

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 41, Number 5

May, 2001

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers:

President,

John Morris, K4XH
K4XH@aol.com

Vice President,

Paul Paelian, WB4UEE

Secretary,

Brian Bender, KD4FGL
kd4fgl@mindspring.com

Treasurer,

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 774-3098
hthorson@hiwaay.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 41, Nr 5, May, '01
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL

From The Prez

The Election of new club officers will be June 1, 2001. Ernie Blair and Jared Cassidy are serving as the nominating committee. We need a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary willing to be nominated and serve as officers for the coming year. Anyone who would like to serve, or knows someone who would make a good HARC officer, please contact Ernie or Jared. Of course, nominations can be made from the floor at the June 1 meeting.

Programs for May are:

May 4, Fire extinguisher/prevention

May 11, Fabrication of tower guy wires

May 18, VOX

May 25, Blacksmithing by Bill Richardson, W4LRE

The club voted to go ahead with replacing the guy wires now being used on the field day towers with more user friendly wire rope and hardware. This should make putting up and taking down the towers much safer and easier on Field Day. I would like to include the entire club in the actual fabrication of the new guy wires. This project will be lots of fun and a learning experience that we can all apply to putting up our own antennae as well as those at Field Day. We have already accumulated some of the necessary items and had one meeting devoted to this project, and plan to have more before Field Day weekend June 22-24.

Thanks to all who have helped us have some very interesting programs this year, especially those who brought at least a dozen pieces of Collins Radio gear for show and tell on March 23. It takes participation by everyone to have a really good amateur radio club, and we do have a good one.

73, John Morris, K4XH

From: Eugene J Finch
geneandalma@juno.com

To: femens@hiwaay.net

Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2001 18:13:01 -0800

Subject: Missed Oldtimers Night

Hello Frank, It's doubtful that we have ever met or talked on the radio. If so, I don't remember it. Anyway I was surprised to receive the email from you on changes to the VOX publication. I am new to the world of personal computers as you might guess since my keyboard skills are quite a bit less than desired. I had hoped to get to the old timers meeting but just could not make it. I'm 71 years old so I probably qualify as an old timer. The handle is Gene and my call is KW4D.

I had noted in a recent VOX a write up mentioning a National receiver NC57. That as I recall was my first receiver and I remember listening on 10 meters and hearing a very strong signal on phone. I zero beat on the signal with my transmitter thinking boy I was going to get a good response to his CQ. I called him several times without any response. I became quite frustrated and upset that he would not come back to me. I finally gave up but later discovered what was happening. The receiver had very little Image Frequency rejection and that was what I was hearing. I could have kept calling forever without response. I guess the moral of the story is don't get on the other guy's case till your sure about what's going on. I later bought a dual

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, May 7

Saturday, June 2

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 379-3582

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904

conversion receiver which took care of the Image Frequency problem. The new receiver was an NC303. Maybe you will remember that one unless it's before your time. It probably is considered in the boat anchor category now.

Another little story I feel compelled to bore you with is as follows. In the early 1950's I worked for two AM broadcast stations up north in Rhode Island. I worked for one station for a period of time and later worked for the other. One station was on 1110kc and the other station was on 1220kc. They were both 1 KW power level and limited to daylight hours. While I was working for the station on 1220 kc we began receiving complaints that our station could be heard loud and clear on 1000 kc (right in the middle of the standard broadcast band) in certain areas. The two stations were about 5 miles apart. It was in the area between the two stations where we received the most complaints. To make a long story a little shorter what was happening was that our fundamental frequency 1220kc was beating against the second harmonic of the station on 1110 kc (which is 2220 kc). The resulting 1000 kc signal was the difference frequency. I later found out while working for the station on 1110 kc that the station had received several citations from the FCC

for excessive 2nd harmonic radiation. The transmitter was a Collins high level modulation type and Collins had recommended a fix which later resulted in the solution. The moral of this item is to be aware of those pesky harmonics.

Hope I have not taken too much of your valuable time reading the memoirs of an old timer.

*Best 73, Gene Finch KW4D
geneandalma@juno.com*

12-Step Program For Therapy

Here's a little something to do on a rainy sunday afternoon, once you've cleared up the "must-do" list. The beauty of this project is that not only do you get to totally destroy something that's already broken, but you can create something new and artistic to boot! (pun intended as you shall see) Also, all you dads and grandads have a real opportunity to teach kids how things work and how to be safe around machinery. All of us are familiar with hard-drives. Or are we? Find out for yourself! You will need these following items:

- 1) A BAD COMPUTER HARD DRIVE. Almost any flavor will do, but for educational and artistic purposes you will need to scrounge for an old one. Something large and heavy is

ideal, like the 80's vintage drives that had around 500MB capacity and weighed 20 pounds and cost \$500. These can be found at any hamfest ranging in cost from free to \$10. Sometimes they are sold as disposable boat-anchors. Look for the tell-tale rope.

- 2) A DRILL-PRESS. While a hand-drill will suffice for this project, you need the right equipment to gain the most enjoyment and education. If you do not own one, shame on you! Everybody owns a drill-press. Run out right now and buy one. We'll wait until you get back. No, really! If you insist on doing this project with a lame hand-drill, please see item #5..."safety equipment".
- 3) VARIOUS HAND TOOLS. Again, everybody owns these and knows how to use them. If you don't, there is a good chance that maybe you shouldn't be out in public unsupervised, eh? Specifically; vise-grips and/or pliers, a hammer, a small pry-bar (otherwise known as a worn-out flat-head screwdriver), phillips-head screwdrivers. It's always good to have a propane

**HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR
May, 2001**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	1 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	2 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	3 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	4 HARC Meeting Fire Extinguishers & Fire Prevention	5 CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross building BhamFest, 5 & 6
6 Birmingham Hamfest, Day 2	7 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	8 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	9 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	10 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	11 HARC Meeting Fabrication of Guy Wires for FD Towers	12 Johnson County ARC Hamfest, Mountain City TN
13	14 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	15 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	16 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	17 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	18 Vox Night & Social Night	19 Statesboro Hamfest, Statesboro, GA
20	21 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	22 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	23 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	24 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	25 HARC Meeting Blacksmith Demo by Bill Richardson, W4LRE	26
27	28 Christian Fellowship Net 2100 on 145.33	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 Southeast Linked Re- peater Net1900 on 147.240	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting Election of Officers for 2001/2002	2 CAVEC Exams, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.

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DR-605TQ	\$340
DR-610TQ	\$433



Prices good from April 16 to May 15 or while supplies last

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(256) 535-4442
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Prices good from April 16 to May 15 or while supplies last

Come see us next to Chili's!

torch ready, just in case. Not to be used, but only serve to intimidate the equipment being worked on. You will also need a 1/16" and a 3/16" drill bit. Make that several if you're accident-prone or ham-fisted.

- 4) A FEW FEET OF 30-GAUGE INSULATED/SOLID WIRE AND SEVERAL NAILS OR SCREWS. (trust me on this one)
- 5) SAFETY EQUIPMENT. Every serious hobbyist already has this stuff, just don't forget to use it. This would be safety goggles, bandages, hydrogen-peroxide, tweezers, and "Uncle Freddy's Home Suture Kit" (not sold in stores).

OK kids, gather around and let's start our project. But wait! First grab a cold beverage of your choice. You might be glad you did. And kids... if dad utters some words you never heard before, don't worry. And don't repeat them. Just remember, new words are a direct result of drilling through your thumb-

nail. It's a perfectly natural reaction.

- STEP ONE: Locate your 3/16" drill-bit and place in drill-press. This is best done with the drill OFF! Make sure the bit and all beverages are firmly secured.
- STEP TWO: Remove the circuit-board from the hard drive. Be sure to explain how it takes all this fancy electronic wizardry just to tell the clunky magnetic swing-arm inside the box how far to swing and when.
- STEP THREE: Proceed to drill out the screws holding the case-halves together. There are some "project-purists" that might be inclined to buy the correct tool to remove these special screws. These people are not normal, and should be avoided at all cost.
- STEP FOUR: Separate the case halves. Make sure you didn't miss any hidden screws; those nutty manufacturers like to hide them under silly stickers that say things

like "removing this sticker will void warranty".

- STEP FIVE: Remove the guts of the drive. At this point (if all went well) you should be holding a stack of shiny platters and a clunky-looking dead thing that used to be the read/write heads before you destroyed them in removal. How these things are assembled is still a closely guarded secret.
- STEP SIX: Throw out the swingarm-thing and the case-halves. Try to clean up the mess a little bit...the women-folk are due home soon, and they generally frown on this type stuff. Remember, metal shavings and bearing grease on the carpet is a BAD thing! (go figure)
- STEP SEVEN: Take a short break and explain how doing this in the living-room with 20 people watching is perfectly normal. Then make sure your dog-house has a

blanket; you'll be needing it.

- **STEP EIGHT:** Locate the stack of shiny platters with motor attached. Drill out the remaining screws that holds it all together. You may have to pry and tap with a hammer to get the thing apart. Try not to damage the platters! At this point, you should have 4-8 shiny platters and a motor. Discard the motor.
 - **STEP NINE:** Locate your 1/16" drill bit and drill a hole in each platter, about 1/8" from the outside edge. Then use the larger drill and/or X-Acto knife to smooth out the hole. Caution: X-Acto blades are dangerous!
 - **STEP TEN:** Tie a one-foot piece of wire to each platter. Wrap the wire around itself about ten times where it goes through the hole.
 - **STEP ELEVEN:** Locate a convenient overhang on your house, like at the carport or front door, and install one nail (or screw) for every platter you have, and position these hangers about 3" apart or so.
 - **STEP TWELVE:** Attach the wires for the platters on the screws with a few turns and then trim the wire.
- VOILA! High-tech wind-chimes.

73, Chris WB4UFQ

2001 HARC Field Day

Well it is time to start thinking about Field Day. Field Day operations will run from June 22-24. Our Field Day site this year will again be at Intergraph. Our thanks go out to thank Larry Frost, KR4GU for coordinating the site for us. The layout should be about the same as last year. Below is a listing of our station managers for Field Day 2001:

- Tim Cunningham, N8DEU
Satellite/Packet
- Chuck Lewis, N4NM / Mike
Maples, K4ADK 20/80 CW
- Bill Walker, KX4V 40/15 CW
- *Ray Smith, AB4JI 20 SSB
- Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT 15/75 SSB
- *John Farr, KC4ZXX 40 SSB
- OPEN, Novice (this will probably be the last year for the Novice



Don Tunstill, W4NO, presents a plaque commemorating **FIFTY Years** membership in the ARRL to Jim "Hoss" Campbell, W4YFN at the April 13 meeting of HARC

station option)
* a couple of the above managers are still unconfirmed

2001 Field Day committee chairs:

- Bill Walker, KX4V / Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT FD Co-Chair
- Don Tunstill, W4NO Tower erection/teardown
- Robby Sperr, KF4LFQ FD Power and Light
- George Duncan, K4TFJ Campers
- Peggy Bell, KE4EGB Picnic

We will try to have a Field Day program for HARC on June 1 to outline how FD works, times, operating procedures....general overview stuff. We need as many station and committee chairs there as possible to go over station location, recruit operators, etc.

As in the past we will need a lot of help on Friday afternoon putting up towers and antennas and on Sunday afternoon. Setup will start at 1PM on Friday. If you can stop by and help, please do.

Last year some of our stations did not really have enough operators to go around the clock. Each station needs about 8 to 12 operators to function comfortably. Please contact the station managers above if you would like to operate.

You don't have to be a super contester to operate, just a desire to operate during HARC's Field Day event. **Note that says "HARC's Field Day event," it's

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not an 8 man operation it is a club event so it is for everyone.

George Duncan will need 6 or 7 helpers to assist in bringing out the trailers. We are planning on utilizing 6-7 trailers. It would be great if we can get enough people to make one trip. The trailers are picked up around 9am on Friday morning. Contact George if you can help.

We will also have the club picnic at the same location on Saturday. For tickets and details contact Peggy Bell KE4EGB.

73, Jared, KQ4VT & Bill, KX4V Field Day
Co-Chairs

May Hamfests

May 6 and 7: Alabama State Convention, Birmingham ARC Birmingham Alabama. Contact ke4yzk@bellsouth.net.

May 12: Johnson County ARC, Mountain City, Tennessee. Contact John Hillsman K9HE at 423-727-4889 or grhackle@preferred.com.

May 19: Statesboro ARS, Statesboro, Georgia. Contact Tom Evans, KF4YLF at 912-863-4970, kf4ylf@arrl.net or <http://www.cs.gasou.edu/stars>.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

Announcing the '01 Atlanta HamFest and Georgia ARRL Section Convention

When: June 2, 2001, Saturday: 9 AM - 4 PM

Where: 116 Acre Jim Miller Park, Marietta, GA

How much: Tickets: \$5.00, under 16 free

The 2001 Atlanta Hamfest will be the best ever with several clubs participating!

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- VEC testing
- Forums
- PIC/STAMP controller
- ARRL staffer Brennan Price, NQ4X QRP
- AMSAT
- ARES

This is the first of three notices about the Atlanta Hamfest. We will announce in our next message details like

Fleamarket and Tailgate registration, License exams and more...

For more information contact John Talipsky, KA4VQH, Hamfest Chairman at johnjr@talipsky.com, or Penn McClatchey, K4PE, President, Atlanta Radio Club at pmm@saf.com

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, click reply and enter REMOVE in the subject box.

Call for Nominations

Elections for the 2001-2002 HARC officers will be held on June 1 and installation of the newly elected officers will be June 8. If you are or know someone that is interested in becoming an officer in "your" club please let it be known to the nominating committee or a club officer. The nominating committee will be contacting potential candidates in the coming weeks so please start thinking about what position you might like to hold. We would like to be able to post the nominations in the next VOX, which goes to press the third week of May.

73, Ernie Blair, WA4BPS & Jared Cassidy, KQ4VT 2001 Nominating Committee chairs

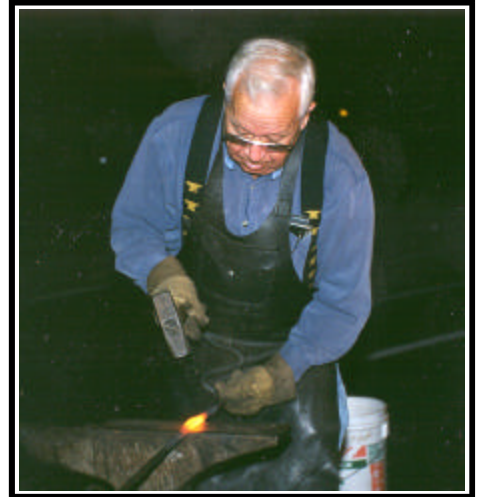
The Editor's Wastebasket

This month's Vox seems to be a little on the light side. Apparently some of the usual suspects are busy, out of pocket, or engrossed in Spring weather (when it stays around.)

Don't forget election of officers is set for the first meeting in June. Be ready to say "yes" if the nominating committee approaches you about serving as an officer. It is probably time to be thinking about nominations for Ham Of The Year also.

Congratulations to Jim "Hoss" Campbell, W4YFN, on his Fifty Year ARRL membership plaque. Jim was the second ham I met when I came to Huntsville back in nineteen-ought-fifty-six. The first one was Charley Birdwell, W4THW, who worked down the hall from me (and introduced me to Jim.)

You don't want to miss Bill Richardson, W4LRE, and his demonstration of the blacksmith's art on May 25. He had the whole club enthralled last time he set up his forge and equipment in the parking lot for a demonstration.

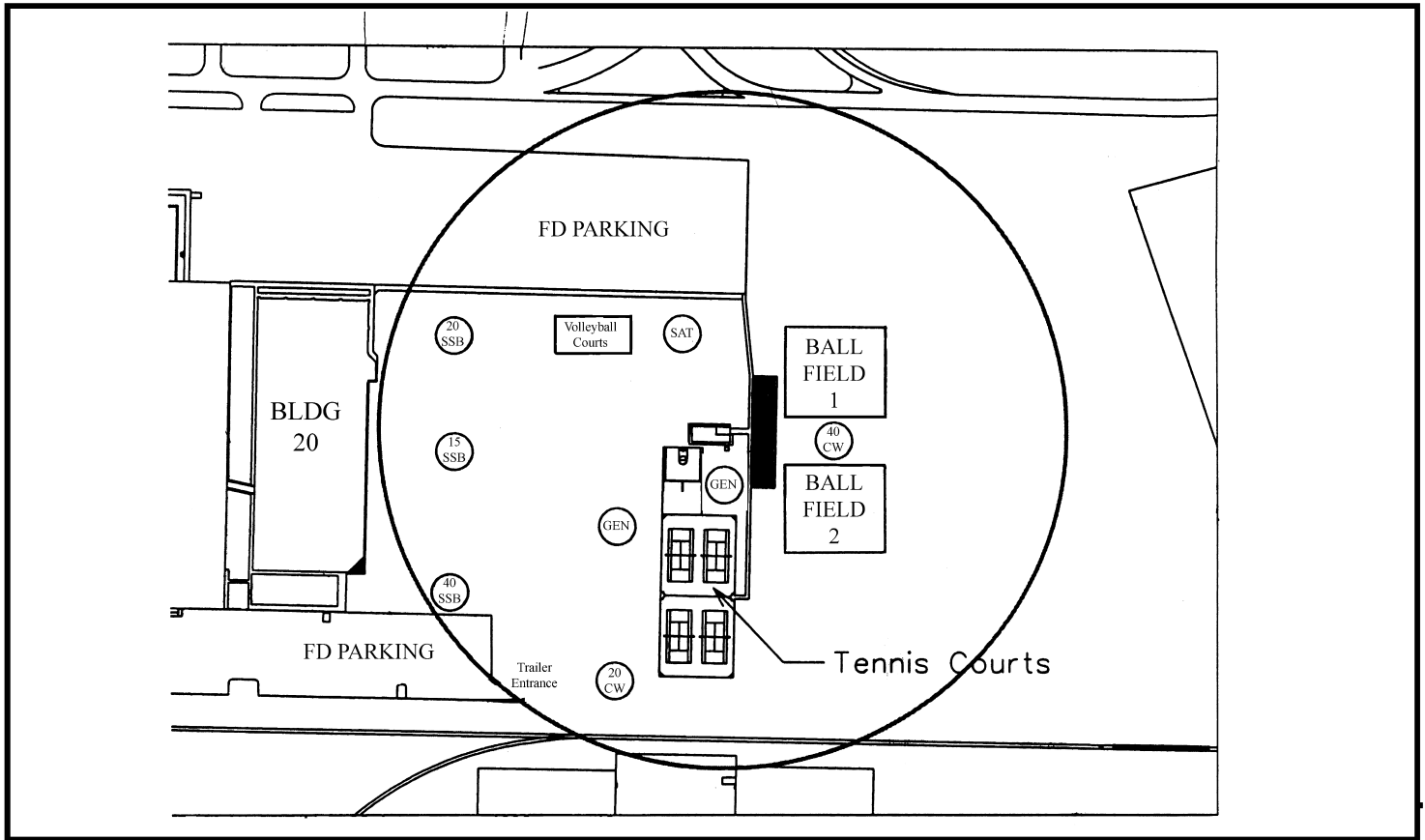


Bill Richardson, W4LRE, makes music with his hammer and anvil

Flea Mart

I am cleaning out attic and basement containing a lot of ham parts and equipment. This is previous generation stuff such as tube type transmitter and receiver, some test equipment and components (capacitors, resistors, transformers, tubes, crystals, meters etc). If anyone is interested in this stuff, please let me know.

73, Rudy Decher, WB4UGR, 539-7855



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