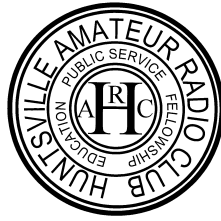


VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 41, Number 6

June, 2001

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers:

President,

John Morris, K4XH
K4XH@aol.com

Vice President,

Paul Paelian, WB4UEE

Secretary,

Brian Bender, KD4FGL
kd4fgl@mindspring.com

Treasurer,

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 774-3098
hthorson@hiwaay.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. Its 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 fe mens@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 41, Nr 6, June, '01
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL

From The Prez

The election of officers for the coming year will be held at the Friday, June 1 meeting. Ernie Blair and Jared Cassidy are the nominating committee, and they are looking for members willing to serve as officers. Of course, nominations can be made from the floor, so try to attend this important meeting.

Bill Richardson, W4LRE, will be giving his program on Blacksmithing Friday, May 25, so be sure to put this on your calendar. Bill's demonstrations are always lots of fun with all the fire and hot metal.

I was out of town for two meetings, April 27 and May 4. It was reported that the programs on Military Radios and Fire Fighting were very enjoyable and well received.

The Field Day guy wire fabrication demonstration May 11 went very well. An enthusiastic crew measured and cut the wire rope, threaded thimbles and ferules and swaged them on the cables. All twelve guy wires were completed in this session. Quality control procedures included checking the swaged ferrules with a gauge, and measuring to confirm the finished length of each guy was 47 feet 3 inches within one inch tolerance. There was also a demonstration of how the shackles would be attached to the tower legs and the turnbuckles to the ground anchors. Many thanks to all those who helped with this important project. This should make Field Day safer, easier and more fun for every one.

Programs for June are as follows:

June 1 History of Radio by Christopher Best, KB3DXA

June 8 EZ Rotor Kit Demonstration by me.

June 15 VOX Night

June 22 Field Day

June 29 Auction, Cory Smith Auctioneer

73, John Morris K4XH

From the Treasurer

Hello everyone. Hope things are doing well with all of you. Things are mov-

ing quickly in my world. All checks received by me have been deposited.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to email me. I will be glad to check it out. Don't forget field day is coming up around the corner.

Come out and support the ham radio community by helping with the contest. We always need help on putting up and taking down. If you can't work the contest, help us with the hard stuff. All help is gratefully appreciated.

Any help you can provide, will take the burden off the ones who do it year after year. Look forward to seeing you all out there. Take care.

73, Heath Thorson (KC4HRX)
hthorson@hiwaay.net

June Hamfests

- June 2, 2001. Georgia Section Convention, Marietta Georgia.
<http://www.saf.com/arc/atlfest.htm>
or contact John Talipsky, KA4VQH at 770-995-6446 or johnka4vqh@aol.com
- June 8-9, 2001. Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Exposition, Knoxville, Tennessee.
<http://www.kornet.org/rack> or contact David Bower, K4PZT at 865-690-8360 or d.bower@ieee.org

CAVECA 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, June 2

Saturday, July 7

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 379-3582

Or

Don Tun still, W4NO, 536-3904

- June 9, 2001. Albany ARC, Albany, Georgia. <http://home.isoa.net/aarc> or contact Bob Smith, K4PHE at 229-883-9633 or k4phe@isoa.net.
- June 16, 2001. Franklin County ARC, Russellville, Alabama. <http://www.qsl.net/fcarc> or contact Christopher Arthur, NV4B at 256-332-2889 or nv4b@mindspring.com.
- June 16, 2001. Nashville ARC, Nashville, Tennessee. contact Murray Jones, K4ANH at 615-824-7216 or mj80917@aol.com.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

AO-40'S LEILA Sounds Her Siren Call

If you're planning to use the AO-40 satellite, watch out for LEILA! The satellite's ground controllers have turned on the LEILA system, which not too subtly discourages operators from putting too strong a signal into the satellite's uplink receiver.

AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, says LEILA was turned on for the first time May 12 after some very strong signals—louder than the middle beacon—showed up in the satellite's passband.

"Several people tried to get them to reduce power, but they apparently weren't listening," he said in a posting on the AMSAT-DL site. The situation soon led to "massive grumbling" on the passband, he said.

LEILA soon was set up on the UHF uplink and "it worked like a charm!" Guelzow concluded. If a too-strong station fails to lower power, LEILA notches out the offender's uplink and sends the siren signal to the downlink for about five seconds.

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, who's AMSAT's new awards manager, was on hand for LEILA's debut. He says LEILA can notch out five signals at a time. "So if there are a lot of offenders, you might have to wait to get stomped by LEILA," he said.

Guelzow said if all goes well, ground controllers probably will leave LEILA switched on continuously.

The success of LEILA was dimmed by the apparent failure of ground controllers to get the AO-40 X band (10 GHz) system to operate. Ground controllers haven't given up yet, however. Guelzow said Stacey Mills, W4SM, and Michael Fletcher, OH2AUE, tested the X-band transmitters, both solid state and traveling wave tube (TWT) over the weekend. "Unfortunately, the test was not successful," Guelzow said. Tele-

try indicated the proper commands, but apparently no power was reaching any of the X-band modules. Another test will be run soon.

AO-40 ground controllers opened up the next-generation satellite's transponders May 5 for general amateur use on an experimental basis. Uplink frequencies (without taking Doppler into account) are 435.495-435.780 MHz and 1269.211-1269.496 MHz, and the downlink passband is 2401.210-2401.495 MHz. The transponders are inverting, so a downward change in uplink frequency will result in an upward frequency shift in the downlink.—thanks to AMSAT News Service and AMSAT-DL

From The ARRL Letter Vol 20 Number 20, for May 18, 2001

Huntsville Hamfest

Yes, there will be a Huntsville Hamfest this year and it is time to start thinking about your part in it. Plans are moving along and it looks like we'll have the usual bang-up fest.

Craig Behrens, NM4T, is working to put together a big special interest QRP event for the forums. Craig is editor of the QRP ARCI monthly magazine and this is being written, up at the Dayton Hamvention wielding his in-flu-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR June, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 South east Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting: His tory of Ra dio by Chris topher Best, KB3DXA	2 CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross building GA Sec tion Con ven tion, Marietta, GA
3	4 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 South east Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting: EZ Rotor Kit Dem on stration by John Morris, K4XH	9 Knox ville Hamfest Al bany ARC, Al bany, GA
10	11 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 South east Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 HARC Meeting: Vox Night	16 Franklin County ARC, Russellville, AL Nash ville ARC, Nash ville, TN
17	18 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 South east Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 No Meeting: Field Day Site Work Session	23
24	25 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 South east Linked Repeater Net1900 on 147.240	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	29 HARC Meeting: Auction, Corry Smith, Auctioneer	30

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ence on the QRP community to take part in the hamfest.

One of the biggest events requiring inputs from the membership of HARC (aside from supporting the hamfest itself) is the traditional Big Stick On. Stick-On night this year will be July 20. Like last year, the mailing piece will be an 8.5 x 5.5 inch post card and will not require "dots", folding or other manipulation, just a carefully applied label. Be prepared to turn out big-time for this session and help us get the mailing ready for the post of fice.

The hamfest website, "www.hamfest.org" is now hosted by our friends at GigaParts. The site has been rearranged somewhat and brought as nearly up-to-date as we can manage at this time. Check it out and pass the URL on to any one you meet on the air that may be interested in the Huntsville Hamfest

ARRL To Push For Five Mhz Allocation

The ARRL Executive Committee has reviewed a preliminary draft Petition

for Rule Making seeking a new US ham band in the vicinity of 5 MHz. Experimental operation at 5 MHz under a license issued to the ARRL has been going on since 1999. Participants in the ARRL WA2XSY experimental operation have established that an allocation at 5 MHz could improve emergency communication capabilities by filling the gap between 80 and 40 meters.

On a motion from Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, the EC agreed that the petition should seek a domestic secondary amateur allocation around 5 MHz with a bandwidth of 150 kHz. Executive Committee members will review the completed draft petition before it's filed with the FCC, possibly before the next ARRL Board meeting in July.

An amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz long has been an objective of the International Amateur Radio Union. The IARU's Administrative Council has approved a goal of "a narrow allocation, even on a shared basis in the vicinity of 5 MHz." Winning an allocation at 5 MHz—even on a domestic ba-

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sis—could take several years. Securing an international allocation will be more difficult and take even longer. Consideration of an allocation at 5 MHz is not on the agenda for WRC-03 nor on the preliminary agenda for WRC-05/06.

A review of FCC-related issues dominated the May 5 Executive Committee session in Dallas. In other matters, the Executive Committee was told that an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making still is expected soon in response to the ARRL's petition, RM-9404, seeking Amateur Radio access to the low-frequency spectrum. Filed in late 1998, the ARRL petition asks the FCC to establish LF allocations in the vicinity of 136 kHz and between 160 and 190 kHz. .

*From The ARRL Letter Volume 20
Number 20 For May 18, 2001*

From The Editor's Wastebasket

We have a 'short' Vox this month. I was a little late getting my monthly reminder email out to the usual contributors and it looks like some of them got all wrapped up in Dayton preparations and took off for the land where trains drive themselves without getting something put together for the newsletter. It's a shame we're short of material since I have a classic Bill Owens, W4YXW cover that I missed running last month & hoped to get in this time. Running it would open up a whole page and a half of space I have nothing to fill.

Don't forget to do what you can to support the Cotton Row Run operation on Memorial Day. Plan to help with Field Day setup and teardown, even if you don't want to get involved in operating. Teardown on Sunday is especially critical since all the regular participants

are bushed from being at it all week end.
73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Flea Market

For Sale:

- Tektronix Model 491 Spectrum Analyzer, Covers the 10 MHz to 12.4 GHz range . Contact me for other specifications. All functions work perfectly and I'm willing to demonstrate it. It is in good condition and the only flaw is a damaged tuning knob. Will sell for \$700 with professionally copied manual, cables and external N-type attenuators.

*Contact John D. Farr, KC4ZXX at
305-533-3508 or johnfarr@ro.com.*

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