

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 46, Number 6

June, 2006

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

Vice President:

John C. Hilliard, K4JCH
k4jch@aol.com

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

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, Nr6, June, 2006

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

Field Day 2006

Only a month remains until we meet in the fields just east of the Marriott to drive anchors, put up towers, run power cable, position campers and generators, at at 1:00 pm Saturday June 24th, send the first CQ FD DE K4BFT of the year.

This is our second move in two years, so once again we are up against the uncertainty of a new location. See the attached map - I encourage everyone to visit the conveniently-located site before hand. This new location brings with it the potential to present ham radio to many more in the general public, and in particular, to kids - for which exposure to ham radio could spark interest, which could yield a new licensed ham for our next generation.

We need field day volunteers at all levels - here are a few of the slots which need filling:

- Camper haulers
- Operators
- Tower erection/takedown crew
- Station managers
- Consumers of picnic delicacies

Come share in the field day fun. Contact Field Day committee chairman Kevin Bardon at bardonk@uah.edu, or Tom Duncan at duncant1@ds-s.com with your talents and availability.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Field Day Picnic

There will be hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks. If you would like to have something else cooked besides a burger and hot dog, throw it on the grill. Everyone should bring a covered dish or two (with food in it). Desserts, fruit bowl, chips and dips are always welcome. There will be a container somewhere on the table for donations during the picnic. We will need cool-

ers and everyone should bring their lawn chairs.

We will fire up the grill between 3 - 3:30pm Saturday afternoon. The picnic will start around 4:00pm. Everyone is invited to enjoy the picnic.

SEW LONG!. Peggy Bell (K4EGB)

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN JUNE!!

A note from Giggles: This is the time of year that I make my Things To Do list and just get finished with half of my list and at the end of the day, add a dozen more chores. But that is the way life is. As most of you that work Field Day, our lists will get longer as Field Day draws near. I am excited about the new location at the Space and Rocket Center. It is going to be an interesting event.

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

Org

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

I hope all the Mothers had a fantastic Mother's Day last Sunday. I went to visit with my granddaughters, Sarah-Ann and Chloe, and had a fantastic time. My youngest granddaughter, Chloe turned 3 years old, Friday and we took both children to the fair that night. Grandmother is getting a little old for some of the adult rides, but it was fun anyway. Sarah-Ann had been afraid of the rides, but she wouldn't be outdone by Chloe. We ALL rode most of the rides. The ferris wheel and the little roller-coaster was everyone's favorite. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Anyway, CUL

A Joke or Two

Comments Made In The Year 1957

I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be

just about impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.

Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2000 will only buy you a used one.

If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.

Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?

If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.

When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.

Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls.

I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call 'astronauts' preparing for it down in Texas.

Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president.

I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be elec-

**HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR
June, 2006**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Meeting Election of Officers SW Tenn Hamfest	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900 SW Tenn Hamfest Georgia State Con- vention
4	5	6 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	7 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	8 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	9 HARC Meeting Installation of new Officers	10 *TWIAR DeKalb County AL ARC, Ft Payne Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Expo
11	12	13 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	14 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	15 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	16 HARC Meeting Vox Night	17 *TWIAR Silver Point TN Hamfest & Tailgate Party, Silver Point, TN
18	19	20 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	21 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	22 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	23 HARC Meeting	24 *TWIAR Field Day Weekend
25 Field Day Weekend	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, Red Cross Bldg, 0900

*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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tric. They are even making electric typewriters now.

It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet. It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.

Marriage doesn't mean a thing anymore; those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat.

I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.

Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Parliament.

The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.

There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel.

No one can afford to be sick anymore; \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.

If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it!

*** At age 3, my grandson Matt still spoke only a few words. So, when Matt wanted something from an upper shelf in his toy closet one day, I helplessly handed him toy after toy without getting the right one. Finally, I asked his older brother Nate to help. As Matt jumped up and down and made unintelligible sounds, Nate calmly plucked a toy off the shelf and handed it to Matt with instant success. "Don't worry, Grandma," Nate explained, "Matt can talk; he just doesn't speak English yet."

The Hint for the Month of June:
Keep a fabric softener dryer sheet un-

der the seat of your car or pickup to freshen the air in the vehicle.

Thought for the Month of June: Let all that you do be done in love.

Solve the puzzle: YRVEE SSUENT
SSPMIORE A WEN WAND

73, Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB
pbell@hiwaay.net

Area Hamfests for June

June 2-3, 2006 Southwest Tennessee Hamfest '06.

Freed-Hardeman University ARC, FHU Sports Center, 158 East Main Street, Henderson, TN. Gates open at 5pm Friday and 8:30 am Saturday. Admission is \$5.00. Talk-in is 147.105 MHz PI=156.7Hz. See <http://www.w4fhu.org> or contact Ron Means, W5DAT, (731) 989-6749 or rmeans@fhu.edu

June 3, 2006. Georgia State Convention,

Atlanta Radio Club. Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta, Georgia. Talk-in is 146.820 MHz

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

PL=146.2 Hz. contact John Talipsky, N3ACK Phone: 770-995-6446 or Email: n3ack@sera.org.

June 10, 2006. Dekalb County ARC

. Dekalb VFW Fairgrounds, 18th Street North, Fort Payne, AL. Admission is \$3.00 per person and \$5.00 per vendor. Talk-in is 147.270 MHz 100Hz PL. contact: Barbara, KI4EXS at silentspring42@earthlink.net

June 10, 2006. Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Exposition

held at Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa St. Knoxville, TN. Talk-in is 147.30 Mhz, 224.50 MHz and 444.575 MHz. Contact Ashley Ferguson, KI4FYA, Phone 865 6579 3568 or Email: ki4fya@yahoo.com. See <http://www.W4BBB.org>.

June 17, 2006. Silver Point Hamfest/Tailgate Party.

Upper Cumberland ARA, Silver Point Community Center 13565 Highway 141, Silver Point, TN. Doors open at 8am and admission is free. Talk-in is on 145.270 MHz - PL 123.0Hz. contact Dale Upchurch, W4SRX. Phone: 931-858-2028 or Email: hamfest@ucara.org. See <http://www.ucara.org/> for additional info.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

Looking for some Low Cost Tower Sections?

Rohn 25 is currently selling for \$110 a section for straight sections and Rohn 20 is selling for \$100 per section (most of the cost is in labor and galvanizing which is the same for both). Top sections range from \$110 to \$135 depending on type.

N4KG is having an Inventory Reduction Sale on used tower.

70 ft of Rohn 25

With flat base and top sections for \$150. Sections have various degrees of SURFACE rust but are believed to be mechanically sound. Treatment at a reglvanizing facility would restore the sections to like-new condition for a fraction of new tower cost.

80 ft of TV tower

Wwith large horizontal bracing / steps, recently dismantled, after supporting 3 tribanders at 40, 60, and 80 ft for \$100. Sections have moderate to heavy SURFACE rust but are still clean inside and could be restored to like-new condition by reglvanizing.

Light weight light duty tower, 6 inch face width with solid legs 1/2 inch in diameter for \$10 per 10 foot section (9 sections available, maybe more)

U.S. Tower MA-40

This is a Tubular Crank Up tower that nestles at 21.5 ft and can be cranked up to 40 ft. It is rated at 6.8 square feet of windload in a 70 mph wind which should be adequate for most small Triband Beams. NO GUYS required IF properly bracketed to a rigid structure near the top of the base section.

Details can be seen at <http://www.ustower.com/ma-40.html>

Asking \$800 in good used condition. Retail for \$1330 plus shipping.

*Contact Tom Russell N4KG@AOL.com
256-233-1402*

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with type 82 Pre-Amp plug in. (Horiz. Sweep needs repair)

These are all older pieces of equipment, and have not been run recently. However, the price is right.

Call Hank - W4ZBP 256-881-2479

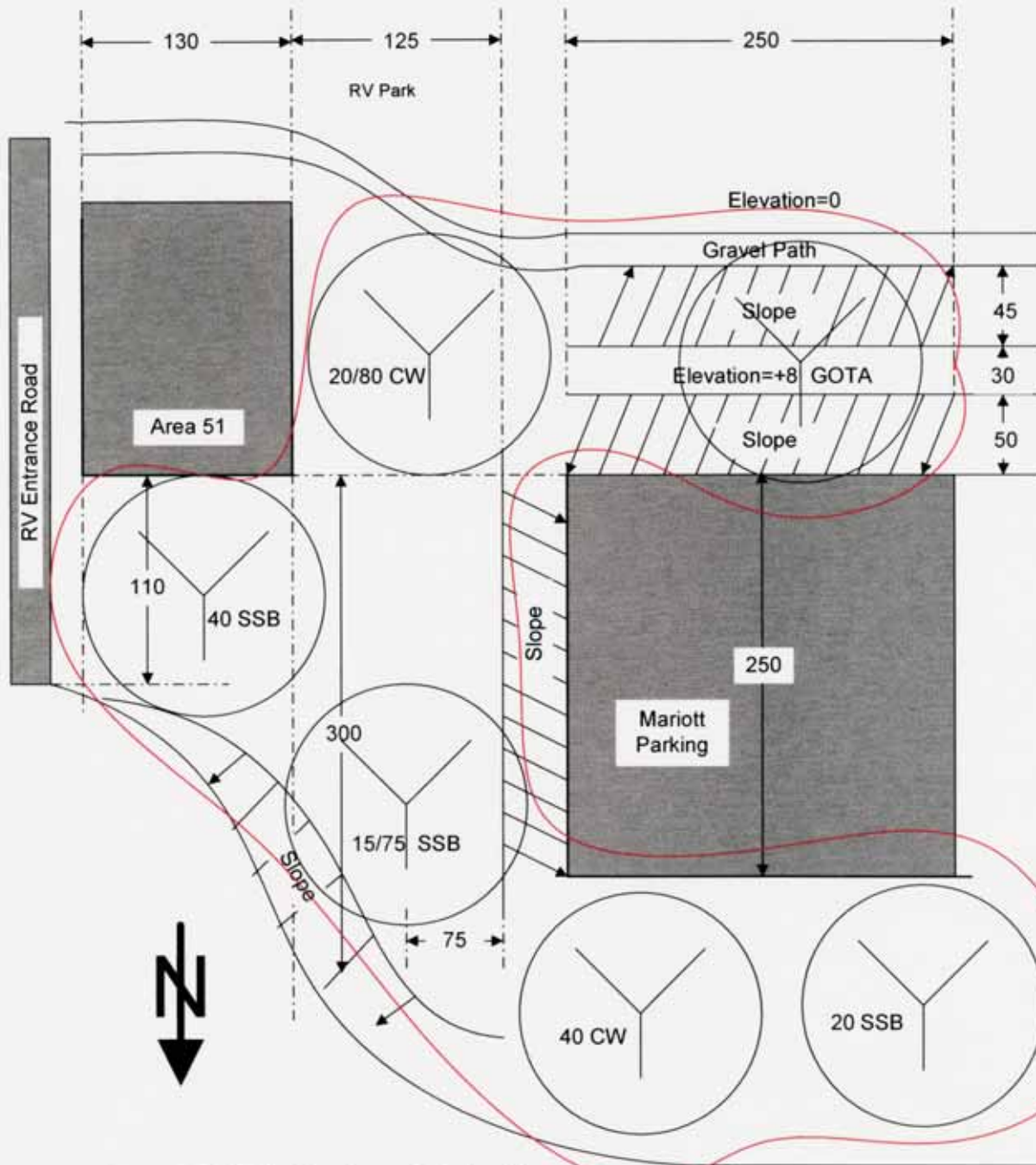
From The Editor's Wastebasket

Looks as if many of the folks who normally contribute 'stuff' for the Vox are either off to Dayton or so concerned with plans for the coming Memorial Day weekend and the onset of Summer that they haven't been able to get to the keyboard.

I've been trying to get into my usual activity for this period - preparing the mailing list for the big hamfest mailout, but haven't been able to really get into it yet. However, the preparation I have done gives me an added incentive to talk about the business of making the internet the main vehicle for distributing the Vox. I did the annual chore of calling the company that provides the software we use for preparing bulk mail and ordering, for the period ending July 31, the "Professional" version of the software.

At the beginning of the year, we order the annual subscription for the "Standard" version of the SW. It will handle lists of up to 5000 entries. Because of Postal Regulations, the SW must be updated every 2 months (what really gets updated is the monstrous database it uses to verify that addresses actually exist (CASS Certification) and are in the correct format and to determine the 4-digit extension to the Zip Code.) The hamfest pays \$795 for that annual subscription.

(Continued on Page 6)



Potential 2006 FD Site - Space & Rocket Center
NOT TO SCALE
Dimensions in feet

13-May-2006 Rev 2

When it comes time for the BIG hamfest mailout, we must buy the "Pro" version of the SW which is unlimited as to the size of the list it can handle. That costs the hamfest \$395 for the 2-month period when it is needed.

Now, if we could get to Vox distribution via internet and get the monthly hard copy mailout adjusted to include only those who don't have internet capability or who are non-members that we send information copies to, or clubs with whom we have a newsletter exchange agreement, we could dispense with the annual subscription

purchase. The few hard copies required could be mailed with first class postage for less expense.

We would still need the "Standard" version of the software to cover the end-of-the-year joint HARC/NARA membership drive mailing, whose volume still requires bulk mail. Cost of a single issue of the SW is \$195. That means annual cost for the SW would be \$590 instead of \$1190.

I've done some looking for other software options for handling the task, but have not come up with a usable alternative. Most companies with this

kind of SW are aimed at big corporate users and their pricing is completely prohibitive for us. I did find one company with a less expensive alternative, but on investigation I found that their packages doesn't offer CASS certification, which is a requirement for bulk mail.

I'm sure the cash flow situation for the Huntsville Hamfest is such that they would welcome a reduction in cost of \$600 per year with no reduction in the capabilities needed by the 'fest.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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