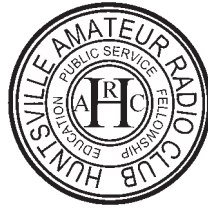


VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 49, Number 3

March, 2009

The Prez Sez

Hope you enjoyed your Valentines Day this year as it fell on a Saturday... you actually had time to enjoy it. Speaking of enjoyment I hope you liked the recent presentation of Al Bacon on kit building and Tom Duncan on the RTTY contest. Somehow the meetings come more alive when we have hands on activities.

Next week your prez will present about the Logbook of the World that recently marked over 200 Million entries! Enlivened with hands on demos by Tom Duncan.

This month we lost a great activist for Ham Radio Dieter Schliemann KX4Y, not only was he my counterpart in Jackson County, maintained the local repeaters including the one that connects to the Skywarn net work, he was a great activist in connecting thousands and thousands of school kids through ham radio to the International Space Station. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this family and to Tina, his wife of 21 years.

March is almost around the corner and that means increased risk for severe weather. Next week is severe weather awareness week, but we already had 2 tornado watches so far. Find the link elsewhere in this Vox for more information for the National Weather Service. Be alert and stay safe!

*73 de K4RGG, Rolf Goedhart
Your Prez*

Contests, Anyone?

A wonderful thing about ham radio is there are so many facets to this gem of a hobby that everyone can find something they like, and often many things. I overlooked this one for years, but have come to appreciate it. You might too. It's contesting.

The competitive personality may be drawn to contesting for the opportunity to test skills against worthy competitors, and indeed, serious contesters

do just this. Because in the grand scheme of things - ignoring arguments about multipliers vs. QSO count - all participants gain by working as many stations as possible, the bands are generally as flooded as propagation permits during contests. It can indeed become rough-and-tumble, particularly early on in the contest when energy levels are high, but in a 48-hour contest, things generally settle down the second day. One learns about the pecking order of big guns and little pistols. Non-contesters may suffer some inconvenience during contests when their customary frequencies are temporarily overrun, but WARC bands are off-limits to contests, so there is a refuge.

Big-time high-scoring contest stations don't go spring into operation at the opening bell and then vanish when the contest is over. Good stations are constantly being upgraded, to keep up with the competition. Good operators practice, even when there is no contest. There are strategies and tactics to be worked out before the contest, and modified as the contest progresses. The great unknown - conditions - make all the difference in the world. Great contest stations and contest operators aren't born, they're made, by constant study and practice.

All this doesn't mean contesting is only for type A personalities. There's plenty for the little guy and newcomer who has neither the hope nor aspiration of seeing his call at the top of some list. Contesting is a great learning experience. You get a crash course in diurnal propagation characteristics. Even in a domestic contest like Sweepstakes or the North American QSO Party, and in state QSO parties, propagation is literally as different as night and day. Did I miss DX? Contests are the DXer's dream - if you're a newbie, you can rack up countries during a contest, because they're all there. DXpeditions often in-

clude a contest as part of the activity, making ten thousand or more contacts during a single weekend. Contests often spawn their own mini-DXpeditions, particularly to garden spots like the Caribbean, the Azores, the Canary Islands, and throughout Polynesia. Before and after the contest, these ham-cationers often concentrate on the WARC bands, so even the casual contester can check off a slew of band countries in a few days.

If you have a radio and an antenna, give contesting a try, at least once. It doesn't have to be HF - there are VHF and UHF contests sprinkled throughout the year. Check out www.hornucopia.com/contestcal for a list of what's coming.

I have more, but CQ WPX RTTY is starting in only an hour...

73 from a lousy contester who has plenty of fun,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Dieter K. Schliemann KX4Y SK

Dec. 15, 1940 - Feb. 9, 2009

Dieter K. Schliemann, 68, of Scottsboro passed away Monday at his residence. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Tina; children, Bernd and wife Bianca of Belchertown, Mass.; and grandchildren, Rebecca and Eric Ute of Hinesburg, Vt., Mark and Kristen, Frank and wife Gayle of Montpelier, Vt., and Arnoul and wife Edrie of Randburg, South Africa; and granddaughter, Shannon; two sisters; and one brother. Dieter was president of the Scottsboro Ham Radio Club. He was active in satellite communications involving school contacts with the International Space Station worldwide. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Scottsboro Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 11

(Text continued on page 3)

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:
Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG
K4RGG@arrl.net

Vice President:
Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeiglerjt@aol.com

Secretary:
Doshia Wilson, KI4VFU
wilson.00.doshia@comcast.net

Treasurer:
Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 325-2507
hthorson@knology.net

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

"http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/harc-al"

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. They have a web site at "http://www.qsl.net/nara"

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 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.

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 7

Saturday, April 4

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

kr4gu@hamfest.org

Or

Rick Earl, AA4II, 256-653-0101

aa4ii@bellsouth.net

Athens Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. They are held at the Athens EOC.

For information contact Dean Thompson, WW0I, 256-230-0270 or Rick Earl, AA4II (see above)

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR March, 2009

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

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

Gigaparts
www.gigaparts.com

☑ **Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store**

NEW LOCATION!

Map showing location at the intersection of University Dr. - Hwy 72 and Research Park Blvd. Landmarks include Back Yard Burgers, Providence, and Target.

**Mon - Sat
10am - 7pm**

Product logos: HEIL sound, ICOM, KENWOOD, YAESU (Choice of the World's top DX'ers™), ALINCO, DIAMOND ANTENNA, MFJ.

a.m. Friday at the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of North Alabama, 311 Bob Wallace Ave., Suite 101, Huntsville, AL 35805 or a favorite charity.

Tom Duncan, Prex DX club, our VP Woodie Ziegler and undersigned will attend visitation today.

73 de K4RGG, Rolf

George Wachter, WA4JSM, SK

Don't know any details, but have been told that we also lost George Wachter, WA4JSM in the last few days. George has not been very active in recent years, but was very active on two meters for years. If I'm not mistaken, he served as President of HARC for at least one year and he definitely was very active in emergency communications some years ago.

George will be missed!

Frank Emens, W4HFU

Hamfests in March

28 Feb 2009 Dalton Hamfest #27
Dalton ARC <http://www.w4drc.com>

Talk-In: 145.230(-) no tone Contact: Harold Jones, N4BD PO Box 211 Rocky Face, GA 30740 Phone: 706-673-2291 Email: n4bd@windstream.net

Dalton, GA North Georgia Fairgrounds 501 Legion Drive Div: South-eastern Sect: Georgia

21 Mar 2009 Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club <http://www.w4bti.org> Talk-In: 146.880 - offset (PL100) Contact: Don V. Heppe, W5LGK 1425 Ridgeway Drive Acworth, GA 30102 Phone: 404-630-1249 Email: W5LGK@bellsouth.net

Marietta, GA Jim Miller Park 2245 Callaway Road Div: Southeastern Sect: Georgia

21 Mar 2009 + Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society <http://www.qsl.net/mtars/> Talk-In: 146.700 (PL 114.8) Contact: Carol Pratt, KI4QWM PO Box 932 Tullahoma, TN 37388 Phone: 931-455-5619 Fax: 931-967-3344 Email: capratt@bellsouth.net

Tullahoma, TN First Methodist Church 208 West Lauderdale Street Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee

21 Mar 2009 Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club <http://www.reelfootarc.com/> Talk-In: 146.10/70 Contact: Robert Miles, K9IL 113 Green Acres Drive Martin, TN 38237 Phone: 731-588-2840 Email: greenacres113@aol.com

Union City, TN Tennessee National Guard Armory 2017 East Reelfoot Avenue Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee

Courtesy of ARRL.org <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>

Steve Bell KD4TFN: sbell@hiwaay.net

ARES / RACES UPDATE

Almost March and severe weather is right on queue. Many thanks go out to all who volunteered during the 2 Tornado watches we've already had this month.

Governors Bob Riley of Alabama and Phil Bredesen of Tennessee have proclaimed a Severe Weather Awareness Week this February. In Alabama, the

awareness week will last from Monday, February 23 through Friday, February 27; in Tennessee, the awareness week will last from Sunday, February 22 through Friday, February 27.

Your National Weather Service, the Alabama and Tennessee Emergency Management Agencies, and other supporting organizations, ask your help in providing your relatives, friends, and neighbors with information about severe weather safety. Although severe weather is more likely as we progress into the spring months, it can happen at any time of year here in the Tennessee Valley. So, take time now to become aware of the different types of severe weather that can occur in this region, and what to do in the event of a severe weather situation. The information could save your life, and the lives of others.

Educational activities and drills will be held throughout the week to help people prevent injuries and deaths from tornadoes, damaging winds, flashfloods, lightning, and hail. Each day of the week focuses on a specific type of severe weather or on the warning and drill system. Get caught up by visiting the NWS Site: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/preparedness/severe/svr-week-2009.php>

This month we combined our ARES/RACES meeting with NWS StormSpotter training. Thank you all for participating in the well attended event. Ares/Races usually meets at 6 o'clock on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Huntsville Madison County Emergency Management Agency at their Emergency Operations Center at Fountain Circle in Huntsville. February was an exception as it coincided with and was combined with the Storm Spotter Training.

More information on at
: <http://madisoncountyma.com/RACES.htm>

Or
<http://www.madisoncountyares.com>

73 de K4RGG@arrl.net
Rolf Goedhart

Emergency Coordinator Madison County

THE GIGGLE BOX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GUYS AND GALS THAT HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH!!

Notes from Giggles: A few days ago, my husband and I celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary. We decided to write down the names of two restaurants that we would like to eat dinner at. We realized that we had written the same restaurant names and in the same order. Its scary how you think the same after you have been married so long. I hate to think what we will do when we have been married 50 years. YIKES!!

I have been looking for stuff that kids say, but hadn't come up with anything so far. I hope you enjoy them. Thanks to Steve, KD4TFN for your input.

I heard a rumor that the groundhog saw his shadow, which means that we will have six more weeks of winter. But you can't tell it by the nice weather that we have been having. It is cool today and the weather man said that we might have some bad weather tomorrow, But we can take a little bad weather if we can have a lot of good weather. I hope everyone had a nice Valentine's Day. CUL

A Story or Two:

If you need a good laugh, try reading through these children's science exam answers:

Q: Name the four seasons. A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink. A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed? A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour? (brilliant, love this!) A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans? A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What are steroids? A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: What happens to your body as you age? A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty? A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes. A: Premature death.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen) A: The body is consisted into three parts — the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels A, E, I, O, and U.

Q: What is the fibula? A: A small lie.

Q: What does 'varicose' mean? (I do love this one...) A: Nearby.

Q: Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarian Section.' A: The Caesarian Section is a district in Rome

Q: What does the word 'benign' mean? A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Kids Are Quick

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria..

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: "K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L"

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: "H I J K L M N O"

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: "Me!"

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I.'

MILLIE: "I is."

TEACHER: No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am'

MILLIE: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIE: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.

Shirley and Marcy

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling

that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew.

She did this for the whole week. As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?' Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace. May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

I know you smiled! I sure did, Pass this on and brighten someone's day! **

The Thought for the month of March:

The greatest possession we have costs nothing, it's known as love. A personal greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.

Brian Jett-

The Puzzle for the month of March:

: EHT TSEDRAH IIRHTMCET OT SATREM SI HATT CIHHW ABEESNL SU TO OUTCN UOR SSEBLISG.

- Eric Hoffer ?

Peggy "Giggles" Bell, K4EGB
pbell@hiwaay.net or
sbell@hiwaay.net

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Well, looks like we've almost made it through another month. I seem to have some of the most optimistic daffodils in town as a bunch of them are already in bloom -- even though they can be pretty sure they'll get nipped at least one more time before Spring is really with us. As I can remember, in earlier years, some of our biggest snow episodes have happened the first week in March.

We've had some interesting programs with meetings lately. I hope we can continue that trend.

He hasn't been involved with the club much in recent years, but I'm sure some of the older members will remember the degree of participation that George Wachter had in club activities. He will surely be missed.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

