



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, 340-9531
hthorson@bellsouth.net

The club's address is Box 423, Huntsville, Ala. 35804. Meetings are held each Friday night at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross Building, 1101 Washington Street. Dues are \$12.00 per year, family memberships are \$15.00 per year. The club maintains a Web Site at "http://www.harc.net"

The North Alabama Repeater Association operates repeaters on 146.34 / 146.94, 147.78 / 147.18, 223.34 / 224.94 and 448.5 / 443.5. NARA dues are \$16.00 per year and may be sent to NARA at P.O. Box 18941 Huntsville, AL 35804-8941.

The club's packet radio interest group, HUNTSPAC, maintains an extensive packet network for the Huntsville area. Dues for use of this network are \$15.00 per year, and can be paid through the HARC Secretary-Treasurer listed above.

The club's ATV special interest group, TVATV operates an ATV repeater. It's input frequency is 439.25 MHz and its output is 421.25 MHz. A voice coordination repeater is operated with output frequency of 145.33 MHz, input 600 kHz down.

The Vox is published the third Friday of each month except for August. Editor of the Vox is Frank Emens, W4HFU, 3714 Lakewood Circle, Huntsville, Ala. 35811 or femens@hiwaay.net. Material of interest to the HARC membership should be submitted to the editor by Wednesday before the third Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 46, Nr.3, March, 2006

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

A Salute To Ham Radio Operators

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of American citizens who are members of the Amateur Radio Relay League, known as HAM radio operators.

Citizens throughout America dedicated to this hobby—a hobby that some people consider old fashioned or obsolete—were true heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as they were often the only line of communication available into the storm ravaged areas.

Amateur radio operators are often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication. As communities across the gulf coast and America learned this year, technology can be highly vulnerable. HAM radios, entirely self-contained transmitters, require no cell towers or satellites, simply a battery and a strip of wire as an antenna.

Just as after major earthquakes, tornadoes, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11, HAM operators around the country received an alert to stand by their radios to listen for calls for assistance. Following Hurricane Katrina, when cell phones and e-mail were useless, a HAM operator located in Connecticut alerted authorities about a woman trapped for 4 days without food or water and a Coast Guard Auxiliary in Cleveland arranged for a medevac for a woman in labor in New Orleans.

These are just a few examples of the many lives that were saved with the critical intervention of HAM operators throughout the country. Now more than ever, I am proud to be a licensed amateur radio operator. It is important to realize that every HAM radio operator in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a volunteer.

This year, when disaster struck, hundreds of HAMs moved to the gulf coast

to help in every way they could. Every one of which did so on a volunteer basis and their only goal was to assist in what became one of the worst natural disasters in America. The dedication displayed by HAM radio operators in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina sets a tremendous example for us all. The people whose lives were rescued as a result of the tireless dedication of HAM radio operators will forever be grateful to these selfless public servants.

Hon. Mike Ross of Arkansas in House of Representatives, February 8, 2006

NARA Notes

Another month's gone by and it seems like yesterday I was writing an Article for VOX. As fast as the time has flown by we do have some news to report.

The 146.94 repeater is working great with all of the improvements of last year. I think we've finally gotten it back

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, March 4

Saturday, April 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

to its 'Glory Day' mode of operation. With the addition of one (and more coming) remote voter receivers it's better than ever.

Recently we ran across a great deal on a few VHF GE Master II mobiles. We were mainly interested because we had heard they had the optional GE stock receiver preamp. The VHF preamp seems to be a rare thing to find and usually demands a premium when they do show up. This particular model is the 'E' series. These provide a secondary receiver using a taller chassis. We were very surprised when we found out the auxiliary receivers also had a preamp installed. Sort of a double bonus! While we really bought the radios for the preamps, they also provide spare 110W PA amplifiers, 2X receivers, exciters and audio/squelch cards. Not a bad deal considering we bought the radio for what just one of the preamp's going price is on the used market. Many thanks go out to Bill KC0ONR and Ron

W4VM for making the trek to Anniston to pick these up!

We were lucky to find these preamps. They provide about 6 dB or so of gain and drop right into the GE Master II base/repeaters we use for 146.94 and 147.18. Of course there are many after market preamps boasting 18+ dB of gain that we could have used. But more gain is not always better when it comes to repeaters. You end up amplifying the noise floor and whatever else. This usually causes more harm than good. With the lower gain of the GE preamps it is a nice compromise.

The .94 repeater already had one of these preamps installed but 147.18 did not. Bill KC0ONR wasted no time in running up to 147.18 and installing one of the new preamps. Thanks Bill! Our usual morning crowd on .18 has reported a definite improvement in the sensitivity of the repeater. Since some of them use an HT with a rubber duck

inside their car commuting into Huntsville, they give it a good workout.

Work continues on audio equalizers for tailoring our audio characteristics on the repeaters. Bill has already brewed up one circuit and is testing it out on one of his own systems. I'm also working on another circuit design. The PCB layout is getting close to order some boards. So we'll have a couple of different EQ's to test out.

The Doug Hall interface PCB layout is completed. Just double-checking everything before I send off the board order. We'll need to get a parts order together to build one of these up. Thanks to John Zeiler's handy work we have a nice chassis punched out with mucho DB9 holes for all of the connectors required for the Doug Hall voter.

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR March, 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	1 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting Program, ARES and Katrina	4 TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.
5	6	7 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	8 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	9 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	10 HARC Meeting	11 TWIAR
12	13	14 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	15 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	16 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	17 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night Come help get the Vox ready for mailing	18 TWIAR Kennehoochee ARC Hamfest Middle TN ARS Hamfest
19	20	21 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	22 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	23 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	24 HARC Meeting	25 TWIAR
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*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
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Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store

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Come see us next to Chili's!

Before we know it, Spring will be here and it will be time for some remote base antenna upgrades.

73, Ralph W4XE
NARA President
W4XE@qsl.net

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN MARCH!!

A note from Giggles: It is Valentine's Day today and I hope everyone got their candy, flowers, and/or cards. Once a month, there is always something to get all the gussy stuff, but I guess that is what makes the world go 'round. I talked to someone today and they said that everyday was a special day to them. Next month, we will see Spring come in and hopefully Winter will go out quietly. I am ready for the pretty flowers and green trees. I'm also ready for a good, juicy, reasonable tomato. Hope to see you at the meetings. CUL

A Joke or Two

Hillary's First Night As President in January 2009. Hillary Clinton gets elected President and is spending her first night in the White House. She has waited so long.....

The ghost of George Washington appears, and Hillary says, "How can I best serve my country?" Washington says, "Never tell a lie."

"Ouch!" Says Hillary, "I don't know about that." The next night, the ghost of Thomas Jefferson appears...

Hillary says, "How can I best serve my country?"

Jefferson says, "Listen to the people." "Ohhh! I really don't want to do that."

On the third night, the ghost of Abe Lincoln appears. Hillary says, "How can I best serve my country?"

Lincoln says, "Go to the theater."

Never Question a Drunk. A woman was shopping at her local supermarket

where she selected: a half-gallon of 2% milk a carton of eggs a quart of orange juice a head of romaine lettuce a 2 lb. can of coffee and a 1 lb. package of bacon. As she was unloading her items on the conveyor belt to check out, a drunk standing behind her watched as she placed the items in front of the cashier. While the cashier was ringing up her purchases, the drunk calmly stated, "You must be single."

The woman was a bit startled by this proclamation, but she was intrigued by the derelict's intuition, since she was indeed single. She looked at her six items on the belt and saw nothing particularly unusual about her selections that could have tipped off the drunk to her marital status. Curiosity getting the better of her, she said "Well, you know what, you're absolutely correct. But how on earth did you know that?"

The drunk replied, "Cause you're ugly."

Family Unity. A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not

ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.
Check www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm for address and phone info.

Section Manager: Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, w4ozk@arrl.org
 Affiliated Club Coordinator: Jeff L OBrien, KV4CX, jeffo@zebra.net
 Assistant Section Manager for Youth Activities, Rebekah A. Dorff, WG4Y, wg4y@arrl.net
 Bulletin Manager: William K, Hensley, WG8S, whensley11@comcast.net
 Alabama Frequency Coordinator - Liaison Alabama Repeater Council: Ron Shaffer, W4VM, w4vm@comcast.net
 Official Observer Coordinator: Ken Magnant, WA4WEY, kmagnant@att.net

Public Information Coordinator: James Spann, WO4W, wo4w@jamesspann.com
 Section Emergency Coordinator: Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, sec@arrl-al.net
 State Government Liaison: Richard D. Doll, KU4PY, ku4py@arrl.net
 Silent Key Coordinator: Doc Gordon King, W4XI
 Section Traffic Manager, Randy Cox, AI4FP, ai4fp@yahoo.com
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winingar, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, donkeys, and pigs, the wife asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the husband replied, "in-laws."

Police Log This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida... An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her voice, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" The four men didn't wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then it dawned on her why...For the same reason she did not understand why there was a football, a frisbee and two 12 packs in the front seat... A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed.

MORAL OF THE STORY? If you're going to have a Senior Moment, make it memorable.

The Reminder for the Month of March If you have put a gummed nametag on your clothing and noticed that when you took it off, there's sticky stuff left, dab the area with cleaning fluid or rubbing alcohol or petroleum-based prewash spray; whichever one is appropriate for the fabric.

Thought for the Month of March Once you have loved, you will always love. For what's in your mind may escape but what's in your heart will remain forever.

Solve the puzzle: **DORMITORY** When you rearrange the letters: **DIRTY ROOM** (I thought that I would try to help some of you po' guys out and give you a hint for the future puzzles.)

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

Dear Emergency Communication's Volunteer:

While watching the people trapped on the roofs in New Orleans after Katrina, I wondered what it would be like not to have communications with the outside world.

I've recently seen emergency "good-to-go" stations in certain ham magazines. But the cost of the rig and antenna ALONE had to be well over a thousand dollars! I just didn't think a thousand bucks or more needed to be spent on a basic HF station with a voice to the outside world. Besides, these so-called emergency "good-to-go" stations would eat up battery power in no time!

The answer to the problem is now featured on our website. Yes, HamRadioFun.com is about HAM RADIO FUN. But we have to remember that ham radio is also a public service, and we do have a serious side to our hobby.

Please take time to look at our new "Complete Emergency Amateur Radio Station" webpage, and would you please be so kind as to pass the information along to other ARES, RACES and ARPS members? Let's get a BUNCH of these stations out into the amateur radio community!



<http://hamradiofun.com/emergency.htm>

*Thanks and 73;
William (Bill) E. Lauterbach, Jr. Owner;
HamRadioFun.com*

Interesting Web Site Repeater

[Http://wa6tdd.tripod.com/](http://wa6tdd.tripod.com/)

This is a site about a repeater built in the 1970s by a professional broadcast engineer, which also documents some period accurate dress as well as some neat hacks pulled off to meet the FCC control requirements for repeaters of the the day.

Kris Kirby, KE4AHR
 "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!"
This message brought to you by the US
Department of Homeland Security

March Hamfests

March 18, 2006. Kennehoochee ARC

53rd annual Hamfest. Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta, Georgia. Contact Robert O'Donald, KD4ISM at 770-439-9300 or kd4idm@arrl.net. See <http://www.w4bti.org> for details. Talk-In: 146.880 (100 Hz PL)

March 18, 2006. Middle Tennessee ARS

Tullahoma Business Incubator, 410 Wilson Avenue, Tullahoma, Tennessee. Contact Bill Holt, N0EUU at 931-728-9015 or N0EUU@hotmail.com. See <http://mtars.org/mtars.html> for details. Talk-in 146.700 (114.8 Hz PL).

73 John Farr, KC4ZXX

Mike Weller, N4TXJ, SK

Mike Weller, N4TXJ, became a Silent Key on February 7 of this year.

From The Editor's Wastebasket

It seems like it was only last week that we were working on the February Vox. I don't know where it goes, but I've always found that January and February sneak past without leaving much of an impact on folks. First thing you know we'll be electing ossifers, planning Field Day and preparing for the Hamfest.

Winter must be getting ready to give us a real blast. The prognosticators are saying it could happen this coming weekend (Feb 18 & 19) but the best predictor is the daffodils in my back yard. They are beginning to show some color and that is an almost certain sign that they are about to get zapped. I must have the most optimistic bunch of the things in town. They always peep out just in time to get slapped with a freeze,

The item about the "Complete Emergency Amateur Radio Station" was received as an email. When you visit the referenced web site, you get a description and sort of a sales pitch for the station they are proposing. I have somewhat mixed feelings about including it, but what they say seems to be

true. The station they are describing and offering for sale will serve for HF communications in situations where commercial power is not available for an extended period. I've included a picture of the station from their web site.

You may notice you are getting this issue of the Vox a day later than you usually do. Remember, Monday is President's Day and the Post Office will be closed. The U S Mule won't be active until Tuesday.

If you have not been receiving the emails sent to the membership in the last month or so, **PLEASE** make sure Heath has your correct email address in his database. If you'd rather not get the emails, make it a point to be sure your email is BLANK in the database. Don't leave an incorrect email address in the database. I get a flurry of bounce messages every time I'm asked to forward an email to the membership and I don't appreciate it. Take responsibility for making sure the database is accurate.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Look at all the space that would have been available for your writeup if you had only gotten up off your good intentions and written it.

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

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