

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 43, Number 3

March, 2003

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

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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 43, Nr 3, March, 2003
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

From the President

I must apologize to all of you who went on the hunt for the non-existent Friday, February 14th (Valentine's Day) HARC meeting and program. To recap this folly for those who didn't get to experience it first hand, I thought I heard a program had been scheduled at the 911 center — in fact, what I heard pertained to a meeting there the day before. Attempts to confirm or deny this rumor failed, so a number of us went on a wild goose chase from the Red Cross to the 911 center, finally ending up at the IHOP on University. Some who came to the Red Cross but decided to leave before the second half of the show missed driving in some pretty lousy weather. I am sorry for the inconvenience to all of you, and to Ernie Blair, who we called trying to figure out what was up.

HARC's membership is large and varied. We range in age from youngsters to the young-at-heart (you know who you are). We represent all sort of occupations. We have a great many different interests in addition to amateur radio.

If you'd like to share some little tidbit with HARC, please submit it to the VOX. We'd like to know about your accomplishments. Maybe you had your first solo airplane flight. How about other hobbies? We've had some really good hobby programs — hang-gliders and hummingbirds, for example — but just a note in the VOX is fine, too. How about a ham radio accomplishment? It could be getting your Worked All States award, but just as well could be your first PSK-31 QSO.

Alright, you say, you've done a lot of talking, now give us an example. OK, I will. A couple of weeks ago, I took the



Gigaparts gift certificate card my wife Janet so thoughtfully got me for Christmas and headed down University to the store with the big blue sign. Inside, I was greeted with customary hospitality, headed to the display case, pointed to a little iambic paddle key, and said "I'd like one of those, please." Straight keys which have served me so well for almost four years now are beginning to wear my wrist out after only half a QSO, so I took the plunge and invested in this new-fangled technology. Those first couple of QSOs are still ringing in the ears of the operators at the other end - I expect to get a few letter bomb QSL cards shortly. Now I have provisionally mastered this device — several "H"s have come out with exactly 4 dots!

There you go. Now, let's hear from you!
N4KMJ -- SK

It is with great sadness that I am passing the news that Amateur Radio has lost one of its finest in Alabama and across the South..

Jack Blair, N4KMJ, passed away from cancer last night.

I met Jack Blair many years ago through packet radio. He was a wonderful person and it was a great pleasure to have know him and worked

CAVEC 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, March 1

Saturday, April 5

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154

kr4gu@hamfest.org

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904

dontunstill@hamfest.org

with him via packet radio. He provided a wide area node supporting the traditional packet BBS network and worked in many ways to help promote packet radio in the state of Alabama. He also maintained an APRS packet node covering a wide area in east central Alabama. Jack will certainly be missed in the ranks of Amateur Radio.

Tim - N8DEU Huntsville, Alabama

A Winter's Tale

We all know how winter can ravage antennas - recall the axiom that if your antennas stayed up all last winter, you need more (or bigger) antennas. My antenna farm consists of two rather inconspicuous dipoles and a behemoth temporary vertical. The dipoles have so far weathered wind and ice rather well (knock on wood), and the vertical remains disassembled during nasty

weather. Old Man Winter dealt me two lessons nonetheless, brought on entirely by the low temperatures. No ice, no snow, neither rain nor sleet. Just cold.

On an exceptionally clear and cold Saturday afternoon, I could sense hams digging in for a night of fine regional contacts on 80m, and so dragged out and assembled the 80m vertical. The top section of this contraption is a loading coil wound on 2" PVC pipe, and a whip. The PVC pipe mounts on supporting conduit with some bolts which need be only finger tight, but my fingers were useless in the cold. I brought the top section and matching piece of conduit indoors, and after a few hours of recovery from the trip to the garage and back, assembled them and proceeded to brave the cold again, take the thing outside, and hoist it up. I connected the coax to

the matching network at the base of the antenna and scurried inside.

A few hours later, I figured 80m would be hopping, and turned on the rig. Signals seemed a little weaker than I had hoped, but I decided to tune up anyway. My SWR was through the roof - the antenna usually resonated very nicely at around 3540 kHz, but now even the tuner couldn't handle it. I grabbed the 30 million candlepower flashlight, donned my scarf, bearskin hat, and double-insulated coat, and ventured into the cold and dark. Aiming the flashlight skyward, I saw to my amazement that the loading coil and whip were toppled over against the mast. I was furious, and managed to get the antenna down in record time despite the cold. I could barely remove the supposedly finger-tight

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR
March, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25 ATV Net @ 20:00	26 SE Linked Rptr Net @ 19:00	27 MCEN on 34/94 @ 19:30 Skywarn Net @ 20:00	28 HARC Meeting OLD TIMER'S NIGHT	1 CAVEC Exams 09:00 at Red Cross Bldg Hamfest, Knoxville, TN
2	3	4 ATV Net @ 20:00	5 SE Linked Rptr Net @ 19:00	6 MCEN on 34/94 @ 19:30 Skywarn Net @ 20:00	7 HARC Meeting Empire of the Air - Part 1	8
9	10	11 ATV Net @ 20:00	12 SE Linked Rptr Net @ 19:00	13 MCEN on 34/94 @ 19:30 Skywarn Net @ 20:00	14 HARC Meeting Spread Spectrum - Paul Nelson	15 Hamfest, Marietta, GA
16	17	18 ATV Net @ 20:00	19 SE Linked Rptr Net @ 19:00	20 MCEN on 34/94 @ 19:30 Skywarn Net @ 20:00	21 HARC Meeting VOX Night	22
23	24	25 ATV Net @ 20:00	26 SE Linked Rptr Net @ 19:00	27 MCEN on 34/94 @ 19:30 Skywarn Net @ 20:00	28 HARC Meeting Pocket APRS - John Hilliard	29 Hamfest, Tullahoma, TN
30	31	1 ATV Net @ 20:00	2 SE Linked Rptr Net @ 19:00	3 MCEN on 34/94 @ 19:30 Skywarn Net @ 20:00	4 HARC Meeting Adventures in Physics - Frank DuVall (See Program Note)	5 CAVEC Exams 09:00 at Red Cross Bldg

*TWIAR -- This Week In Amaterur Radio, + 442.775 PL203.5 Hz 8 PM Every Saturdays
 ATV Net @ 20:00, Check in on 145.33, Tuesdays
 Southeast Linked Repeater Net on + 442.775, PL 203.5 Hz @ 19:00, Wednesdays
 Madison County Emergency Net on 34/94 @ 19:30, Thursdays
 SkyWarn Net on 147.24 @ 20:00, Thursdays

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bolts, even with a screwdriver and wrench. The surrounding PVC tubing had cracked into a million pieces, held together only by the loading coil's windings. Apparently the drastically different temperature coefficients of the steel conduit and PVC loading coil fought each other as the antenna cooled down on it's way from my warm basement into the cold sky. The PVC lost the battle.

With 80m now out of reach, I had to settle for 40m: this was no great problem beyond postponing boasts of a mighty newly-homebrewed antenna until another day. Certainly over the period of a few QSOs I would be able to tune the facts of this mishap into an impressive tale. I headed for 7050 kHz where one of the dipoles shows a perfect match, looking for QRP activity - and heard some of my flea-powered buddies. Tuning up, the match wasn't quite as good as I expected - but sufficient to put out the first edition of "Vertical Woes". I searched for the best match, and found it up around 7140. Some minor mishap on the roof, I told myself, but someone was

calling, so I settled in for a few more QSOs.

Alas, the next morning was a work day. Home at lunch time, the hound and I dallied in the relatively balmy barely sub-freezing temperatures, tropical compared to the night before. Enough time for a QSO? Well, maybe. I turned on the radio, and heard the tail end of a call, followed by PSE K. I should be all tuned up - nothing had been touched from the night before. I answered, and to my astonishment, had about the same degree of mismatch as I had seen the night before 80 kHz down. No time to fool around, I had a quickie QSO and headed back to work.

Heading home through the arctic darkness that night, the car thermometer showed 9 degrees and the heater waited until I was only a few blocks from home to warm me up. After dinner, I turned the rig on to find myself dead on the carrier of Radio Zambonia. Tuning down 2 kHz, I found a somewhat dead spot and let out a QRL? My perfect match was back!

I have yet to unearth my ancient Handbook of Chemistry and Physics to search for temperature coefficients - maybe copper-cladded steel antenna wire isn't in it anyway. Crude calculations tell me that this 80 kHz shift could be accounted for by a 5" shortening of the wire on each dipole leg. Since my experience, temperatures have moderated (said the eskimo). As far as I'm concerned, they can continue to moderate: I'll live with the mystery.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

From The Treasurer

Well, another year is upon us and what a year. It just seems to fly by. We are now in Feb. 2003. If you were unable to come to the HARC/NARA meeting on Jan. 10, 2003 you missed out on a wonderful meeting. We had pizza, cake, donuts, drinks, ETC. Nara put on a wonderful presentation including information from Ron, Ralph, Todd, Charlie, John, ETC. Thank you to Peggy Bell, Tera Thorson, and Tonia Kratsch for assisting with obtaining and handling re-

freshments. We still have lots to go with Old Timers night, field day, hoop mania, and another hamfest. August will be here before we know it and will bring another hamfest to us again. Hang in there all there's lots left in the year.

As for the big meeting, we attracted lots of new members and kept lots we already had, as well as got a few ones from a ways back to return. All checks that have been received through Feb. 18, 2003 have been deposited and posted in the database. I would like to extend my thanks to the following people for assisting me with database work: Peggy Bell, Tonia Kratsch, Scott Worsham, and Tera Thorson. I have been working closely with Todd from NARA to ensure that the NARA checks are received in a timely fashion as well. He is working hard to get them to Charlie for database purposes and then deposited in the bank. Thank you to all members for your loyal support of all our organizations. Those include: NARA, TVATV, Packet, and HARC. Now to the fun part. Here is our proposed budget through the end of 2003. This budget will be voted on March 7, 2003 at the meeting.

Vox printing and postage estimated around \$1550.00. Thanks to Frank Emens for all of his hard work and dedication to the club for so many years and his continuing dedication and help.

Field Day: Last year we spent \$711.59, 2001 spent \$686.35, and we estimate around \$700.00 for 2003.

Several modifications were done to make field day more safe and interesting in those last 2 years as well.

Thank you to all members who make field day possible.

PO Box rental: This item is down from our last few years expenses. In 2002 we spent \$44.45, 2001 \$55.00, and in 2000 \$64.00. We estimate around \$50.00 for 2003 to be safe.

Bulk Mail Permit: This helps us save on mailing. It is continuing to rise for us. In 2002 we spent \$125.00, 2001 \$100.00, and this year it will be \$150.00 already paid that one.

Van Expenses: This project has been on hold for several years due to insurance. Thanks to Bill Grimwood for assisting us with obtaining insurance for the van. We are looking to get the van ready to assist in any club function or

any way to help the red cross. Paul Paelian (WB4UEE) and Brian Bender (KD4FGL) are in charge of that project. Some of our expenditures on the van include so far: Tag \$33.05, insurance \$413.00 annually, maintenance issues \$77.74 so far. We estimate around \$550.00 through the end of 2003. This figure may go up and down the scale as modifications are done.

HARC/NARA Membership Drive: This is our big meeting which was once again wonderful for 2003. In 2002 we spent \$634.46, and for this year spent \$886.42. That figure was split with NARA as well. Thank you to Gigaparts for donating part of the prizes which were 2 hand holds given away at the meeting. This has already been taken care of and not included in the budget for 2003.

Christmas Party: In 2002 we spent \$191.77, 2001 spent \$107.87, and estimate around \$200.00 for 2003. Thank you to Peggy Bell for handling all of that.

Old Timers Night which is coming up soon. In 2002 we spent around \$90.00 so we estimate around \$125.00 for this year.

Thanks again Peggy for helping with that.

Administrative Expenses: This is for supplies like stamps, envelopes, pins, and any other officer expense. We estimate around \$200.00 for this giving each officer around \$50.00 if needed. In 2002 we only spent around \$45.00 on supplies.

Misc: These expenses are for unusual items which may come up throughout the year. Some examples from 2002 are: Flowers for various members family for funerals \$128.32, an addition to the HARC website banner \$11.00, HARC 50th anniversary \$180.33, a donation to the Red Cross \$500.00, ETC.

As you can see this figure also must go up and down the scale depending on what happens.

We estimate around \$225.00 for 2003.

This will give us budget of \$3600.00 to complete 2003.

Hope this gives you all some ideas of how money is spent. If you have any questions on your checks being received shoot me an email at hthorson@knology.net and I will verify

it for you. Stay safe and hope to see you all at the meetings.

73's Heath (KC4HRX)

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN MARCH!!

A note from Giggles: This month started out really sad. Everyone was going to celebrate and welcome home the Columbia crew and then everything changed in a blink of an eye. It is a reminder to all that when you say goodbye to your friends and relatives that you may wished that you hadn't said that unkind word because that might be the last word that they heard from you. You also have to live with that for the rest of your life. I just heard Colin Powell talk about Iraq and it makes me feel a little insecure. It's ironic that I'm writing this on Valentine's Day. It is suppose to be a day for people to love each other and they are talking about the possibility of war. I wish that everyone could just get along with each other. I, for one, am sharp-tongued and need to work on that a little (a lot). I understand that everyone has a difference of opinion about things, but, like my mother used to say, "If you have something bad to say about someone, keep it to yourself." Presently, we live in a free world and we need to hope and pray that it stays that way. I hope everyone turns out for the Old Timer's Nite on the 28th of February. It will be interesting to hear some of the stories from some of the more experienced hams. Hope to see all of you there.

A Joke or Two

Watermelons

There was a farmer who grew watermelons. He was doing pretty well, but he was disturbed by some local kids who would sneak into his watermelon patch at night and eat all his watermelons. After some careful thought, he came up with a clever idea that he thought would scare the kids away for sure. So he made up a sign and posted it in the field. The next day, the kids show up and they see a sign saying "Warning! One of the watermelons in this field has been injected with cyanide." So the kids run off and make up their own sign and post it next to the farmer's sign. The farmer

shows up the next week and looks over the field. He notices that no watermelons are missing, but reads the sign next to his: "Now there are two!!!"

The Amish Elevator Story

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again. The boy asked, "What is this, Father?" The father (never having seen an elevator) responded "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is." While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat, old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small circular numbers above the walls light up sequentially. They continued to watch until it reached the last number and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous, voluptuous 24-year-old blonde woman stepped out. The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son. "Go get your mother".

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A Chicken Story

A man was driving along a freeway when he noticed a chicken running along side his car. He was amazed to see the chicken keeping up with him because he was doing 50 MPH. He accelerated to 60 and the chicken stayed right next to him. He speeded up to 75 MPH and the chicken passed him up. The man noticed the chicken had three legs. So, he followed to chicken down a road and ended up at a farm. He got out of his car and saw that all the chickens had three legs. He asked the farmer "What's up with these chickens?" The farmer said, "Well, everybody likes chicken legs. I bred a three-legged bird. I'm going to be a millionaire." The man asked him how they tasted. The farmer said "Don't know, haven't caught one yet."

=====

A couple who'd been married for over 50 years was sitting on the sofa. The wife said, "Dear, do you remember how you used to sit close to me?" He moved over and sat close to her. "Dear" she contin-

ued, "do you remember how you used to hold me tight?" He reached over and held her tight. "And," she went on, "do you remember how you used to hug me and kiss me and nibble on my ear?" With that, her husband got up and started to walk out of the room. "Where are you going?" she asked. "Well," answered the husband, "I have to go and get my teeth."

=====

The boss of a big company needed to call one of his employees about an urgent problem with one of the main computers. He dialed the employees home phone number and was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello?" Feeling put out at the inconvenience of having to talk to a youngster the boss asked, "Is your Daddy home?"

"Yes", whispered the small voice.

"May I talk with him?" the man asked. To the surprise of the boss, the small voice whispered, "No."

Wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, "Is your Mommy there?"

"Yes", came the answer.

"May I talk with her?" Again the small voice whispered, "No".

Knowing that it was not likely that a young child would be left home alone, the boss decided he would just leave a message with the person who should be there watching over the child. "Is there any one there besides you?" the boss asked the child.

"Yes" whispered the child, "A policeman".

Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak with the policeman"?

"No, he's busy", whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?", asked the boss.

"Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the Fireman", came the whispered answer.

Growing concerned and even worried as he heard what sounded like a helicopter through the ear piece on the phone the boss asked, "What is that noise?"

"A hello-copper", answered the whispering voice.

"What is going on there?", asked the boss, now alarmed.

In an awed whispering voice the child answered, "The search team just landed the hello-copper."

Alarmed, concerned and more than just a little frustrated the boss asked, "Why are they there"?

Still whispering, the young voice replied along with a muffled giggle: "They're looking for me..."

"I Can't Believe You Made It"

If you lived as a child in the 40's, 50's, 60's or 70's.

Looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have. As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof locks on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors!

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. No cell phones. Unthinkable!

We played dodgeball and sometimes the ball would really hurt. We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these mishaps. They were accidents. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents? We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it. We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugar soda but we were never overweight; we were always outside playing. We shared one grape soda with four friends, from one bottle and no one died from this.

We did not have: Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, video games at all, 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, Personal Computers, Internet chat rooms.

We had friends. We went outside and found them. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing. Without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out there in the cold cruel world! Without a guardian. How did we do it? We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors! Tests were not adjusted for any reason. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. And you're one of them. Congratulations!

Did You Know:

To make Window Cleaner, fill spray bottle with 3 tablespoons of ammonia, 1 tablespoon vinegar and cool water. Add a drop or two of blue food coloring. The Thought for the Months of March

Solve the puzzle:

AYD SENITNELAV PPYAH

A Thought for March

I KNOW YOU BELIEVE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU THINK I SAID BUT I AM NOT SURE YOU REALIZE THAT WHAT YOU HEARD IS NOT WHAT I MEANT.

73, Peggy (Giggles) Bell, K4EGB

Programs for March 2003

If you have not been down to the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club lately you have been missing some great programs that have been presented in the last two months. If you noticed they were not posted in the VOX, I had some email trouble or unspecified problems in getting my messages over to Frank. I

am glad to report that problem has been resolved.

In January, we had an exciting tour during our visit to the local EMA office to understand how things work and how we can get involved. Scott Worsham and company gave us an in-depth look at what takes place downtown at the EMA office.

During the month of February, we learned what NALWARN means and learned more about ARES, RACES, and the local NWS from Doug Childs.

I want to thank Scott, W4SSW, and Doug, K4DIG, for helping make our club an interesting place to be on Friday nights. When you see them, thank them for their time and tell them how much you enjoyed their discussion.

This month we have several great presentations on the agenda.

On 07-MAR-03, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY, will present a video titled, "Empire of the Air".

On 14-MAR-03, Paul Nelson, will give an interesting talk on Spread Spectrum Communications. If you would like to know more about Spread Spectrum or what it is, come on down and join in on the fun.

On 28-MAR-03, John Hilliard, K4JCH, will give a presentation on the pocketAPRS solution using a Palm Pilot running APRS software. APRS is still growing so you will not want to miss this exciting part of the hobby.

On 04-APR-03, Frank DuVall, will give us a talk on "Adventure in Physics". Mr. DuVall worked at Redstone Army Missile Command for over 25 years in Technical Planning, System Synthesis, and System Analysis and spent much time studying Physics and Mathematics. He received his degree from The University of Arkansas in Electrical Engineering.

We have a busy schedule forthcoming, so support the club and the presenters by joining us on Friday nights to hear what you have been missing.

73's de Tim - N8DEU

The Editor's Wastebasket

I feel that I'm the fundamental cause of the contretemps around the meeting of February 14. Last month when filling in the activities calendar I marked that as Vox night, not noticing that it was

only the second Friday of the month. Turns out there hadn't been a program set for that night and Tom, having heard the announcement about a meeting at the 911 center, assumed that was where the meeting was to be. Anyway, confusion prevailed and most folks ended up at IHOP on University after driving around in the rain for a while and probably had a good old time anyway.

This Vox is well past the 6-page mark and will expand to an 8-pager. (Try to picture a Vox with an odd number of pages.) That means we may have to resort to some filler to make up the full 7.5 pages of text required to fill an 8-pager. It's only Wednesday noon as I'm writing this, so maybe the rest of the goodies will still come in.

We seem to have had a good response to the membership drive. Heath has just sent me the updated database and our print quantity has grown from about 280 to 314. I checked expiration dates though and there are 64 people who will soon come off the list if they don't get their dues updated. Check the "Member Thru" line on your mailing label to see if you are in arrears. We usually have a surge of dues payers at Old Timer's Night, so I hope you take that opportunity. Otherwise we're gonna miss you. Check that label now. If you think we've got it wrong, let Heath or myself know and we'll try to figure it out.

Noticed with some interest Miz Giggles's recipe for window cleaner. It calls for a few drops of blue food coloring. That makes me wonder if the blue color has some magical cleaning properties or does it just make the concoction look like Windex? That then makes me wonder if the blue coloring in Windex has any cleaning properties - which brings to mind the Windex TV commercial showing two birds bemoaning the fact that someone is using the stuff to clean a picture window - one saying to the other "A bird could get hurt flying into a window that clean!" I don't know if I'm the only one that feels the commercials are sometimes more entertaining than the programs these days. Especially the Gecko Gecko series and their high-fiving squirrels.

Speaking of birds, how many of you have antennas that are a traffic hazard

for birds? I used to have a 75/80 meter inverted V that terminated in an eyebolt right at the window. I was frequently sitting right by the window about dusk meeting the CW nets. I'd often hear a "sproinnng" sound coupled through the window frame from the antenna. I'd look out the window and see a rather dazed looking bird sitting on the ground shaking its head and recovering from the crash. I don't know if any failed to fly on to the roost after that, but I did notice the neighbor's cat made a point of hanging around under the antenna about dusk every day. I never saw the cat offering me a high five after the "sproinnng" sound though.

Tim, Cunningham, N8DEU, has solved a problem that has been bothering both himself and John Farr, KC4ZXX. I send out an email reminder memo every month to the usual suspects for Vox submissions. For the last few months, both Tim and John would have their response emails go astray somehow and have to resend them. Tim finally discovered the problem yesterday. When I'd send the reminder email to the "Vox Contributors" mailing list, it would go out with the wrong "Reply To" address on it. That is specified as part of the distribution list file and I messed it up when restoring everything after all my mail files got accidentally routed to the bit bucket. If they attempted to reply by just clicking on "Reply" the wrong address would be used. Apologies to anybody who was inconvenienced by that error. I think it is repaired now.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Area Hamfests

- March 1, 2003. Kerbelia Amateur Service, Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact Paul Baird, K3PB 865-986-9562.
- March 15, 2003. Kennehoochee ARC, Marietta, Georgia. Contact Elliott Kanter, W4PGI at 770-815-1570 or w4pgi@arrl.net. See <http://qsl.asti.com/hootch/KARC-HamF.html>. Talk-in Frequency 146.880 MHz, free parking, and \$5.00 entrance fee for adults.
- March 29, 2003. Middle Tennessee ARS, Tullahoma, Tennessee. Contact Jimmy Foyd, NQ4U at 932-393-0095 or

nq4u@bellsouth.net. See <http://www.qsl.net/mtars/events/hamfest.htm>. Doors open at 8 am and admission is \$5.00. Talk-in Primary: 146.700 MHz (minus offset) weak signal tone of 114.8 Hz. Secondary frequency is 146.820 MHz (minus offset).

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

Free to a good home:

Bumper antenna mount for a Plymouth Voyager (old body style) suitable for mounting an HF antenna. It might work with other autos with bumper screws. 256 533 3508 or jfarr62@comcast.net.

Good Home Wanted

I am nearing 2 years living and working here in Huntsville. Due to things beyond my control I've been in a studio apartment for much of this time. I'd like to change that.

Would any of you know of a house to rent - whereby I might be able to enjoy amateur radio? If you do, please drop me an e-mail:

whensley11@comcast.net

Thank you and 73, Kim, WG8S



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

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club
 P. O. Box 423
 Huntsville, Alabama 35804

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