

# VOX



## HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 44, Number 10

November, 2004

### Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

#### Club Officers

##### President:

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM  
tzeiglerjr@aol.com

##### Vice President:

John C. Hilliard, K4JCH  
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##### Secretary:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
k4rgg@arrl.net

##### Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 489-1240  
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.

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

### Fom The Veep

Well here it is time for the next VOX. There was so much going on last month even with Frank's extension to the VOX, I still couldn't get to it. Most of us had a lot going on with Hurricane Ivan.

I would really like to thank everyone involved with Hurricane Ivan. I would like to pay a special thanks to Howard KG4WOU for all his work in ARES. I had always hoped that we could get text paging for spotters to help us with when the Net would be activated. I'm sure that there a lot of other things that Howard does that we don't see. I know he would like to make meeting, but like all of us, he other obligations he must attend to. I just wanted Howard to know that we are very pleased with what he is doing for ARES even if he doesn't get to hear it much. I would also like to thank Robbie KG4PLK for all his help in directing nets for us and during the hurricane. Again, thanks to all the spotters out there with there calls to the EMA with there reports of transformers going out, power lines, and traffic lights. Thanks to the EMA for taking all our traffic on the net.

If we continue to support our ARES, RACES, Skywarn, and other groups, I'm sure we will be prepare for our next emergencies. With the way the weather has been acting lately, we may be getting some rough weather for our change from Fall to Winter. Hope to hear you all on the Practice nets.

73, John Hilliard, K4JCH

### Nara Notes:

Now I know I sent last month's Vox inputs to Frank - least I'm pretty sure I did - but maybe because it was a few days early - it didn't make it.. I'll stick to the last minute tradition this month GRIN. In fact, I'll use last month's and

just add a bit ..Thank goodness for a weeks reprieve on the Vox û we were all busy preparing for the worst from Ivan last week. It was a good exercise in preparedness and emergency communications. I learned a lot in my brief tour of duty at WX4HUN. Something I said I would leave to others while I focused on keeping repeaters going but there never seems to be enough of the willing and I rather enjoyed it.

We were prompted to make more progress in emergency power for repeater systems through this event. The easiest and quickest thing to do was put battery power (with maintainer) on the 147.30 DX club machine as a back-up in the event that power was lost on Monte Sano taking Æ94 down. It was a simple decision given the technical parameters that I wont bore you with (IÆll tell you

#### 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, November 6  
Saturday, December 4*

*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*

on the air if you're really interested GRIN). Meanwhile progress continues with the design of our automated switch over battery back-up system for Æ94 and Æ18. We went up & pulled the GE power supply off '94 so that Gary: N4TXI could integrate his battery back-up (auto switch over) design to it. We'll keep you posted.

If I have already said it, please forgive the repeat but on behalf of NARA, a hearty thanks goes to Don: W4NO and the Huntsville Hamfest for the nice donation to our '94 repeater antenna replacement fund. That allows us to have a new antenna & feed line waiting for the next tower climb opportunity. Thanks again Don ! By process of elimi-

nation, we think the old system may have suffered some damage during the move resulting in some of our performance loss. Sometimes the only way to find out is replace the suspect part which in this case is both costly and difficult. We have high hopes.

We had the opportunity to do some exploring and testing on the ôCrackleö problem on 147.18 thanks to KA4IGK. We at least ruled out a few things that are not causing the problem and have a plan of attack on where to go from here. More on that next time. Seeö you on the repeaters ! ..

*73, Ron Shaffer, W4VM, President,  
NARA*

### Thoughts on Communications Support

I was recently with XYL Janet at a 50km trail race - a pedestrian version of the Spring City All-you-can-Eat 100 mile bike ride, lacking hams and spaghetti, but with cell phone coverage over the entire course. Indeed, I saw cell phones laying ready at a rest stop and the start/finish line.

Two things were missing. Although the course is a third the length of the SCCC Century, without occasional radio chatter, the rest stops felt like they were on the other side of the earth (and the one I made it to seemed that way to my legs). Secondly, and more importantly, no number of two-point cell

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR November, 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Election Day, Do Your Thang!  ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting	6 *TWIAR Georgis State Convention, Lawrenceville, GA  CAVEC Exms, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.
7 Georgis State Convention, Lawrenceville, GA	8	9 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	10 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	11 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	12 HARC Meeting The Quest For Space, Video Presentation	13 *TWIAR Montgomery Hamfest & Computer Show, Montgomery, AL
14	15	16 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	17 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	18 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	19 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night	20 *TWIAR
21	22	23 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	24 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	25 Thanksgiving Day  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	1 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 0000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting	4 *TWIAR CAVEC Exms, 0900 at Red Cross Bldg.

\*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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phone calls could make up for the network nature of radio, where all stations hear each other. Indeed, the very act of finding out whether a runner had made it to a rest stop or had been seen by a sag wagon was so impractical as to have been given up. For some, this mean more than eight hours during which their whereabouts were unknown. In the rainy weather, through muddy and rocky terrain, there were ample opportunities to get into trouble — that much further from help, lacking effective, networked, communications support.

I'm proud every time HARC tallies up another race, parade, Field Day, or simulated emergency test. This little weekend jaunt showed me how some things are "better with radio".

*73, Tom Duncan, KG4CIY*

### The Giggles Box

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER!!**

A note from Giggles: Brrrr! I think Fall is on its way. I can't believe that the holidays are just around the corner. Veteran's Day is a few weeks away and Thanksgiving is the last Thursday of November, as always, I'm never ready to see bare trees, but it comes with the season. I guess that is why Autumn is sometimes called "Fall" of the year. I can think of anything to write except jibberish. Anyway, enjoy the story and the recipe (if you can,) Hehehehehehehehehe!

A Joke or Two **RETIREMENT WITH A GRIN** Recently I was checking my 401k account and thinking about retirement, as everyone does when they hit 45. I saw an article about nursing and retirement homes and the expenses. Then it hit me. No nursing home for me! Here is my plan: I'm checking into

the Holiday Inn. With the average cost for a nursing home reaching \$188 per day, there is a better way when we get old and feeble. I have already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn.

For a combined long-term stay discount and senior discount, it's \$49.23 per night. That leaves \$138.77 a day for breakfast, lunch, dinner in any restaurant I want, or room service. It also will leave enough for laundry, gratuities, and special TV movies. Plus, I'll get a swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge, and washer and dryer. I'll also get free toothpaste, razors, shampoo and soap. And I'll be treated like a customer, not a patient. Five dollars worth of tips a day will have the entire staff scrambling. There is a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. The handicap bus will also pick me up if I fake a decent limp. Ride the church bus free on Sundays.

For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the

nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Meanwhile, the cash keeps building up. It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. On the other hand, Holiday Inn will take your reservation today. And you are not stuck in one place forever — you can move from Inn to Inn, or even from city to city. Want to see Hawaii? They have a Holiday Inn there, too. TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem. They fix everything and apologize for the inconvenience.

The Inn has a night security person and daily room service. The maid checks if you are OK. If not, they will call the undertaker or an ambulance. If you fall and break a hip, Medicare will pay for the hip, and Holiday Inn will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life. And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to visit you, and probably check in for a mini-vacation. The grandkids can use the pool. What more can you ask for?

When I discussed my plan with friends, they came up with even more benefits that Holiday Inn provides retirees. Most standard rooms have coffee makers, reclining chairs, and satellite TV — all you need to enjoy a cozy afternoon. After movie and a good nap, you can check on your children (free local phone calls), then take a stroll to the lounge or restaurant where you meet new and exotic people every day.

Many Holiday Inns even feature live entertainment on the weekends. Often they have special offers, too, like the Kids Eat Free program. You can invite your grandkids over after school to have a free dinner with you. Just tell them not to bring more than three friends.

Pick a Holiday Inn where they allow pets, and your best friend can keep you company as well. If you want to travel, but are a bit skittish about unfamiliar surroundings, you'll always feel at home because wherever you go, the rooms all look the same. And if you're getting a little absent-minded in your old days, you never have to worry

about not finding your room — your electronic key fits only one door and the helpful bellman or desk clerk is on duty 24/7.

Being natural skeptics, we called a Holiday Inn to check out the feasibility of my plan. I'm happy to report that they were positively giddy at the idea of us checking in for a year or more. They even offered to negotiate the rate. We could have easily knocked them down to \$40 a night! "So, when I reach the golden age I'll face it with a grin. Just forward all your emails to the Holiday Inn!

#### KITTY LITTER CAKE

This is for all you cooks out there looking for something a little different. WANT TO HAVE FUN AT A PARTY? PREPARE THIS RECIPE! IT'S COMPLETELY EDIBLE, BUT YOUR FRIENDS MAY NOT THINK SO!

On a recent visit to our veterinarian to get shots for our cat I found this recipe on the waiting room bulletin board. After recovering from hysterical laughter, I obtained a copy from the office staff so that my wife could make it, which she refused to do. I took it to work and gave the recipe to a lady at work who loves cats. The pictures below show the results of her work. It doesn't look very nice, but it's actually quite tasty, so I decided to pass it along.

CAKE INGREDIENTS 1 box spice or German chocolate cake mix

1 box of white cake mix

1 package white sandwich cookies

1 large package vanilla instant pudding mix



A few drops green food coloring  
12 small Tootsie Rolls or equivalent  
SERVING "DISHES AND UTENSILS  
1 NEW cat-litter box  
1 NEW cat-litter box liner  
1 NEW pooper scooper

Prepare and bake cake mixes, according to directions, in any size pan.

Prepare pudding and chill.

Crumble cookies in small batches in blender or food processor. Add a few drops of green food coloring to 1 cup of cookie crumbs. Mix with a fork or shake in a jar. Set aside. When cakes are at room temperature, crumble them into a large bowl. Toss with half of the remaining cookie crumbs and enough pudding to make the mixture moist but not soggy.

Place liner in litter box and pour in mixture. Unwrap 3 Tootsie Rolls and heat in a microwave until soft and pliable. Shape the blunt ends into slightly curved points. Repeat with three more rolls. Bury the rolls decoratively in the cake mixture. Sprinkle remaining white cookie crumbs over the mixture, then scatter green crumbs lightly over top. Heat 5 more Tootsie Rolls until almost melted. Scrape them on top of the cake and sprinkle with crumbs from the litter box. Heat the remaining Tootsie Roll until pliable and hang it over the edge of the box. Place box on a sheet of newspaper and serve with scooper. Enjoy!

\*\*\* Did You Know: It takes a ton of food to feed you each year.

The Reminder for the Month of November Laughter is essential to well-being. Be thankful this Thanksgiving and above all, don't forget to pray for our troops.

**Solve the puzzle: RETVSI OT KEAM  
ONSMOEE LSEE YAPHP**

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

**Hi All,**

Iona & I made it to 15, enjoying the fine weather at Crossville, TN last week. And to really celebrate, we're

headed west tomorrow morning, circling the globe in 91 days - stay tuned.



Leigh, WD4CPF

**November Hamfests**

November 6-7, 2004. Georgia State Convention, Lawrenceville, Georgia. Contact Randy Bassett, KR4NQ at 770-663-4244 or kr4nq@arrl.net. Talk-in frequency is 145.450 no PL. Gates open at 9 am both days and goes until 5 pm Saturday and until 3 pm on Sunday.

November 13, 2004. Montgomery Hamfest & Computer Show, Montgomery, Alabama. Contact Philip Salley, K4OZN at 334-272-7980 or k4ozn@charter.net. Talk-in is 146.84. Hamfest is open 9 am until 3 pm Admission is \$5 with free parking.

73 John Farr, KC4ZXX

**Clarksville Hamfest**

Please announce at the next two meetings - if anyone is going to attend the Clarksville TN Hamfest, rather than the Chattanooga Hamfest - that the subtone for the repeater up here is 123.0 Hz rather than the subtone that was printed in the October Vox.

TI— 147.390 + with PL of 123.0 Hz Alternate 145.410 - with the same tone (123.0)

Ralph A Brigham , KG4CSQ

**From The Editor's Wastebasket**

Several things to cover this month. First off is an apology to Ron Shaffer for missing his NARA Notes offering last month. I checked back in my repository and it's there, big as life. I really don't

know why I missed including it, especially since there was a bit of trouble finding enough material to fill out the issue. Anyway, he has brought it up to date and verily it is in this issue.

Speaking of filling out the Vox, it gets a bit harder this month because we've had to omit a half page advertisement. The gurus at the Post Office Bulk Mail Intake Office on Gov. Drive declared the ad was not acceptable for a publication mailing at non-profit rates because it is not related to the activities of the club, so it won't be running any more, unless Alicia lays in a line of amateur radio gear.

We need to get more "stuff" submitted for the Vox. As I said, there'll be another half page to fill up with goodies every month. Don't worry about form and format -- I'd probably reject lipstick on Kleenex, but almost any other form as long as it's readable, would be acceptable.

In addition to more "stuff" submitted for the Vox, we need more participation in getting a good lineup of programs for club meetings. We don't need a program EVERY Friday, but it would be re-

ally good to be able to rely on having one at least two Fridays in a month. Don't just sit there and expect the ossifers to come up with entertaining and/or informative programs, see what you can do to help the situation. It is not interminable bull sessions at meetings that bring newcomers back with a filled out application, it is interesting programs.

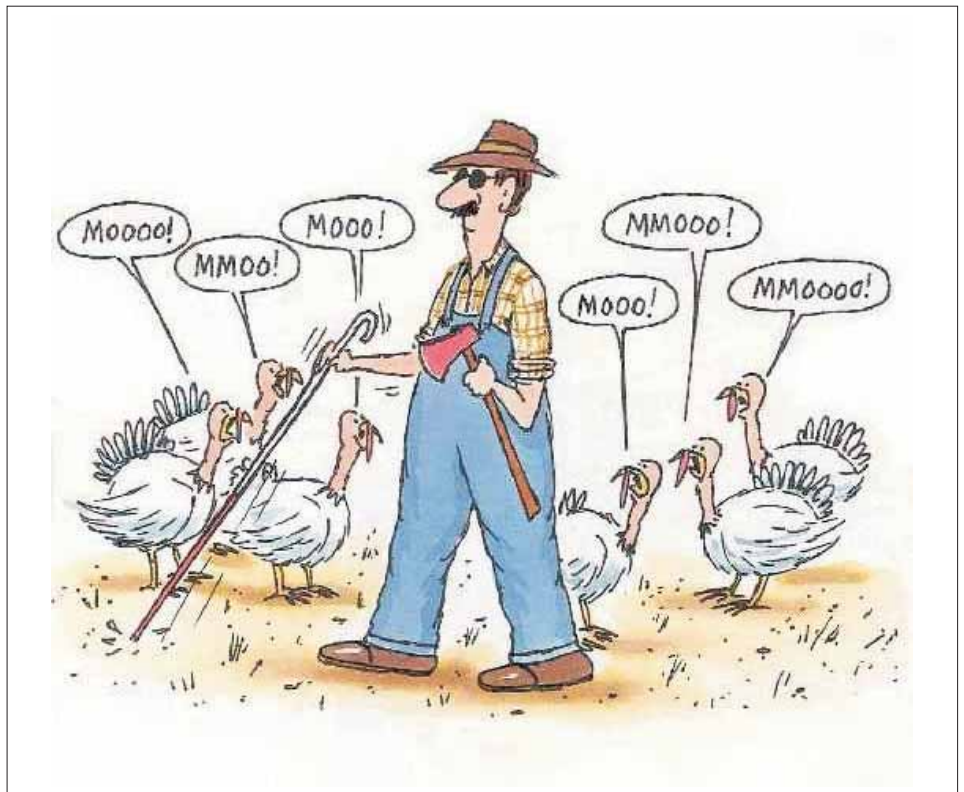
Congratulations to Andy and Marilyn Setlow on celebrating their 50th anniversary. They were the subject of a nice writeup in the Huntspatch Times for October 13th.

The cartoon below seems to indicate that turkeys are pretty smart critters. I expect they'll all be working on their cow impressions over the next month or so.

Ever noticed that the last four months of the year end with "ber"? Could it have something to do with "Brrr"?

Some of you will get this in time to make it to the October 22 meeting, where Tim, N8DEU, will be filling us in on the latest on APRS.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



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