



## 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, 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"

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, Nr5, May, 2006

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

## Madison County EC

Greetings,

I just wanted to pass on to everyone that effective immediately, I have resigned as EC of Madison County ARES. Two years and 4 months have flown by quickly. Other priorities in my life, family and work being the main two, have taken much of my time once devoted to amateur radio. It was a tough decision to step down. I want to thank those who have provided encouragement while contemplating this decision.

I want to thank all amateurs but especially the Assistant EC's who assisted with ARES. Whether it was activating a net, creating an e-mail list or just pitching in with administration duties, you all contributed in some manner. I thank you for your dedication. We in Madison County have much to be proud of when it comes to Amateur Radio. Several organizations and clubs are active enjoying amateur radio and providing all important emergency communications when all else fails. Everyone knows I am very passionate when it comes to emergency communications. In my opinion, it is the very reason for our existence as amateurs.

Jeff Loudin, KF4VEH has been named the new EC for Madison County. I have had the pleasure of meeting Jeff. He's a great guy who will need everyone's help to make Madison Co. ARES a success.

73, Chris Reed KF4MMF

## Jim Wallace 60 Years As A Ham

So, I didn't make Ole Timers night (again) but I have a good excuse since I have successfully migrated into the age bracket where memory dropouts are expected. In any case, since the 60th anniversary of me acquiring W4NYC arrives April 18, I have de-

ecided to pass on how that came about after careful negotiations with one Frank Emens.

My dad was a school administrator, math and history teacher as well as a coach. In the summer of '42 we moved to Tanner (between Decatur & Athens) where he was to be the principal and coach. For this he was to receive \$135 per month. He had a brother that had lived in Mobile many years and he suggested dad come down and work in the shipyards for the summer. He was 42 and ineligible for military service even though he tried to volunteer. Within a couple of months he was running a department at Alabama Shipyards because he was a great organizer and knew how to handle people. Since he was helping with the war effort plus he was making twice the money he would have been, we loaded our furnishings on one of his

### 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, May 6

Saturday, June 3

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

brother's trucks that normally hauled livestock to market and off to Mobile we went. In early 1944 a young man who had been struck with polio in his teens moved in next door to us and we became friends. He was an electronic technician at Brookley Field, an AAF maintenance depot at the time. Since new radios were extremely scarce, he picked up a few bucks resurrecting sick ones for folks and acquiring as many old ones as he could to scrounge for parts and tubes. He taught me the basics of vacuum tube technology and AM radios. He suggested I take a correspondence course and recommended Sprayberry Institute for \$85. I paid for half of it from my paper route and dad paid the other half. Very basic but sure did build a good foundation.

Because it was quite a drive to work for him, in early '45 he decided to move close to his work. I visited him occasionally and on one occasion, not long after the war was over I was visiting and he was telling that a guy across the street had some sort of transmitter and at times he could hear him talking while interfering with one of the local AM stations. Being the shy type, I suggested we go across the street and see what the deal was. As you probably suspect, he was ham whose name and call I have unfortunately forgotten. In any case he graciously invited us in and took us up to his shack on the second floor. We had seen these strange looking antennas on top of a pipe mast beside his house. They were stacked 3 element 10 and 20 yagis and were rotated by a mechanism using a sprocket wheel welded to

the mast with a bicycle chain going into the shack to another sprocket driven by a hand turned automobile steering wheel. About all I remember was that the rig had a pair of 813's in the final modulated by a pair of TZ40's (a carbon plate tube made by Taylor similar to an 811). The 813's were driven by a Millen Exciter (6L6 to 807). Frequency was controlled by either crystals or a homebrew VFO which kind? chirped on CW. The RX was a pre WWII Hallicrafters. He fired this thing up, gave it time to warm up and settle down a little and called a KG?? on Guam. Now, for some one that had only heard some short wave radio broadcast type stations, when long distance phone calls were usually only used to let you know someone had died or was about to or some other catastrophe, talking to Guam via

**HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR  
May, 2006**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting  Tim Cunningham, N8DEU -- Program on APRS	6 TWIAR*  CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900  Birminghamfest & Al- abama State Convntion, May 6 & 7
7 Birminghamfest	8	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting	13 TWIAR*  Hamfest, Byron GA  Swapfest Mountain City, TN
14	15	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting	20 TWIAR*
21	22	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	25 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	26 HARC Meeting	27 TWIAR*
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Meeting  Election of Officers	3 TWIAR*  CAVEC Exams, 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

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short wave was about equivalent to being getting beamed up by Scottie. He made a few more contacts and then invited us to come to the next Mobile Amateur Radio Club meeting the following Thursday night that had just been re-formed after WWII.

The club had acquired the use of a modest vacant government building at the National Guard Armory near Brookley Field. You gotta remember, most of the pre-WWII hams constituted a significant portion of the folks that ended up as radio theory and repair instructors and of CW operators. They had coerced the city to plant some 65' power poles to string antennas and were planning to mount beams upon them later. Needless to say, a high percentage of the guys were returning WWII vets but we were welcomed with open arms. I didn't have a clue as to what most of the conversations were all about. The main thing I remember was the club station consisted of an airborne version of the Hallicrafters SX28A and a

Hallicrafters HT transmitter. One of the guys took me in the shack before the meeting started and started talking to a guy in Macon, GA on 75 meter phone. He explained he had a young dude that he was showing the ropes to. Shortly after the QSO Got started, someone called him to come out of the room for a minute. He handed me the mike and said you talk to him and I will be back in a minute, an illegal procedure by the way was for me to actually key the transmitter on and off but of course I didn't know it. Pure panic struck. What can I say to this dude I don't know and know too little about ham radio at the time to make any kind of sense. I mumbled something and said 'over' because that was what they said in the movies and let go of the mike switch. The guy was great. He lead with questions I could answer and shortly things were flowing back and forth quite smoothly. Finally someone stuck his head in the door and said, you better sign clear if you want to attend the meeting. So all

I said was something like 'I gotta go ? thanks for the chat? That was that ? I was hooked!

At the next meeting in a week I met Ken Lundy, W4IRJ who had been a navy medic attached to the Marines. Ken had been seriously wounded. He was bent over attending to a dying marine when he saw a Jap running towards him intending to stick him with a bayonet. He dove off to one side by the Jap stuck him in the cheek of his fanny opening it up following by bashing him with the rifle butt breaking his back. About that time another Marine saw what was going on and dispatched the Jap. Ken was shipped first to Australia and the back to the states but the surgeries and healing, more or less, took around 18 months. Ken took me under his wing and a great friendship was formed. He was attending what essentially was a trade school, the object of which was to get commercial radiotelephone and radiotelegraph FCC licenses. They were just starting their CW class and the in-

**ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.**  
**Check [www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm](http://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, Melinda F. Alsobrook, KI4CIA, ki4cia@arrl.net  
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winingar, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

structor agreed I could just sit in at no charge. I went three times a week for an hour and was told to copy W1AW code practice sessions every night. Problem, no SW radio. Ken fixed that with surplus airborne BC455 Command RX that covered the 40 Meter band. AT 15 years old, learning the code is not much of a challenge if you set your mind to it.

The FCC inspector came to Mobile twice a year and I wanted a Class B instead of C license. The date for was some time in late Feb so I had less than two months to get ready. The instructor said you should be able to copy 18 WPM fairly solid if you expected to pass the test taking stress factors into account. In any case, when the day showed up there were over 100 folks lined up for testing. There was a table that would seat 8 folks at a whack. You sat down, put on a pair of cans, he hit the key a couple of times and asked if everyone could hear the tone and then flipped the switch on the punched tape keyer and away we went. In five minutes the switch code machine was turned off. He walked up to each guy picked up the paper, looked at it for 30 seconds or so and said either to stand where he pointed or said "better luck next time?" or something similar. He then had the survivors sit down in front of a J37 key and start sending test from the newspaper article he had circled. Each guy got a different section circled. You sent for less than a minute and he either said go back where you were standing or better luck next time. This was followed by the written. He told me later

that less than a third had gotten a ticket.

*73, Jim Wallace, W4NYC*

### **Alabama QSO Party**

ALABAMA QSO PARTY CW/Phone, from 1700Z 29 Apr-0500Z 30 Apr. Operate 10(ten) hours max. Freq's 160-10 meters. Categories: Team, SOAB, Multi-Single, Mobile, and HP, LP(ûW), QRP. Exchange: RST and AL county or state or S/P/C. Work mobile stations in AL county. QSO Points: CW-2, SSB-1. Score: QSO points x AL counties (AL station count S/P/C once only. For more info: [www.alabamagsoparty.org](http://www.alabamagsoparty.org). Logs due 30 days after contest in Cabrillo format to [logs@alabamagsoparty.org](mailto:logs@alabamagsoparty.org) or Jim Johnson, KC4HW, 6274 South CR 49, Slocomb, AL 36375

*73, Mike/N5EAR*

### **The Giggle Box**

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN MAY!!**

A note from Giggles: Hey, guys. Where did spring go? For spring break, I took my granddaughters to Chattanooga, TN to the Tennessee Aquarium, IMAX Theater, Creative Discovery Museum and Rock City. We all enjoyed it a whole bunch. I think the Theater was everyone's favorite because you had to wear funny 3-D glasses. It was funny to watch their hands reach out and try to "touch" the fish or keep one from "landing" in their laps. You have never seen these places until you have seen them through the eyes of a child. They really make the experience special. I wouldn't give anything for the time that I spend with my grandchildren. Needle's Eye at Rock City was a

little iffy, but they had fun when "they tried to squeeze" through. I can still hear their little voices telling me, "Come on, Memaw, you can make it." We are already planning another trip in the fall. Anyway, CUL

#### **A Joke or Two Skinny Dippin'**

An elderly man in Northern Maine had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back, fixed up nice; picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some apple and peach trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming. One evening, the old man decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he got closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked. Holding the bucket up he said, "I'm here to feed the alligator." Moral: Old men can still think fast.

REMEMBER, IT IS ONLY A JOKE. ENJOY!

#### **Us Senior Citizens**

A very young and important college freshman at a recent football game, took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older genera-

tion to understand his own. "You grew up in a different, actually almost primitive, world," the student said loud enough for the whole crowd to hear. "We young people today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon, our spaceships have visited Mars...We even have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing ....and uh.." Taking advantage of a pause for breath in the student's litany, the "wizened" one said, "You're right, Son. We didn't have those things when we were young.....so we invented them..... you arrogant little loud-mouth!! Now.....what are you doing for the next generation??" We love senior citizens!!!

**The Reminder for the Month of May**

JURY DUTY SCAM I ran across this in my emails and thought it might be useful. Of course, it could be another urban legend and then it there might be something to it.

Most of us take those summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of scam has surfaced. Fall for it and your identity could be stolen, reports CBS. In this con, someone calls pretending to be a court official who threateningly says a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you didn't show up for jury duty. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your

Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Sometimes they even ask for credit card numbers. Give out any of this information and bingo! Your identity just got stolen.

Thought for the Month of May It may be nice to be important, but it is also important to be nice.

Solve the puzzle: ROF EABUIFLUT AIRH, TLE A LDCIH NUR TIEHR GRSEFINS OUTHRGH TI CEON A YAD.

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

**May Hamfests**

**May 6-7, 2006 Alabama State Convention.**

Birmingham, Alabama. Contact Glenn Glass, KE4YZK, 205-681-5019 or ke4yzk@bellsouth.net. See <http://www.w4cue.com>. The 'fest will be held at the Zamora Temple. Gates open at 9:00 both days. Talk-in is 146.88 MHz.

**May 13, 2006 Heart of Georgia Hamfest, Byron, Georgia.**

Contact Charles Armstrong, AE4VA Phone: 478-956-5030 Email: jejecha@aol.com. See <http://members.cox.net/cgarc/>. Talk-in is 146.850 MHz.

**May 13, 2006 Johnson County Amateur Radio Swapfest, Mountain City, Tennessee.**

Contact Frank Liberstein, W4FRL. Phone: 23-727-0333 or email:

uailrun@preferred.com. Talk-In: 145.470 & 146.610 (PL for both 103.5).

*73, John Farr, KC4ZXX*

**From The Editor's Wastebasket**

I've had several folks ask about the move to make the Vox distribution an online thing. Well, to this date, I've only gotten about 75 folks who have said they were willing to get the Vox via internet. Since the cost of mailing the remaining copies will go UP because we lose the bulk mail discount, we have to have something like 150 folks willing to do without getting their Vox in hard-copy form for it to be doable.

For now, we'll continue to mail the Vox in hard-copy form. I will post it on the internet as soon as I finish putting it together each month and you can get several days head start on reading it by accessing it at "<http://www.hamfest.org/newvox.pdf>"

It will always be there by Friday night when the Vox is put together for mailing.

Thanks to Dick, W1TV for the photos from Old Timer's Night.

I checked the www.snopes.com site (urban legends debunked) and find that the scam about jury duty mentioned by Miz Peggy in her "Giggles" column is real. Be careful out there.

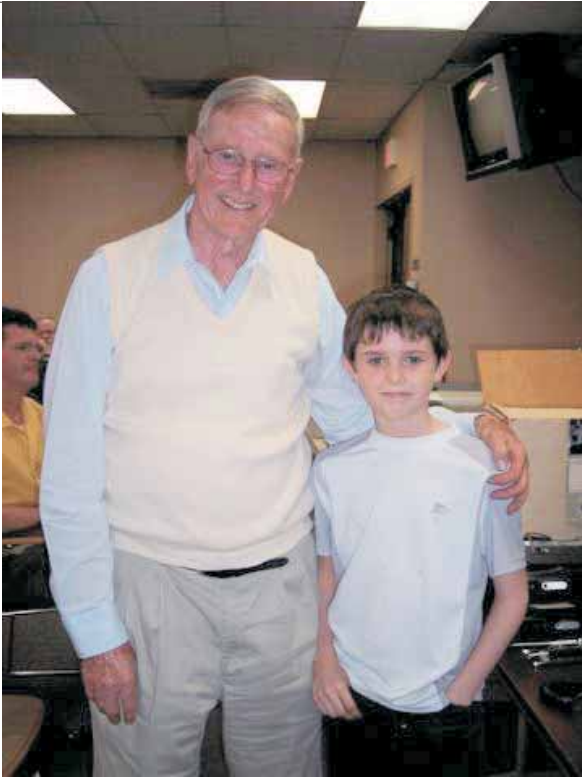
*73, Frank Emens, W4HFU*



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