

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 45, Number 6

June, 2005

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeiglerjr@bellsouth.net

Vice President:

John C. Hilliard, K4JCH
k4jch@aol.com

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 340-9531
hthorson@bellsouth.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 45, Nr. 6, June, 2005

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

Field Day 2005

Field Day 2005 is just a couple of weeks away. It seems like only a few days ago that the Big Fat Turkey was on the air for Field Day 2004. Every year Amateur Radio Operators across the US participate in this challenge testing emergency communications capabilities and operating skills. This year will be no different and K4BFT will be on the air thanks to everyone working together as a team. This is often the most overlooked aspect of Field Day. Every year some new and different challenge at Field Day presents itself. Hams rally to the cause and Field Day concludes with new lessons learned and many memories of operating that go into the logbook.

This year's site will still be on Intergraph property. It will be located on a different area than Field Day for the past several years but it is a more than adequate home for K4BFT Field Day. Tom, KG4CUY has done a yeoman's job of stepping up to the helm to kickoff the coordination. Many others have assisted by volunteering to be a chair or station manager. You can do your part too. As Field Day draws closer, more volunteers will be needed to assist with many tasks that together make for a successful Field Day. If drafted, be ready to jump in and lend a helping hand.

Be sure to get with a station manager to take a turn at the operating position. Operating is the most fun of all, especially during a pile up. The Big Fat Turkey is always a contact that people remember. New folks who have never operated HF always seem to buzz a little after Field Day. It may just give inspiration for the guy above 50 Mhz to upgrade or purchase that first piece of HF gear. As a veteran operator, you

have the power to make or break that first opportunity. When you turn over the mic to a first timer, be a courteous, patient elmer, offering encouragement and assistance when needed.

As we finalize our plans for Field Day, don't miss out on all the fun. It is one of the most important events of the year for Amateur Radio. It combines the ability to demonstrate emergency communications along with all of the enjoyment of a contest. Be sure to contact a Field Day chair or station manager to let them know your there to participate. You will be glad you did. See you at Field Day!

73, KF4MMF Chris Reed

Field Day is On Course

Thank you everyone who has stepped up to volunteer for various

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 4

Saturday, July 2

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. 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

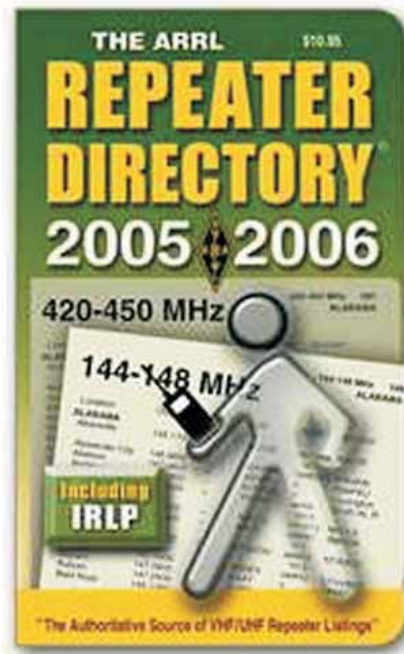
Field Day tasks. This year's changes in location and personnel give a glimpse into a real emergency's potential for chaos. Now that our direction is set, if we keep pulling together for another month, we'll get there.

Thanks & 73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Hot off the Press! 2005 / 2006 Repeater Directory

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership with the Alabama Section Manager and receive a NEW ARRL Repeater directory!

The Section Manager, W4OZK can be found around town, at club meetings at Hamfest and w4ozk@arrl.org. For



more Alabama ARRL information see www.arrl-al.org

73, Greg Sarratt W4OZK Alabama Section Manager ARRL

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY WHO WAS BORN IN JUNE!!

A note from Giggles: Whew! I thought Field Day wasn't happening this year, but we finally stepped up to the plate. We are also going to have a picnic. I was beginning to get a little worried. I was dragging my heels at first because of the location situation, but when the members started committing themselves, I thought we better have a picnic.

There will be hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks as usual. It would be appre-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR June, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	1 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting Election of Officers for 2005/2006	4 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross building Georgia State Con- vention, Atlanta
5	6	7 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	8 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	9 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	10 HARC Meeting	11 *TWIAR DeKalb ARC Hamfest, Ft. Payne Swapfest 2005, Freed Hardeman Univ Radio Amateur Club, Knoxville Hamfest
12	13	14 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	15 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	16 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	17 HARC Meeting Vox & Eyeball Ragchew Night	18 *TWIAR Upper Cumberland ARS Hamfest
19	20	21 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	22 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	23 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	24 HARC Meeting	25 *TWIAR
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	29 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	30 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 *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!

ciated if everyone bought a covered dish (with food in it, of course). Also, don't forget to bring your coolers and lawn chairs.

I will be taking a \$2.00 donation per person at the meetings. There will also be a donation can somewhere on the tables at the picnic. I am really looking forward to this Field Day, it should be interesting. I hope to see you there.

CUL, 73

ANOTHER BLONDE JOKE!

A gorgeous young redhead goes into the doctor's office and says that her body hurts wherever she touches it. "Impossible!" says the doctor. "Show me."

The redhead takes her finger, pushes on her left breast and screams, then she pushes her elbow and screams in even more agony. She pushes her knee and screams, likewise she pushes her ankle and screams. Everywhere she touches makes her scream.

The doctor says, "you're not really a redhead, are you?"

"Well, no" she says. "I'm actually a blonde."

"I thought so," the doctor says. "Your finger is broken."

Mosquitoes

It's about that time folks - so thought I'd send out this reminder!!!!

OK, mosquitoes... prepare to be repelled!!!!

Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets ... Best thing ever used in Louisiana ... just wipe on and go . Great for Babies.

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October. He said it works. He was right. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Every one he has talked into trying it works on them. Vitamin B-1(Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg.)

If you eat bananas, the mosquitoes like you, - something about the banana

oil as your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitoes will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

Plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol. (I have used it just plain - don't know why you would add alcohol, but maybe it makes it dry quicker on your skin.)

One of the best natural insect repellents that I've discovered is made

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, Randy Cox, AI4FP, ai4fp@yahoo.com
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winger, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

from the clear real vanilla. This is the pure vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects.

When all else fails—get a frog.

Somebody Isn't A Mother

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby. -- Somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, "Normal," is history.

Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct. -- Somebody never took a three-year-old shopping.

Somebody said being a mother is boring. -- Somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices. -- Somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window.

Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother. -- Somebody never helped a fourth grader with her math.

Somebody said you can't love the fifth child as much as you love the first. -- Somebody doesn't have five children.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books. -- Somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose or in his ears.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery. --

Somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten or on a plane headed for military "boot camp."

Somebody said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back. -- Somebody never organized four giggling Brownies to sell cookies.

Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married. -- Somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home. -- Somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her. -- Somebody isn't a mother.

~ Author Unknown ~

Did You Know: The typical pencil can draw a line 35 miles long.

Reminder for the Month of June The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Solve the puzzle:

KETA ERAC FO HET HTARE

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

Local Area Hamfests for May/June:

27-28 May 2005

Hamfest and Computer Show Jackson County Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.angelfire.com/ms3/jcarc>
 Talk-In: 145.11-

Contact: Ira Groff, NN5AF 17200 Spring Lake Drive West Vancleave, MS 39565
 Phone: 228-826-5095 Email: nn5af@arrl.net
 Pascagoula, MS Jackson County Fairgrounds Civic Center Div: Delta Sect: Mississippi

4 Jun 2005

Georgia State Convention
 Atlanta Radio Club
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>
 Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 146.2)

Contact: John Talipsky, N3ACK 385 Madison Chase Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30045
 Phone: 678-618-2190 Fax: 678-985-2906 Email: johnjr@talipsky.com
 Marietta, GA Jim Miller Park 2245 Callaway Road Div: Southeastern Sect: Georgia

11 Jun 2005

DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w4gbr.org>
 Talk-In: 147.270, PL100.0
 Contact: Barbara Bleecker, KI4EXS 6101B Mitchell Road NE Fort Payne, AL 35967
 Phone: 256-845-5444 Fax: 256-845-5444 Email: silentspring42@earthlink.net
 Fort Payne, AL VHF Fairgrounds 18th Street North Div: Southeastern Sect: Alabama

11 Jun 2005

Swapfest 2005
 Freed-Hardeman University ARC
<http://w4fhu.org>
 Talk-In: 147.105 (PL 156.7)
 Contact: Kevin Roeder, KU4RT Email: w4fhu@fhu.edu
 Henderson, TN FHU Sports Complex Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee

11 Jun 2005

39th Hamfest

Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville
(RACK)
http://www.w4bbb.org/
Talk-In: 147.30, 224.50, 444.575
Contact: Dick Wolf, WI8X 4440 Royal
View Road Knoxville, TN 37921-3128
Phone: 865-584-9168 Email:
wi8x@ntown.net Knoxville, TN Knox-
ville Exhibition Center 525 Henley
Street Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee

18 Jun 2005

Upper Cumberland Amateur Radio As-
sociation

http://www.ucara.org

Talk-In: 145.27 (PL 123.0)

Contact: Jack Daniel, KG4MFJ 3162
Gainesboro Grade Cookeville, TN
38501 Phone: 931-526-7659 Email:
kg4mfj@charter.net Cookeville, TN
Putnam County Fairgrounds 155 Fair-
ground Lane Div: Delta Sect: Tennes-
see

Steve Bell KD4TFN: sbell@hiwaay.net

Mailing Costs

Every now and then one of our HARC members runs into a rep of one of the commercial mailing concerns who tells them what wonders they can produce for us in mailing the Vox. It seems appropriate to let you know just what our mailing situation is.

The first thing to know when considering using a commercial mailer for the Vox (or for Hamfest flyers) is that every piece in a mailing must be identical which, means the commercial mailer can not combine our mailing with anybody elses. Therefore they are subject to the same rules we are on quantity of pieces in a mailing.

We qualify for non-profit status, therefore have the lowest rates available to us.

To get the \$.088 per piece rate for 5-digit zips, you must have at least 150 pieces for that zip code.

To get the \$.103 per piece rate for 3-digit zip codes you must have at least 150 pieces for that 3-digit zip code.

The Vox mailing list has never never had enough to a single 5-digit code to get that cheapest rate. We have, until last month, qualified for the 3-digit

price with a tray containing pieces to all the 358 zips. Unfortunately, the size of the list has so dwindled that the 358 tray only contains 146 pieces. That means the next category we can qualify for is the one that includes everything for the "SCF" (Sectional something Facility) that includes 356, 357 and 358. We can put together 204 pieces for that SCF and the rate for them is \$.11 per piece.

A commercial mailer can get no lower rates than what we are paying now and must charge us on top of that for their services, to cover checking the addresses, looking up the 4-digit zip extensions, printing the labels, tabbing (dotting) the folded pieces, affixing the labels and bundling the mail into trays.

For checking addresses and looking up the 4-digit extensions we use a commercial software package called Mailers+4. It makes sure an address is in the P O database, determines its 4-digit extension and presorts the database by tray. I print the labels with the Delivery Point barcode on a printer owned by the Huntsville Hamfest and they come out grouped by tray. They are printed on labels procured with the annual Hamfest purchase to get the best price. The printer uses ribbons provided by the Hamfest. The program also prints the required bar-coded tray labels. We have volunteers on Vox night to fold and tab the Voxes, affix labels and pack them into the appropriate trays. It is not considered an onerous task because it allows a lot of person-to-person rag-chewing to be done while it is going on.

The Mailers+4 software is not cheap! A yearly subscription gets us an update to the P O database every 2 months. Fortunately, that cost is covered by the Huntsville Hamfest. It is a good deal for the Hamfest because the cost of the software and materials, etc. is still far less than the cost would be for non-bulk mailing.

We are doing all the things a commercial mailer could do with loaned (from the Hamfest) equipment and software

and volunteer labor. I'm convinced we are mailing the Vox for the lowest rates available to anybody. We could reduce our rates per piece by getting our member list back up to snuff. Adding just 4 members in the 358 zip region would reduce the rates, but I don't think any commercial mailer could help us.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

The Editor's Wastebasket

It's good to see that things are shaping up for a good Field Day exercise. Thanks are due to everybody who's stepped up to take part. It's easy to lose sight of just what FD is and what it means to Amateur radio. Sure, it's a contest and we get to see how the HARC effort compares with other groups around the country. Sure, it's a chance to spend a weekend out in the field doing what we love best -- along with the heat, bugs, rain, dust, and other things that go along with FD. Primarily though, it is an exercise in getting field operations set up and functioning well under emergency conditions.

It's hard for us to conceive an emergency that would cause us to have to get HF operations going in the field, but who can say Alabama will NEVER suffer some disaster that causes normal communications to break down so Amateur Radio is required to maintain contact with the rest of the country. Earthquake activity is not unknown in this region and we aren't that far from Reelfoot Lake. Google on that if you don't know what it implies.

Don't forget, election night is June 3. Be ready to give some serious thought to who you'd like to see running the club for the next year. Also it's time to think about the commitment each member should make to support the officers and club for the coming year.

One way you can support the officers is to help out with programs. Potential new members who visit a club meeting are NOT going to be moved to join if the meeting they attend consists of dilatory discussion by the members present about some subject or project they aren't aware of. They WILL be likely to

join if the meeting consists of a brief discussion of some subject or project followed by a well prepared and presented program on some topic of interest.

Every member is involved in some kind of activity that would interest the rest of the club, so every member has the makings of a program. Don't always come to meetings prepared to be entertained -- show up ready to participate and do your bit for HARC.

Some programs I'd like to see:

Packet Radio (Do packet BBS stations still exist and what activity goes on thereon)

ATV (What is it being used for, Demonstration of ATV activity)

National Traffic System (What is it, how is it organized, what can we do to help)

QRP (Can you actually make contacts without a KW, some home built projects, neat kits)

QRO (Ins & outs of higher power operating, how to stay out of telephones and TVs)

Antennas (Everybody needs one -- wire antennas for HF, beams, or HF or VHF)

The list goes on and on. HARC needs programs!

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Labels must be parallel to the bottom of the mail piece within 5 degrees. Please affix labels carefully. Cover this block completely.

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