

# VOX



## HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 43, Number 5

May, 2003

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

#### Club Officers

##### President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY  
Duncan1@ds-s.com

##### Vice President:

Tim Cunningham, N8DEU

Tim\_cunningham@mindspring.com

##### Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
k4rgg@arrl.net

##### Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 722-0250  
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 43, Nr 5, May, 2003

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

### From the President - Spring Cleaning

While sweeping out winter's cob-  
webs, I've assembled this brief spring  
potpourri.

#### Antenna Safety

Spring's fine weather beckons the  
ham to the roof-top and tower-top. Be  
safe not only while you're up there, but  
getting up and down as well!

#### HR1478

House Resolution 4720 regarding  
"reasonable accommodation" of ham  
antennas never came to a vote during  
the last session of congress. It has been  
re-introduced by Rep. Steve Israel  
(D-NY) and thirteen co-sponsors as HR  
1478. For details, see  
[www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478](http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478),  
where the text of both bills is available.  
Should you feel so inclined, write your  
congressman — for most of us, Bud  
Cramer — urging his support for the  
bill.

#### HARC Membership List

Our secretary and MS-Access guru  
has prepared a list of the current mem-  
bership which we hope to publish in an  
upcoming VOX (perhaps even this  
one!). Permutations of this list are avail-  
able by name, call, and call suffix, to  
tickle those neurons in whatever way  
works for you. Thanks, Rolf! Based on  
discussions at the April 11th meeting,  
the consensus is that for now we will  
not publish this information on the HARC  
web site.

#### Nominating Committee

Chris Reed, KF4MMF, and Tom  
Duncan, KG4CUY, the nominating  
committee for 2003, and are charged  
with preparing the ballot for 2003-2004  
HARC officer elections which will be  
upon us in a flash. Those interested in  
serving as officers for the upcoming  
year, please contact us.

#### Huntsville Hamfest Liaison

George Duncan, K4TFJ, has been ap-  
pointed HARC liaison to the Huntsville  
Hamfest. We hope to have all bases

manned to ensure this August's  
hamfest goes off without a hitch.  
Thanks George and Wally Wilson,  
K4YBT, for volunteering for this slot.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### Program Schedule for May

02-MAY-03 DXing with PSK/RTTY  
Tim - KU4J

09-MAY-03 Modulation show and  
tell Tom - KG4CUY

16-MAY-03 VOX night

23-MAY-03 EchoLink Rolf - K4RGG

30-MAY-03 Auction night

### In The Good Ol'Days Of Boat Anchors

I have heard it said that all hams are  
weird. I, of course am the exception.  
However, I do have a reasonably so-  
phisticated satellite station on one side  
of my operating position and a "boat  
anchor" station on the other. For the  
very few that are not familiar with the  
term "boat anchor" it is a buzzword for  
antique radio station. To take this de-  
scription one step further boat anchors  
are AM stations. AM being Amplitude  
Modulation. Or sometimes referred  
to by the less enlightened as Ancient  
Modulation.

### CAVEC Amateur Radio License Exams

Exam sessions are held the first Satur-  
day of each month unless a holiday  
causes the session to be delayed for one  
week.

Upcoming sessions are:

Saturday, May 3

Saturday, June 7

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154

[kr4gu@hamfest.org](mailto:kr4gu@hamfest.org)

Or

Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904

[dontunstill@hamfest.org](mailto:dontunstill@hamfest.org)

Most present day boat anchor enthusiasts likely subscribe to the email server for those "less weird" hams that dabble in rebuilding and operating AM gear (boat anchors). On that server recently were some very entertaining stories about TVI (Television Interference) in the good ol' days. Which brings me to the point of this story.

Back in the late 50's early 60's I had an Elmac AF-67 under the dash of my 56 Chevy (Other than Mike, my son, Paul WB4UEE, may be the only young ham amongst us that knows what an Elmac is - and I'll bet he knows). I used it both mobile and fixed (some things never change - broke then - broke now!). I worked for Brown Engineering, in the HIC building. (Two more "boat anchors" - the HIC building no longer exists and Brown is now Teledyne).

As I was returning home from work one early summer afternoon, I was stopped by a traffic light on Meridian Street, right in front of a TV repair shop (Pop Gun's TV Repair - a now non existing boat anchor business). Inside the building, with the doors opened - (boat anchor air conditioning) stood a technician busily adjusting a probably freshly repaired TV set. Back in those boat anchor TV days, there were no local UHF stations and the closest VHF station was in Birmingham. Signals were obviously weak and to further complicate a boat anchor ham's life some boat anchor TV sets had a 21 Mhz IF.

Of course, you know what happened. The TV had a really good (by boat anchor standards) snowy picture. I hit the transmit button on my T-17 (I think that was the boat anchor designation for the carbon, military surplus, aircraft mike

that I was using). The TV picture went rolling six ways from Sunday. The tech grabbed his adjusting tool and dug into the TV set. I let go of the mike. The nice snowy picture popped right back in. He backed away to admire his genius adjustment and Yep, you guessed it, I hit the mike button again.

I sat at the light long enough to repeat this exercise 3 times. Each time the tech looked more puzzled. It could have been that the light saved my life as had he realized what was going on, what with me stuck in traffic (probably a long boat anchor line of 3 cars), he may have placed some calibration bumps on my boat anchor head.

To my knowledge, he never knew what had happened and I never bothered to drop in and tell him.

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR  
May, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on 442.775	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Meeting  DXing with PSK/RTTY Tim, KU4J	3 CAVEC Exams Red Cross Building, 0900  B'ham Hamfest, Bir- mingham, AL  *TWIAR
4 Birmingham Hamfest	5	6 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	7 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on 442.775	8 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	9 HARC Meeting  Modulation Show & Tell, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY	10 Johnson County ARC, Mountain City, TN  *TWIAR
11	12	13 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	14 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on 442.775	15 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	16 HARC Meeting Vox Night  Dayton Hamvention	17 Dayton Hamvention Dayton, OH  *TWIAR
18 Dayton Hamvention	19	20 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	21 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on 442.775	22 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	23 HARC Meeting  EchoLink Rolf, K4RGG	24   *TWIAR
25	26	27 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	28 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on 442.775	29 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	30 HARC Meeting  Auction	31   *TWIAR

\*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 @ 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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For what it is worth, I still have the boat anchor 56 Chevy and the boat anchor AF-67 transmitter. If they ever come out with anything better, I may trade up!

73, Bob Fanning, K4VB (boat anchor - K4OWV)

## Seventh Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference

Greetings, The Southeastern VHF Society invites you to join us in Huntsville, Alabama April 25 & 26, 2003 for the Seventh Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference.

The conference will be held at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base, next door to the US Space and Rocket Center. Mention the SVHFS Conference when calling the Marriott Reservations Department, toll free, at (888) 299-5174. The local phone number for the hotel is 256-830-2222, the FAX number is 256-895-0904.

Family program: The Huntsville Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Club is organizing the family program. There will be lots of things to do that will keep the

family busy and happy during the weekend.

Activities: As in years past, we will have an exciting program with presentations from accomplished VHF+ amateur radio enthusiasts from around the country. We will also have antenna gain measurements (including the 1296 back scratcher competition), pre-amp gain and noise figure measurements, the Friday evening flea market with vendor displays, the Saturday afternoon auction, and of course, the Saturday evening banquet, which is open to everyone. Drawings for the notoriously enviable door prizes will follow the banquet.

SMT Workshop: New this year is a FREE surface mount technology soldering workshop for Friday (time to be announced). Steve Costro N2CEI of DEMI has graciously offered to conduct the workshop. It will be "hands on" with a chance for the participants to learn and practice proper techniques for soldering SMT devices. The class is limited to 15 participants on a first come first served basis.

Antenna competition: We will also be having a 1296 homebrew antenna competition based on the "Mouser Electronics" back scratchers that were given out at the 2002 Conference Banquet. Gain will be confirmed on the 2003 Conference Antenna Range. Rules for the competition are posted on the website.

ANNUAL SVHFS AUCTION: One of the most fun activities at the conference is our annual fund raising auction held on Saturday afternoon. Our auctioneer is the irrepressible Ray Rector WA4NJP. The Ray 'show' is not to be missed. Just watch out that he doesn't call for new bids on your item while you are trying to pay for it!! Ray always has a good time and you will too. Please bring items to donate for the auction. Donated items are tax deductible and we will give you a receipt letter on request. Bring your stuff in and be amazed at how much Ray can make for the society with it. You'll be so impressed at how much it's worth, you'll be trying to buy it back! See you at the Auction.

NOISE FIGURE/GAIN TESTING: We have had the offer of equipment and experienced operators to extend Preamp NF and Gain testing to equipment thru 24 GHz. Here is your opportunity to get some rare testing done if you have gear for the microwave bands. Be sure to make note on your registration form (and see below).

ANTENNA GAIN TESTING: Again, due to some very generous help we are able to extend the Antenna testing to 10 GHz. Another great opportunity for the microwavers among us. We must realistically limit to no more than 1 meter dish size though. Make note on your registration form. Only if you have ALREADY sent in your registration to the conference and wish to ADD a microwave band antenna or preamp, please e-mail your request to k4sz@arrl.net to put your equipment on the lists.

For more information about the conference and the Southeastern VHF Society please check our website <http://www.svhfs.org/>

73 , Greg, W4OZK

From The Secretary:

In the April 11th meeting we decided to publish another HARC membership roster. I have never seen the last published roster, but Tom, our president, assured me he still uses his on a weekly basis. So it's time for a new one.

Before publishing the final version we are including your current information in the VOX so you have a chance to verify and update your information before we print the final version. Family members are not included in this list, as we do not keep separate addresses for them.

Please check your call sign, correct spelling of your name, address and e-mail address.

Send an e-mail to Heath and Frank in the following cases:

- Your name/call address or e-mail address needs to be updated

- If your email address is missing and you like to have yours included
- Your name / call sign is missing: send us all info and the date you paid/renewed your membership.

Your e-mail address will not be used other than for important club updates. We will send the final version of the roster in the VOX and in a PDF file via e-mail. For privacy reasons it will not be posted on the web.

The final version of the Roster will have quick search lists by Call sign, First name, and call Sign suffix. We will include family members in the quick search list as well.

So please check your data and email changes to: [hthorson@knology.net](mailto:hthorson@knology.net) and [femens@hiwaay.net](mailto:femens@hiwaay.net) ASAP, so we can include the roster in the next VOX.

73, Rolf Goedhart K4RGG

The Editor's Wastebasket

It saddens me to announce the passing of Jim Chandler, WA4LAF yesterday in Birmingham. He was active in HARC some 30 years ago and resumed attending meetings about a year ago until he suffered a stroke several months ago.

I enjoyed the presentation on IRLP last week. It's great to see Amateur Radio is continuing to keep abreast of changes in technology.

Every ham knows that the performance of an antenna system is improved by one db for every five degrees below freezing the temperature is when it is installed. Unfortunately it is too late to take advantage of frostbite gain again until October or November, but we are approaching the season when antenna work is a real pleasure -- any excuse to get outside is valid. Of course the same thing applies to fishing, boating, sight-seeing, gardening and a bunch of other activities that you might find more attractive than working on that antenna.

It won't be long before the nominating committee is working to find a slate of officers to carry on with HARC for the next year.

Then it is Field Day and then Hamfest. I hope you can find enough amateur radio activities to keep you entertained for the next few months.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

May Hamfests:

May 3-4, 2003. Alabama State Convention, Birmingham, Alabama. Contact Ellis Dobbins, K4LI at 205-608-1866 or [k4li@arrl.net](mailto:k4li@arrl.net). See <http://www.w4cue.com>. Admission is \$5.00, kids are free. Talk-in is 146.454 MHz.

May 10, 2003. Johnson County ARC, Mountain City, Tennessee. Contact Frank Liberstein, W4FRL at 423-727-0723 or [quailrun@preferred.com](mailto:quailrun@preferred.com). See <http://n4nna.net/w4mct>.

May 16-18, 2003. Dayton Hamvention, Dayton Ohio. Contact Hamvention Committee at 937-276-6930 or [info@hamvention.org](mailto:info@hamvention.org). See <http://www.hamvention.org/>.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

Flea Market

For Sale: HP8640B Signal Generators

- Several HP8640B option 003 (reverse power protection) signal generators are available. \$ 200 each. Contact Billy Reed, 971-6672.

FOR SALE:

- Diamond SG7500A Dual Band Mobile Antenna with a Diamond K702M Low Profile Magnetic Mount \$60
- FOR SALE: Yaesu FT50R Dual Band HT (with original accessories) Also includes a Yaesu MH-34 speaker microphone, the EDC-5B DC adapter, a Maha MH-FNB-41 Battery, and a Pryme SPM-400 earpiece/mini boom microphone All for \$165.

Contact Carl, K4CHR at 721-7899 or [k4chr@arrl.net](mailto:k4chr@arrl.net)