

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 44, Number 3

March, 2004

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
duncant1@ds-s.com

Vice President:

Kim Hensley, WG8S
khensley@gamewood.net

Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 489-1240
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 the second Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 44, Nr 3, March, 2004
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

From the President

The Saturn V restoration project presentation at the Friday the (February) 13th HARC meeting dealt with a non-ham-radio topic, nonetheless close to our hearts as citizens of the Rocket City. Thank you Dr. Greg Gum and Marcia Lindstrom for this presentation. Please make sure to attend the February 27th meeting, at which we will discuss purchasing a \$ 100 brick in the name of HARC. While you're there, stick around for W4VM's "Repeater Features 101" program.

One more reminder - Old Timers' night is March 26th. As this is a leap year, there will be a special allocation of time for stories related to February 29ths, and as always, for the old timer who has been through the greatest number of February 29ths. We've held off Old Timers' night by about a month this year in hopes of good weather. Be sure to come!

Kudos to Charles Corsetti, KG4UWE, his students, and all those who helped with the balloon launch and tracking which appeared on p. 12 of March's QST. Thanks too to section manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK for submitting this for publication. While Charles wasn't mentioned directly, this brings him perilously close to membership in the "Mentioned in QST" (Silent Keys and Notices of Enforcement excepted) pantheon.

Fellow UAH faculty member John Piccirillo, W4JXP, must be proud of a group of his students who became hams at the February 6th testing session at the Red Cross. I was impressed with their enthusiasm for John's class and for their engineering curriculum in general. One student opined that his experience with professor-hams - W4JXP and another HARC member, John Stensby, N5DF - showed them to both practical and aca-

ademic. "Dr. Stensby knows all this radio stuff too — and the differential equations to back it up!"

Does anyone have some of this practical experience with binaural audio for enhancing the intelligibility of radio communications? I'll be giving a program after the March 12th meeting on this subject. Your differential equations are optional - and you can be sure I won't have any!

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

HAMOGRAPHY

KF4MMF Chris Reed:

Chris Reed is a lifelong resident of Madison County AL. He and his wife Melanie have been married for eight years, and both are very involved with activities in the area.

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 6

Saturday, April 3

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154

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

Chris is one of those individual who routinely pack 40 hours into a 24 hour day. A considerable extent of his time is spent in one area or another with Public Service; particularly in Emergency Preparedness and Communication. That effort, dedication and involvement includes not only the activities related to his occupation, but his "Free Time" as well.

Chris has a professional background in commercial broadcasting and emergency communications and preparedness. He is currently employed by Emergency Management under the auspices of the City of Huntsville, AL. He works in the area of Emergency Operations; maintaining their computer systems, covering plane crashes, monitoring emergency weather related functions, and addressing public schools on emergency and severe weather prepa-

ration. Chris has prior emergency service and dispatcher experience with the Huntsville, AL Police and Fire Departments. Chris is involved with RACES Emergency Operations; and in Jan, 2004, was appointed as the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Madison County, AL.

As if 40 hours a day were not enough; Chris also works as a DJ at dances and weddings in the area. Even with that added to a very full week; Chris is decidedly dedicated to HAM Radio. KF4MMF passed his Technician Class Exam in October, 1995 and joined HARC that same month. Shortly afterward, he obtained his General Class Ticket. For the last four years, he has been the HARC 40 Meter Operations Manager for Field Day Activities. KF4MMF is also a member of the DX Club. At one time, Chris was primarily involved with VHF and

UHF HAM activities. However, due to his work with Field Day, HF has become more and more important to him.

The Shack at KF4MMF includes among other items, an ICOM IC740, ICOM IC 27, and a 50 foot Rohn Tower with a quad beam. Chris started remodeling the Shack in Nov 03; repainting, installing a new desk, etc. He relates that the Shack is still not quite complete. Sounds like he is looking for another hour or so everyday in order to get it finished. Chris has a prime goal for his professional, community and HAM life: To expand the effectiveness of Emergency Service and Public Safety. That is a very tall order, but one to which Chris is totally dedicated. Here is hoping he can also find some time to get the Shack the way he

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR March, 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting	6 *TWIAR CAVEC Exam, 0900, Red Cross Building Hamfest, Kerbela ARS, Knoxville, TN
7	8	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting Binaural Audio	13 *TWIAR
14	15	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night	20 *TWIAR Kennehooshee ARC, Marietta, GA Middle Tennessee ARS, Tullahoma, TN
21 Hamfest Middle Tennessee ARS, Tullahoma, TN	22	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	25 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 HARC Meeting Old Timer's Night	27 *TWIAR
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Meeting	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exam, 0900, Red Cross Building

*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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wants it; and more time to spend working the bands.

HARC: Give a Big "RR" to KF4MMF!
73, WB0UCI, Fred Kerseyt

Greetings from the ARES Net

As most of you know, the local ARES organization is in the process of reorganizing. Thanks to the participation of local HARC members check-ins to the net are up and things are moving right along. Many have expressed their interest in ARES by filling out the ARES Membership form. We welcome any amateur radio operator to join us and participate in ARES. If you are interested in joining, please send Chris, Carl or myself an email. Contact information is available on the ARES website "<http://www.madisoncountyares.net>).

We also welcome Rolf Goedhart (K4RGG) as the newest addition to ARES leadership as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator. Together with Chris Reed (KF4MMF) and Carl Rourk (K4CHR), Rolf will be developing and

coordinating some classroom training for all ARES members. Later we will be putting what we have learned in the classroom on the air during the Thursday night training nets.

But while training is coming together we still need to be alert and prepared to activate at any time. Severe weather season will be upon us sooner than we think;

Next week (February 22-28, 2004) is Severe Weather Awareness Week; Please note that the ARES net **will be activated** sometime during the week.; So be prepared and show your support by participating in the net when it comes up. A mock "call-out" notification will be sent and the net activated for testing. Our local ARES group plays a vital role in handling message traffic between storm spotters, SKYWARN/NALWARN and the National Weather Service. This is in addition to any health and welfare traffic needed to support the Red Cross or other agencies.

But let's not forget that ARES is involved with more than just severe weather. ARES is a 24x7 local community service that activates in the event of natural or man-made disasters.; We never know when a disaster or other crisis brings communications down to a halt. Fortunately for us there were no major floods, tornados, snow, ice, pestilence or locust plagues in Madison County this past week. As peaceful as it all was, the local RACES group was placed on standby and almost activated this week. Why? A telephone system failure in Jackson County nearly crippled communications between it's citizens and their local 911 center. Preparations were made to activate had the official word for assistance came in from Jackson County. This helps us to realize that all Amateur Radio emergency operator groups need to be prepared for **any** type of emergency.

Look forward to hearing you on the net!

73, Howard Johnson, KG4WOU
Assistant Emergency Coordinator
Net Manager

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN MARCH!!

A note from Giggles: Is winter just about over? I hope so. I'm ready for some warmer weather. I am like our editor, I keep watching for the daffodils to pop their heads out of the ground. I remember one winter that the daffodils were in full bloom and they were covered with snow. I was so afraid that they would be killed. I was surprised when I saw them pop out of the snow unharmed. I sort of hoped for snow because it looks so clean and white. I wouldn't mind building a little snowman. Oh well, I guess Frosty will just have to wait til some other time. I hope everyone remembered to get their favorite Valentine a card and maybe a box of candy. Don't forget to wear something green on St. Patrick's Day. Keep Marg and Ed Berisford in your thoughts and prayers. Marg is having a really rough time with her health right now. I can't wait til she can dance again.

A Joke or Two

I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW SOME OF THESE !! (ME EITHER)

San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

Each king in a deck of cards represents a great king from history:

Spades- King David

Hearts- Charlemagne

Clubs-Alexander, the Great

Diamonds- Julius Caesar

$$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$$

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

"I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

What occurs more often in December than any other month? Conception.

Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what? Their birthplace

Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested? Obsession

Little Jenny

Little Jenny walked into the kitchen one day and looked up at her mother, who was busy cooking dinner. "Mommy, how old are you?" she asked.

Now dear," said her mother, "You should never ask a woman what her age is."

"Why not?" demanded Jenny.

"Because it isn't polite. You'll understand better when you grow up."

Jenny thought about it for a moment, then piped up, "Mommy, how much do you weigh?"

"Jenny," said her mother, "That's not a question you ask people."

"Why not?" "Because it's not polite to ask grown-ups about how much they weigh. You'll understand some day."

"Mommy," Jenny asked, "Why did you and Daddy get divorced?"

"Darling," her mother replied with a sigh, "That's something that's still very painful for Mommy, and I really can't talk about it now. I'll explain when you are a little older."

The next day, Jenny told a friend at school about the conversation with her mother. The other little girl explained to her, "All you have to do is get a look at your mom's driver's license. It has all the information about any grown-up you want on it."

So little Jenny sneaked a peek in her mother's purse when she got home, and looked over her license, examining it care-

fully. That evening, she went back into the kitchen and announced, "I know how old you are, Mommy, You are 36!" Her mother looked down at her, surprised. "And I know how much you weigh!" said Jenny. "You weigh 135 pounds."

"Jenny, where did you learn this?", her mother asked.

Jenny just smiled and continued, "And, I know why you and Daddy got a divorce."

Her mother just gasped and asked, "Why?"

Jenny replied, "Because you got an F in sex!"

A Smart Blonde Joke

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blonde for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan.

An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Two weeks later, the blonde returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41.

The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi-millionaire. What puzzles us is,

why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?

The blonde replies..."Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

LADIES ONLY, PLEASE

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweat-shirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?"

It depends," I replied. "What does it say on your shirt?"

He yelled back, "University of Oklahoma."

And they say blondes are dumb...

The Thought for the Month of March

Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the joy.

Did You Know:

When you eat in an oriental restaurant don't leave those chopsticks behind. Instead bring them home because they make great plant stakes for indoor potted plants. After rinsing well, you can use them to stir paint too.

Solve the puzzle:

HET TESB GINTH EW ANC VEGI A
ONSPRE SI NEO EROM CCENAH.

73 Peggy (Giggles) Bell K4EGB

Sew Long!

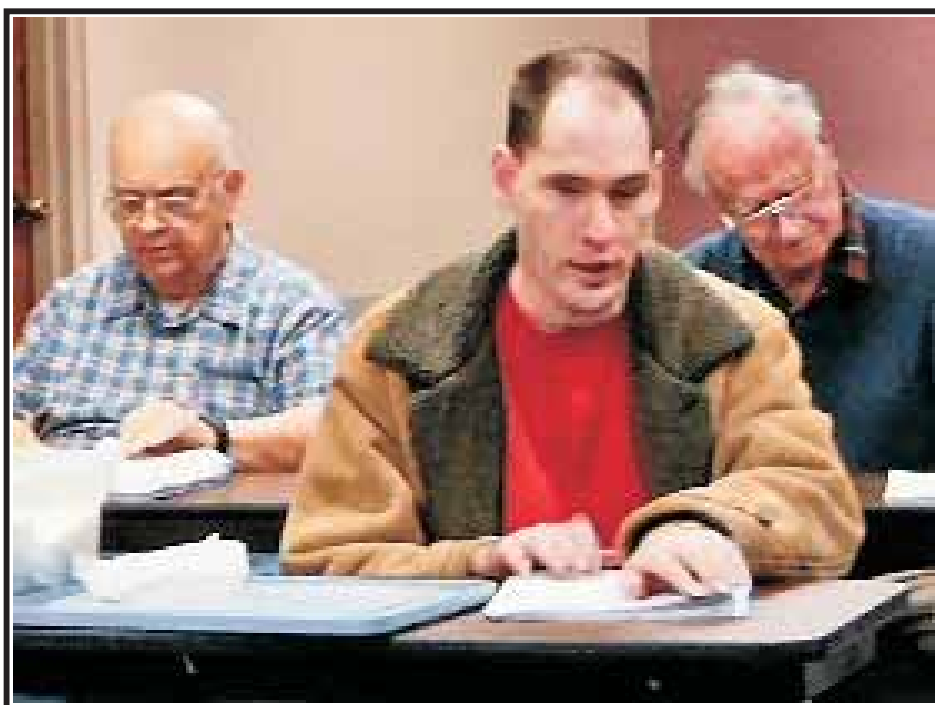
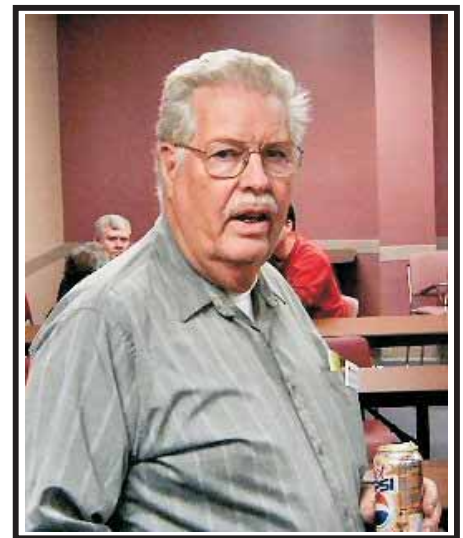
March Hamfests

March 6, 2004. Kербela AR Service, Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact Paul Baird, K3PB 423-986-9562

March 20, 2004. Kennehoochee ARC, Marietta, Georgia. See <http://www.w4bi.org> or contact E. S. Kanter, W4PGI, 770-815-1570 or w4pgi@arr.net. Hamfest will be held at the Cobb County Life University, 1085 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. Gates open at 11:00 am. Talk-in frequency is 146.880 minus, PL 100 Hz. Admission is \$6.00 and parking is free. VEC exams will be held at 9:00 am Saturday and there will be a no code tech training and testing session starting at 8:30 am and ending at 4:30.

March 20 -21, 2004. Middle Tennessee ARS, Tullahoma, Tennessee. See <http://www.mtars.org> or contact Jimmy Floyd, NQ4U, 931-393-0095 or nq4u@bellsouth.net. Hamfest will be held at 410 Wilson Ave. Tullahoma, Tennessee. Doors open at 8:00 am both days. Admission is \$5.00. Talk-in is 146.700 minus, PL 114.8 Hz.

73, John, KC4ZXX



From The Editor's Wastebasket

The wastebasket seems almost empty as I start this. I think Fred picked a great candidate for his Hamography this month. Chris has really gotten into the public service aspect of Ham Radio since getting his license, and deserves thanks from HARC's members for all the things he is into.

Of course Old Timers' Night is the last meeting of March. I hope we have a good turnout at that meeting. It's hard for some of the older timers to realize that a lot of the folks we used to consider as upstart kids now qualify as old timers. I'm not aware that there is a rule anywhere defining what is an old timer and what is an upstart, but I'm sure there are a lot of the younger members who can tell us interesting stories about their beginnings in Amateur Radio. I



hope they'll do so. Anyway, OTN is always an enjoyable meeting and I hope we have a good turnout.

We've always used OTN as a good night to round up the members who have not renewed their dues for the current year. My count shows that there are 51 members who have not yet re-upped for 2004. Please check the mailing label on your Vox to see what the "Member thru mm/dd/yyyy" line says. If it shows a date that is earlier than 03/31/2004, you

are about to be dropped from the mailing list. Make it a point to get right with Heath, KC4HRX before another month goes by.

John, WA4PRH was at the last Vox night meeting and took a few photos with his digital camera. Some of them are included here in case you haven't made it to a Vox night for a while. Remember, it is not just Vox night, it is Vox and Social night. Come on down and

enjoy chatting with the rest of the folks who are there.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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