4. August 4, went to the Service Desk and asked to put a bag of M&M's on lay-a-way.

5. September 14, moved a "CAUTION - WET FLOOR" sign to a carpeted area.

6. September 15, Set up a tent in the camping department and told other shoppers he'd invite them in if they'll bring pillows from the bedding department.

7. September 23, When a clerk asks if they can help him, he begins to cry and asks, "Why can't you people just leave me alone?"

8. October 4, Looked right into the security camera; used it as a mirror, and picked his nose.

9. November 10, While handling guns in the hunting department, asked the clerk if he knows where the antidepressants are.

10. December 3, Darted around the store suspiciously loudly humming the "Mission Impossible" theme.

11. December 6, In the auto department, practiced his "Madonna look" using different size funnels.

12. December 18, Hid in a clothing rack and when people browse through, yelled "PICK ME!" "PICK ME!"

13. December 21: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumes the fetal position and screams "NO! NO! It's those voices again!!" (And; last, but not least....)

14. December 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door and waited a while; then, yelled, very loudly, "There is no toilet paper in here!"

Doctor Visit Randy went to a psychiatrist. "Doc," he said, "I've got trou-

ble. Every time I get into bed, I think there's somebody under it. I'm going crazy!"

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink. "Come to me three times a week, and I'll cure your fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"A hundred dollars per visit."

"I'll sleep on it," said Jerry.

Six months later the doctor met Jerry on the street. "Why didn't you ever come to see me again?" asked the psychiatrist.

"For a hundred bucks a visit? A bartender cured me for \$10." "Is that so! How?" "He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now!"

The Hint for the Month of July and August Ever wonder how long it would take to use up a typical pencil. The typical pencil can draw a line 35 miles long.

Thought for the Month of July and August The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Solve the puzzle: **A AANBLDEC EIDT IS A OOKIEC NI CHEA DANH**

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

July Hamfests

July 16, 2006. Second Annual MCARC Hamfest, McMinn County Amateur Radio Club. Athens Regional Park, Athens Tennessee. Contact Scott Duckworth, NA4IT, 423-263-1980 or kf4cfo@qsl.net . Doors open at 0700 and close at 1200. Admission is free. Talk-in is 145.31- (-). Hamfest will be cancelled for rain. Additional details can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/kf4cfo/>.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Well, we got the set of officers for 2006/2007 installed on Friday, June 9th. Rolf, moves up to Vice President and we welcomed Robby Lock as Secre-

tary. It's time to urge you all to give them all the support you can to make the year a success. They can do their job only with the cooperation and assistance of the membership.

This is the last chance to encourage you all to support the club in their Field Day effort. They'll be doing their thing at the Space & Rocket Center on June 24th and 25th. Don't forget the picnic at the FD site on Saturday afternoon. Check the Giggles column for details of it.

And most important, this is the last Vox to be published until **AFTER** the Huntsville Hamfest. The Hamfest will be on August 19th and 20th this year. Keep in mind a few important facts. The Hamfest runs on "ham-power" lots of folks are required to help make it a success. Remember that we are the hosts at the Huntsville Hamfest. Our job is to make sure that the visitors who have come into town for the 'Fest have a good time. Of course we can enjoy the event too, but our real goal is the enjoyment that comes with ending our visitors home happy.

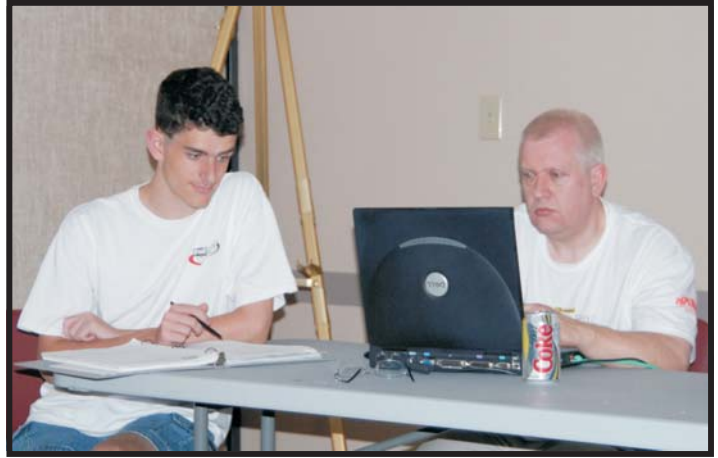
You'll be hearing from Charlie Emerson, N4OKL to sign you up for various duties in support of the hamfest. Do your part to help make it a real success.

Another note -- If you have not been getting the emails that I've sent to the club -- or if you don't get an email from Charlie, you have wrong email address on file in the club's database. Maybe you've changed email address since you supplied it to the club -- maybe we've made a mistake entering it into the database. If you're not getting HARC emails and you are a HARC member, **PLEASE PLEASE** give us your correct email address. If you, for some reason, don't want us to send you member emails, **INFORM US OF THAT FACT**, don't hide behind an erroneous address! I'm getting tired of dealing with a deluge of bounce messages every time someone asks me to send a HARC group email.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



President Chris Best and Treasurer, Heath Thorson



Secretary, Robby Lock and Veep, Rolf Goedhart

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