

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 43, Number 10

November, 2003

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
duncant1@ds-s.com

Vice President:

Kim Hensley, WG8S
khensley@gamewood.net

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 10, November, 2003
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

From the President

September was the last month of publication for "73 Amateur Radio Today" magazine. Of course we will miss the pronouncements of the inimitable Wayne Green, but beyond that, there will be one less ham periodical on our night-stands. "Communications Quarterly" merged with "QEX" several years ago - the resulting magazine being no larger than either of it's constituents - and "CQ VHF" was absorbed back in to "CQ" at about the same time. "Ham Radio" ceased publication in the early '90s.

On the other hand, some previously paper publications have moved to the web, and in some cases, expanded. Flying Pigs' "Bacon Bits" appears every month, is free-of-charge, and chock full of QRP goodies: so are the QRP club publications from NOGA, NJQRP, and NORCAL. Our own "Vox" appears on the web after distribution by mail, and NADXC's "LongPath" - previously paper - is now exclusively electronic. Wayne Green's parting remarks, as reported in the October 10th "ARRL Letter" (available only electronically), include the words "With the hobby slowly dying...". The shuffling of publications between the paper and electronic domains neither supports nor refutes this. I suspect very few of us pine for the old callbook, out-of-date the minute it was first consulted, in preference to QRZ or Buckmaster. We do need to know, though, that no publication - paper or electronic - publishes itself. Keep this in mind the next time you use Pathfinder or DX Summit, and certainly the next time you see our own Frank, W4HFU, and Jared, KQ4VT.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Emergency Communications

The Spring City Cycle Club asked for help with communications when they hosted their annual 100-mile bicycle ride on Saturday, 20 September. Several members of the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club (HARC) answered the call and provided complete radio coverage of the ride. The cyclists started at Brownsboro, AL and rode northward through the hills of southern Tennessee to Marble Hill and back. Cell phone coverage of the area was poor to non-existent. Communications were relayed through the NARA 146.94 repeater using a mobile type whip antenna. Two-element quad antennas on short poles were used to test the viability of simplex operation on two meters.

HARC members set up a base of operations at Madison County High School,

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, November 1
Saturday, December 6*

For information contact:

*Larry Frost, KR4GU, 536-4154
kr4gu@hamfest.org*

Or

*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*

the start/finish of the ride. Operators were also stationed at aid stations along the course near Elora and Lexie Crossroads in Tennessee, and also at the Madison County Lake. Working in two shifts, these stations relayed messages



K4JCH, W1TV and KF4MMF at the radio "anchor" tent



*Top: A family group heads out from the starting point
Left: Not all the bikers were kids*

between the aid stations and Spring City ride coordinator Ernie Thomas at the high school. This operation proved to be a good test of the emergency communications abilities of local ama-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR
November, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	29 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	30 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	31 HARC Meeting Auction Watch for Ghoulies & Goblins	1 *TWIAR Cavec Amateur Exams 0900 at Red Cross Building Georgia Section Convention
2 Georgia Section Convention	3	4 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	5 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	6 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	7 HARC Meeting Ham Lingo	8 *TWIAR Montgomery ARC Hamfest
9	10	11 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	12 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	13 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	14 HARC Meeting Video: Mechanical Universe	15 *TWIAR
16	17	18 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	19 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	20 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	21 HARC Meeting Vox night	22 *TWIAR
23 / 30	24	25 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	26 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 1900 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	27 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	28 No meeting. Time off for recovery from tur- key overdose	29 *TWIAR

*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**

Visit our new web page for updated pricing!



hy-gain.



Lowest prices, best service!

4925 University Drive # 140
The Gallery Shopping Center

(256) 535-4442
10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!



Tom Hatter, K4AKC, mans an intermediate point on the course



Spring city cycle Club officials checking on activity

teur operators. This operation also provided an introduction to emergency operations for some hams, and was a good exercise for all involved.

Most of the riders enjoyed a good ride in nice sunny weather. One rider fell, suffering minor scrapes, and was able to continue. Another rider ran off the course and crashed near aid station No.2. Fellow cyclists rushed to his aid

and found him unconscious, face down in a creek. They moved him to aid station No.2 where Tim Cunningham N8DEU called 911 on his cellular telephone. Ambulance crews and a Deputy Sheriff were dispatched from Franklin, TN. The rider, David Burkhart from Michigan, sustained a broken left wrist, broken left collar bone, broken rib, some soft tissue damage to a lung, and several

cuts and bruises to his knees, hip, hands, elbows, shoulder and face. A helicopter airlifted him from aid station No.2 to Huntsville Hospital. It was last reported that David Burkhart was released after a three-day stay in the hospital. Throughout the ride, amateur operators provided up-to-the-minute information to the ride organizers back at the high school.

The participating operators included N8DEU Tim Cunningham, KI4BTJ Jake Polatti, W4SSW Scott Worsham, KF4MMF Chris Reed, WA4PRH John Lewis, W1TV Dick Christiansen, K8GNM Woody Zeigler, K4JCH John Hilliard, KG4ZMT Robert Jones, and K4AKC Tom Hatter.

The participating radio operators received a nice T-shirt and an enjoyable spaghetti dinner, compliments of the cycle club. Ten HARC members operated radio stations, helped sweep the course, move equipment, or provided

radios and antennas. A sun shelter recently purchased by the club proved very useful at the base station. Once again, HARC members demonstrated a willingness to serve the community and provide useful emergency communications when needed. Many thanks to all involved.

Tom Hatter K4AKC ARES Coordinator
HAM-OGRAHY

KI4ABV - Jim Brown:

The KI4ABV QTH is located at: Grid Square EM64gr; Latitude 34 degrees, 42 minutes, 48 seconds North; Longitude 86 degrees, 36 minutes, 53 seconds West. The QTH includes Jim's XYL, 2 grown sons, and a 16 year old daughter. At a time in life when most of us are thinking about having the grandchildren over for the weekend once or twice a month: Jim and his wife adopted an eight year old girl from within their church congregation, whose parents had died in an accident. That one act bespeaks a great deal about Jim, his values, dedication and sense of responsibility. He brings those values and outlook to HAM Radio as well.

Jim is a Technician Class, having passed his exam the first Saturday in May, 2003; and joined HARC the following Friday night. Since then, he has acquired a dual band HT for the shack. In addition to the HT, Jim also has 2 of the "KG4CUY Home Brew Special" receivers for the HF bands (courtesy of the Elmership of HARC President, Tom Duncan); which Jim will use in his quest for code proficiency. Jim is dedicated to obtaining his General Class Ticket.

KI4ABV is originally from Florence South Carolina. He retired from 20 years in the U.S. Army in 1988; from a career that took him all over the States and Panama. Jim has a BA Degree in Medical Technology; and is employed with Family Medico Of Huntsville, as a Lab Technician. Jim's professional career has also included work with the hospital in Decatur, Alabama. Jim's other interests include: Building com-

puters; Locksmithing; Electronics; and HARC activities such as the Cotton Row Run.

When I asked Jim how he felt about being included in the VOX Ham-Ography: He replied that he appreciated it; but expressed the desire to see Ham-Ography expanded to include some of the "Old Guys". Jim feels that the experiences and background of some of the long time Hams would be a beneficial example and a guidepost for newer members of the HARC Family. Well Jim, it is not only possible, but very probable that future segments of Ham-Ography may well include some of the more "Historical" personalities of the HARC Family..!!!!

HARC—Please Welcome KI4ABV to the family..!!!!

73, WB0UCI, Fred Kersey

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN OCTOBER!!

A note from Giggles: I can't believe it. Fall is here and that means the leaves will be turning beautiful colors. It seems like this year has just flown by. I have a T-shirt that is a favorite of one of my granddaughters and it says, "Once you are over the hill, you pick up speed." It seems like the older I get, the faster the time flies. I have a close friend that wakes up at 5:00 in the morning. She drinks her coffee outside on her front porch and watches the people running or walking by. She has said that she just doesn't want to miss one moment of the her day. I love you, Marg. I guess that is the reason that some people get up early. I like to watch the sunrise, but it happens too early in the day, especially these cool, crisp days. I hope everyone enjoys these nice cool days because it's going to get COLD in a month or two. Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

A Joke or Two

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.

- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

Subject: "Drug" Problem I had a drug problem when I was young. I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions. I was drug to the bus stop to go to school every weekday. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults and teachers. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents. Those drugs are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in every thing I do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin, and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America might be a better place. Signed, Old Fellow

Three Southerners and three Yankees are traveling by train to the Super Bowl. At the station, the three Northerners each buy a ticket and watch as the three Southerners buy just one ticket. "How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the Yankees. "Watch and learn," answers one of the men from the South. They all board the train. The three Yankee men take their respective seats but all three Southerners cram into a toilet together and close the door. Shortly after the train has departed, the conduc-

tor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on. The Yankees see this happen and agree it was quite a clever idea, so after the game they decide to do the same thing on the return trip and save some money. When they get to the station they buy a single ticket for the return trip, but see, to their astonishment, that the three Southerners don't buy any ticket at all. "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed Yankee. "Watch and learn," answers the men from the South. When they board the train the three Northerners cram themselves into a toilet and the three Southerners cram into another toilet just down the way. Shortly after the train is on its way, one of the Southerners leaves their toilet and walks over to the toilet in which the Yankees are hiding. The Southerner knocks on their door and says, "Ticket, please." (I'm still trying to figure out how the South lost that war.)

"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray: "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late ...But please don't shove me either!"

Adam and Eve had the ideal marriage: He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honor thy father and thy mother', she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

At Sunday School Josh and his classmates were being taught how God created everything, including human beings. Josh seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said "Josh, what is the matter?" Josh responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote: "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

A grandmother was surprised by her 7-year-old grandson one morning. He had made her coffee. She drank what was the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she got to the bottom, there were three of those little green army men in the cup. She said, "Honey, what are the army men doing in my coffee?" Her grandson said, "Grandma, it says on TV - 'The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!'"

Did You Know: Got a oily/greasy spot on your clothes? Dab it with white dusting powder or flour, let set a while - better yet, overnight - then brush off with your hand. The Thought for the Month of October A simple act of kindness can change the course of a lifetime.

Solve the puzzle: ELLT OURY IDSK WHO EATGR HETY REA.

73 Peggy Bell (Giggles) K4EGB

APRS News

News on the Automatic Position Reporting System

Well, Fall is almost upon us and the days are getting shorter as we progress into Winter. Many things in APRS are changing much like the seasons. The father of APRS, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, has spoken and now the world of APRS is responding. Many of you may realize that APRS has grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years. So much, that now we are starting to see some fundamental changes in how the APRS networks will be configured.

As the APRS frequency becomes crowded in largely populated areas it is known that the APRS frequency on 144.39 MHz can only handle so much data. With that in mind the attention has focused on changing some fundamental APRS rules to help alleviate some of the congestion. Since there are typically IGates (Internet Gateways) within about every 2 digipeater hops, there is little need to send a position report much farther than an IGate. These IGates provide the magic to APRS by extending the backbone of our network so we can send and receive messages to and from just about anywhere in the country and other countries.

From this past months discussions on the APRSSIG a few changes are in the making. The issues were heavily discussed to arrive at the following recommendations being made and implemented on our APRS network throughout North Alabama:

Mobile stations should use the path RELAY,WIDE or WIDE,WIDE and nothing more unless you are more than 2 hops from an IGate. Everybody in North Alabama is within 2 digipeater hops of an IGate. So, there should be no reason to go beyond 3 hops like RELAY,WIDE,WIDE or WIDE,WIDE,WIDE. You could also use WIDE2-2 in place of WIDE,WIDE as an option since they produce the same results.

The TRACEn-n function will be discontinued. It will be replaced by ALAn-n in Alabama to contain APRS traffic within the state of Alabama. This will be called the Alabama LAN for APRS. Traffic can be sent from one end of the state to the other without a packet going outside of this LAN. This will be good for containing weather bulletins inside the state.

Weather Stations that can hit a WIDE digipeater directly should never use a path of RELAY,WIDE or any path starting with RELAY. These stations should use WIDE,WIDE or a single WIDE path to make it to an IGate. In the North Alabama area there is no need to go beyond 2 hops to get to an IGate. There are several weather stations starting their path with RELAY that can hit a WIDE digipeater directly. This practice creates an enormous amount of traffic when duplicates are produced. An alternative path would be WIDE-2 or even better would be ALA2-2 to contain the traffic within Alabama.

Many of these changes will benefit APRS in the short and long term in giving us more bandwidth. Digipeaters will continue to support the WIDEn-n routing, but it is discouraged in order to reduce DX paths into other networks when a user decides to abuse the system with a large number of hops. It would be acceptable to us WIDE2-2 in place of WIDE,WIDE. However the same general rule of using only 2 hops should be observed. There has been talk of an automated message system by a monitoring station to give a gentle reminder to use a less aggressive path. Using a path of ALA3-3 or ALA5-5 would insure wide coverage in the state of Alabama, but the packet would never go outside the state LAN. This will prove useful for weather stations and emergency communications as well as weather bulletins when we only need state wide coverage and nothing more.

Using more than 2 hops in a routing path may get your packets father, but you need to think about how much data is generated and how many local LAN's

are being disrupted by these practices. If every digipeater can hit at least 3 digipeaters and you use a path of 3 hops, you could potentially tie up 13 digipeaters. Now, if you increase that path by 1 more hop for 4 hops, you could potentially tie up 40 digipeaters reaching beyond 200 miles in each direction. Our neighboring cities have enough of their own traffic and our additional traffic does not help their local network congestion.

These suggestions are being considered as generally accepted practices (no more than 2 hops) and highly recommended by WB4APR himself. There are always exceptions when you travel outside the area and need more than 2 hops to reach an IGate. These measures are being suggested and implemented across the country in response to WB4APR's suggestions for building a better APRS network.

73's and Happy Packeting! Tim û N8DEU Has Everything Important Already been Invented?

The February, 2003 issue of "Scientific American" contains an article on Genetic Programming entitled "Evolving Inventions". Condensing the eight-page article into a sentence, it describes how iterating across parameters used to describe certain computer models can "evolve" the models to better meet specified goals. This proceeds essentially blindly, but as quickly as the computer can change the model from one generation to the next, and re-evaluate fitness for the goals.

While in concept anything which can be modeled could be subjected to genetic programming, the article's example were largely of electronic circuits and systems. The evolved circuit or system cannot at this time vary wildly from the initial seed - that is, an antenna is not likely to evolve into a power supply. Nonetheless, circuit modifications ranging from tweaking component values to substantial changes in topology are possible.

Genetic programming has evolved seed models into well-known circuits, and according to the article, has in some sense re-created some previously patented inventions, bringing up issues of what really constitutes prior art, and perhaps even what things are patentable. These arguments aside, here are some of the circuits and systems:

- Audio crossover filter (Zobel, 1925)
- Negative feedback amplifier (Black, 1927)
- Elliptic filter (Cauer, 1934)
- Proportional/integral/derivative controller (Callendar & Stevenson, 1939)
- Darlington transistor configuration (Darlington, 1953)

It is doubtful the computerized equivalent of the inventor's epiphany clearly separated these winning circuits from others with similar fitness to goals, but it is difficult to dismiss this approach. We already have many circuit and system analysis tools without which we could not today function competitively. Perhaps Genetic Programming will propel automated synthesis tools into every-day use as well.

73, Ton Duncan, KG4CUY

The E Word

I recently ran into what struck me as "Snobbery" on the Extra Class Segment of the 40 meter band. Using my new privileges as an Extra, I ventured into the lower segment of the 40 meter phone band, into an informal net. On giving my call, there was a very long sustained silence. Then a gentleman came on saying he had been checking my call on the net. Though satisfied that I was an Extra; there were comments as to why I had kept my old call and not tried to switch to something more inline with my upgrade. I was also advised that most guys on the Extra segment ran at least 600 watts and I should consider doing the same. And, that it would be nice if I switched to something other than the indoor apartment antenna I am currently using in my apartment; because I was only putting in a 57 to 58 at their end. I bowed out of that net and found an-

other group in the Extra section that did not have those same hang-ups. Snobbbery has no place in HAM radio. It will fragment and polarize our HAM family.

Extra Class Licensees should be using their privileges to help consolidate the HAM fraternity. We should be stressing the 100 year old precepts of HAM Radio and to find solutions in today's socio/political/economic environment, to put those precepts into full and effective practice. Ways need to be found to practice one of the century old goals of using the minimum power needed for communication. More work on antennas is needed to meet the reality that there are more apartments in the world we live in than there are houses with room for antenna farms. Extras should lead the way to decrease the emphasis on "Snob" or "Vanity" call signs. Throwing out my WB0UCI call of 26 years, just because I was fortunate enough to pass the Extra exam: Would have been like throwing out a wife of 26 years so I could "Saunter" down the street with a 20 year old on my arm; a young one with whom I had no memories, no history and no stories to convey concerning the two of us.

Extras should be using their "Status" to promote the overall pprogress of the HAM community. We should be inviting newer HAMs into our shacks so we may act as control operators to introduce them to other Extras; in order to give them a chance to acquire additional "Elmers". We need to do every thing possible to have the "E" in "Extra" stand hand in glove for the "E" in "Elmer" and all that that word means.

73, WB0UCI, Fred Kersey

Flea Market

FOR SALE

- ICOM IC32AT Dual Band HT. All accessories and original owners manual Tone Squelch Unit installed, and with new battery. \$125.00. George @ 895 0584 or E-mail at K4TFJ@ Knology.net

November Area Hamfests

November 1-2, 2003 Georgia Section Convention, Alford Memorial Radio Club, <http://www.totr-radio.org>, Contact: Randy Bassett, KR4NQ, PO Box 1282, Stone Mountain, GA 30086-1282, Phone: 770-663-4244 (x-3989), Email: kr4nq@arrl.net

November 8, 2003 Montgomery ARC, <http://www.w4ap.org>, Contact: Michael Beatty, K4AJX, 1916 Dundee Drive, Prattville, AL 36066, Phone: 334-358-4684, Email: k4ajx@arrl.net

73, Steve Bell, KD4TFN (Standing in for under-the-weather KC4ZXX)

The Editor's Wastebasket

As Tom commented, the cessation of publication of "73" magazine really marks the end of an era for Amateur Radio. Wayne Green, W2NSD (Never Say Die) was indisputably a major influence on Amateur Radio. He was always willing to espouse new technologies, new authors and new causes -- though his taste in new causes got a little strange in the last few years. I first encountered Wayne in the late fifties when he came to the Birmingham Hamfest with Danny Weil, VP2VB, who a very few of you will remember as the British dockmaker and RAF veteran who single-handedly sailed around the world in his sailboat the Yasme, putting rare and exotic places on the air. Wayne Green had been publishing stories on Danny's exploits in CQ magazine, which he edited for a while before initiating 73. While googling around trying to substantiate an almost 45 year old memory, I discovered that ex VP2VB became a silent key on October 3 of this year.

On the same subject (ends of eras) I was thumbing through the March issue of CQ magazine and saw an item about Gernsback Publishing closing its doors. Hugo Gernsback, the originator of Radio Craft (later Radio Electronics) magazine and a host of other publications aimed at the electronics hobbieist, was the first to recognize the existence of a market for publications to support the electronics hobby. Hugo Gernsback also

was a publisher of the Amazing Stories science fiction magazine, in fact he is termed the "Father of Science Fiction" . Gernsback himself became a Silent Key in 1967.

I think Fred Kersey's series of "Hamography" writeups is a great addition to the Vox. I hope if Fred approaches you for an interview aimed at turning his spotlight on you for a month you'll give him your cooperation. It's a good way for the club to get to know you.

Thanks to Tom Hatter for the writeup and to Woody Zeigler for the pictures documenting the Spring City Cycle Club's 100 mile bike. I hope we can get equal coverage of other similar events that the club participates in. It should increase participation in such events if members can find out what happens and how Amateur Radio contributes to the safety and smooth running of the events.

I have to admit to a senior moment just discovered today as I prepare this Vox. A few years ago I wrote a program that creates all the fixed text that goes into the table for the calendar of events. For the past few months I've been having to do extensive modifications to the calendar each month because some of the fixed entries have changed. Every month I tell myself "I've got to re-do that program!" Well, today I set about doing the rewrite. When I brought up the source for the program I was amazed to see that the changes had already been made. I don't know when I made the changes, but obviously had done it but failed to transfer the executable program over to the computer that generates the Vox. I made the transfer and used the new version to generate this month's calendar. I hope you don't find serious mistakes in it.

73, Frank Emens, WAHFU

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 423
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
HUNTSVILLE, AL
PERMIT # 637