



## Activities Planned In Conjunction With The Convention/Hamfest.

### GAREC-2007

[Http://www.iaru.org/emergency/garec2007.html](http://www.iaru.org/emergency/garec2007.html)  
Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, August 16-17 in Huntsville, Alabama.

### Reception Honoring Frank M. Butler Jr, W4RH,

Saturday, August 18, 4-7 PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel Shhh...it's a surprise! Frank M. Butler Jr, W4RH, is the ARRL Southeastern Division Director. The ARRL Alabama Section is proud to host this reception, honoring Frank's dedication and longtime service to ARRL and Amateur Radio. Come and celebrate with us!

### D-STAR Users Reception

Saturday, August 18, 6-8 PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel The Alabama D-STAR group will sponsor a users group meeting and reception. New and experienced D-Star users are invited to attend. Learn about D-STAR networks, and meet other users and digital technology experimenters.

### ARRL Section Managers Meeting

Saturday August 18 at the Embassy Suites Hotel (time TBD)

### ARRL EXPO

For additional information see,  
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2007/huntsville.html>

### DX Banquet

Huntsville Hamfest/ARRL Conventiion Web site  
[www.hamfest.org](http://www.hamfest.org)

### Alabama Section web site:

[Www.arrl-al.org](http://www.arrl-al.org)

### NADXC Banquet

The NADXC banquet will be held at 6:30 pm in the Ballet Room of the Von Braun Center on Hamfest Saturday, August 18th. á Ticket prices yet should be in the neighborhood of \$30 ú check the NADXC web site at [www.nadxc.org](http://www.nadxc.org) or hamfest web site [www.hamfest.org](http://www.hamfest.org) where that information will be available in the next several weeks. Bob Allphin, K4UEE will speak on the VU7RG DXpedition.á Bob was the NADXC banquet speaker last year as well, when his topic was 3Y0X Peter I.

(Check this inset each month between now and the convention/hamfest for up-to-date information as to what we can expect.)

## From the VEEP

Time flies doesn't it. once more I am in California when it is time to write for the VOX. Since I'm quite time strapped I am going the have the pictures tell the story. A picture is worth a thousand words after all as they say. We had a great month. The FOX hunt was exciting, Woody and Tim hit in a tunnel under Whiteburgs Road. and undersigned can attest that you don't get far with just a mag mount on the top of your car. Gary Dion N4TXI gave a great presentation about batteries and battery care. Followed by Old Timers Night. I forgot my camera that night but if you made pictures please send them to Frank and we'll publish them next month. We used a different format this time and went from the oldest ham up, a decade at a time. Did you know we have several hams who got licensed in the forties and several more in the fifties? And not all that was old was necessary good, several hams attested that the modern stuff is quite often easier to handle. Next Gary took the lead in building 2 meter tape measure antenna's, which was a result of our experiences at the last Fox hunt. I hope they get a good workout at the next Fox hunt this week. Kudos also to Barry N4MSJ for the great design. You will find his presentation on the web at:

[Http://www.hamfest.org/tapebeams.pdf](http://www.hamfest.org/tapebeams.pdf)

Last week our Prez showed off Chris Jr. and is still going through all the "joys" of new fatherhood as every parent just knows all to well.

Another landmark is that the General class is completed and so far 5 new licenses have been acquired while several more are practicing for their test. Thank You, Tom KG4CUIY, Woody K8GNM, Leigh WD4CPF, and Tom K4AKC for you presentations. I had the chance to teach Ohm's law when Woody was called away for Red Cross business.

Finally: May is a busy public service month. A big event unfortunately coincided with Birmingham Hamfest, then there was the 4 Hill climb cycle event followed by an equestrian event on the Arsenal and Cotton Row run at the end of the month. phew. If you haven't volunteered yet this year, time to charge your batteries and make your self useful. a clear consciousness is a great reward. on top all the other rewards you get from volunteering.

Coming up: election of new officers and of course Field day. Plenty of reason to stay involved and keep visiting Washington street!

Next month Field Day and Harc's yearly picnic, can you believe it? Leigh WD4CPF is chair this year and we will be back at the Space and Rocket Center.

Be well and do good work!

*73 de K4RGG Rolf, Your VP*

## Report From ARES District 6

"...one of the most destructive tornadoes in the last 10 years..." destroyed the town of Greensburg Kansas last week.

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

**Club Officers**

President: Chris Best, KB3DXR  
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

Vice President: Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
k4rgg@arri.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 47, Nr 6, June, 2007  
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club,

### 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 2  
Saturday, July 7  
For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244  
kr4gu@hamfest.org

Org  
Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904  
dontunstill@hamfest.org

Athens 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

### HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR June, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting: Election of Officers	2 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
3	4	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting	9 *TWIAR
10	11	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 HARC Meeting: Vox/Foxhunt Night	16 *TWIAR
17	18	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 HARC Meeting	23 *TWIAR Field Day
24 Field Day	25	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	29 HARC Meeting Auction	30 *TWIAR

\*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

# GigaParts®

[www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com)

Visit our  
new web  
page for  
updated  
pricing!

## Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store

ICOM®

KENWOOD

hy-gain

YAESU  
Choice of the World's Top Hammers!

RF PARTS  
COMPANY

ALINCO®

MEIL  
sound

## Lowest prices, best service!

4925 University Drive # 140      (256) 535-4442  
 The Gallery Shopping Center      10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!

Fortunately, a National Weather Service meteorologist pushed the right button at the right time, and countless lives were saved. Those poor folks had 20 minutes of warning, and they took it seriously. The magnitude EF5 tornado had speeds over 200 MPH, was 1.7 miles wide and tracked for 22 miles at an average speed of 20 MPH. It ground Greensburg off the map in about 15 to 20 minutes. Twelve people were killed in the incident. Please re-read those statistics again. Ham radio operators set up on Saturday morning and ARES was activated in surrounding counties. The Red Cross said that 90 percent of the city was destroyed. The Salvation Army is still conducting logistics nets. This was not a drill.

As members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, we know that we're only one hour away from a possible response to an emergency of this magnitude. Alabama District 6 includes 10 counties that might require us to respond quickly and efficiently. That's why we plan and train beforehand. In the case of Greensburg, the Red Cross requested operators to

provide communications between the hospital in Pratt and the nearby shelter in Haviland. If you were called to help out in one of our counties, would you be prepared? Do you have a mobile rig, an antenna, power, water, MRE's, credentials? Ooops! It's that last one that causes a lot of hams to choke up. If you are going to get into the disaster area, you will need to bring proof that you are more than a ham radio operator. We've been reminding folks for the past couple of years that you need FEMA courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 as a minimum. The Red Cross requires a simple background check that takes almost no time to complete, and you really need to do it, or you probably won't be allowed into the area that needs you the most. If you're really interested in helping out, add CERT and Red Cross First aid to the list — and then hope that you'll never need them.

Once a month, we have a joint ARES/RACES meeting in the Madison county EMA office. There are always signs of "preparedness preparation" going on there. I kid Chris Reed (KF4MMF), one of the Emergency Managers at the EMA, because when

we meet at 6PM, he is still working on his "day job" stuff, and the pile on his desk never goes down. Emergency preparedness is taken very seriously by the dedicated folks at the EMA. Do you know that Rusty Russell, the Director, is a ham (KF4NXT). Scott Worsham, who gives CERT courses is a ham (W4SSW). Jared Cassidy is a ham, too (KQ4VT). Did you know that at the E-911 center, the Director, Ernie Blair, is a ham (WA4BPS)? Over in Marshall county, the new EMA Director, Anita McBurnett is KI4BIZ. The list could go on for a long time. Hams are "embedded" everywhere, waiting to assist in a disaster. It's what we do; it's who we are. So please take a few hours to get your credentials in order. If you need help finding the online courses, or need to find out how to get the Red Cross background check done, let me know. When you're needed the most, you'll be proud that you're a ham radio operator.

Attention New Hams!! This is the Best Part of Ham Radio!! Don't worry that you don't know code, don't have HF privileges, don't have a clue. Just don't be afraid to ask! We need you to

join ARES and RACES and become part of the solution. The new No-Code hams are just as valuable as old-timers when it comes time to check the level of Indian Creek and report back to the EMA office! Remember, that "showing up" at an emergency site is not enough any more. Get the FEMA training. Get the Red Cross vetting. Get to the next ARES/RACES meeting. Get On The Air! Get Er Done!

The ARRL National Convention will take place here in August. If you would like to discuss ARES, RACES, EMCOMM, WinLink, Army MARS, or any District 6 issues, please find me. I want to hear from you.

73, Doug Hilton, WD0UG / AAV4YP  
Alabama ARES District 6 EC ARRL  
Section web site: [www.arrl-al.org](http://www.arrl-al.org)

## NARA Notes

This seems to have been the month for 147.18.

Last installment I reported that the IRLP node was down on 147.18. The original ICOM dual bander we put up there blew its PA finals. We installed a UHF GE Phoenix commercial radio in its place. This links us to the off-site IRLP node.

Late in April the 147.18 site had an issue which caused some problems for our repeater system. The system was off the air for a couple of days while we dealt with the situation.

Some additional tower work was done at the .18 site in May. We still need to do some more work to satisfy our commitments to our host.

Ron W4VM was able to find a good deal on a used CAT1000 controller at the B'ham fest. We have been looking to replace the existing .18 NHRC-5 controller with something a little more sophisticated for IRLP use. This was a great find and now the 146.94 and 147.18 systems will have an identical controller. We should have it up at the site very soon.

The summer seems to have finally arrived. We still have some tower work to accomplish at a couple of sites. If you want to help out with any ground crew work, please contact us so that we can get you on the list to call when the time comes. You wouldn't have to climb, just holding onto or pulling on a rope while standing on the ground.

Before we know it field day will be here. I hope to see you all out there supporting HARC!

73, Ralph W4XE NARA President

## From The Section Manager.

The 2007 ARRL National Convention is a big deal for us and I am proud that WE are hosting the convention. Now it's on us to make the Huntsville Hamfest and Huntsville amateur radio operators shine larger than normal.

A few things to help us shine will be the GAREC International conference which will be held before two days before the hamfest, the hamfest forum speaker list has some big names, the ARRL Expo, a large multi booth area displaying many activities of the ARRL, Embassy Suites hotel, extra QST visibility and some highly impressive emergency communications vehicles will be on display.

I'm looking forward to the Huntsville Hamfest and will be taking in as many of the activities as possible. Look forward to meeting many of our Alabama, nation-wide and international friends and visitors. See you there!

73, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK ARRL  
Alabama Section Manager

## THE GIGGLE BOX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE THAT HAS A BIRTHDAY IN JUNE!!

Hi Guys and Gals, I have procrastinated so long about writing this article that now I'm having trouble getting it together. Things don't go very fast with Dial-up. I bet I don't wait so long anymore. Yeah, right. Anyway, the Field Day picnic is just about around the corner. Last month, I put in my article that FD would be at the Space and Rocket Center and then the guys were talking about having it somewhere else. Then they FINALLY decided that the Space and Rocket Center was the best spot all around. I sure was glad. We are having the usual: hamburgers and hotdogs. Everybody needs to bring a covered dish, coolers, lawn chairs, sunscreen, etc. There will be a container sitting somewhere on the tables for \$2.00 donations. I look forward to seeing everyone there. We should be firing up the grill about 3:30pm, Saturday. Maybe this year, the rain will hold off and we won't have soggy buns. CUL

## A Joke or Two

### Dog Talk:

A guy is driving around the back woods of Missouri and he saw a sign in



front of a broken down shanty-style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. "You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says "So, what's your story?"

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA and they had me sworn into the toughest branch of the armed services ...the United States Marines ... you know one of their nicknames is "The Devil Dogs". In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders; because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running, but the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the Corps (8 dog years is 56 Corps years) and signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He was in the Air Force!"

## The Mommy Test

I was out walking with my 4-year-old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

"Why?" my daughter asked.

"Because it's been laying outside, you don't know where it's been, it's dirty and probably has germs." I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, "Wow! How do you know all this stuff?"

**ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.**  
 Check [www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm](http://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  
 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: Vacant, Section  
 Emergency Coordinator: Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, sec@arrl-al.net  
 State Government Liaison: Richard D. Doll, KU4PY, ku4py@arrl.net  
 Section Traffic Manager, Melinda F. Alsobrook, KI4CIA, ki4cia@arrl.net  
 Technical Coordinator, Vacant,

"Uh," I was thinking quickly, "All moms know this stuff. It's on the Mommy Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mommy."

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information. "Oh! I get it!" she beamed, "So if you don't pass the test you have to be the daddy."

"Exactly," I replied back with a big smile on my face and joy in my heart.

#### Thought for the Month of June

If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul. - Rabbi Harold Kushner -

#### Puzzle for the Month of June:

FI OUY DNOULW'T REITW TI NAD GISN IT, N'TOD  
 AYS TI. - Earl Wilson

*73, Peggy "Giggles" Bell, K4EGB*

#### From The Editor's Wastebasket

You'll probably notice a few changes in the layout of the Vox this month. There were a couple of things behind the change. Primarily, it seems to make sense to leave the front page for "Front Page" stuff (when we have some) and put all of the HARC information in one place on page 2. It allows front page emphasis this month on the hamfest/convention. The event is going to require help from a lot of the membership, so plan to do whatever you can work into your schedule to help support the activity through the week of the

event. We should have a good idea of the schedule of events to showcase in the July issue of Vox.

Two great programs from Gary Dion, N4TXI. One on the types of batteries of interest to hams and the care and feeding of same and the other on the construction of neat directional beams for handheld use. The handheld collapsible beams made from tape measure tape and PVC piping and ingenuity are ideal for use in transmitter hunts. Transmitter hunting can be fun, as participants in last month's hunt can attest, but the activity has a serious side too. Who knows when the ham community may be called upon to help locate the source of a signal, either as a result of an emergency or of some clandestine activity.

By the way, Gary put together a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation of the antenna design and construction. I've converted it to pdf format, which should make it accessible to most of the membership and it is available at [www.hamfest.org/tapebeams.pdf](http://www.hamfest.org/tapebeams.pdf).

I sure hope we can keep the flow of good programs coming. We shouldn't depend on only one person to generate them, though Gary has done well, but, as I've said before, almost every member of HARC is involved in some activity that would be of interest to the membership. It doesn't always have to be ham radio related or technical in nature. I for example would be interested in finding out about the apparent "honey bee die-off" -- what may be causing it and what life would be like if some calamity took them all away. I think it'd have much more far-reaching effects than the disappearance of honey from our waffles. I know we have a beekeeper or two in the club, so such a program might be a natural.

Congratulations to Tom Duncan, KG4CUY and "Woodie" Zeigler, K8GNM on being approved as honorary members of HARC. They've both done enough "stuff", both up front and behind the scenes for the benefit of the club to make the honor richly deserved.

Speaking of "Honorary" membership, I still have a problem with the term. In most cases, an "Honorary" member of an organization is not really a member of the group, but someone from outside who has been selected for recognition by the group. In this case, I think "Honored Member" would be a more accurate usage. Maybe next time we have the constitution "opened for modification" we can make that change.

Thanks to Steve Bell and Rolf Goedhart for the photos in this month's Vox.

*73, Frank Emens, W4HFU*

< Christopher Best The Younger



