

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 45, Number 10

November, 2005

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, 340-9531
hthorson@bellsouth.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 45, Nr.10, Nov, 2005

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

From The Prez

Signs that winter is fast approaching are the leaves falling from the trees, temperatures dropping, and the ARRL releasing Field Day scores. Despite numerous Field Day logistical problems, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY, and crew stepped up to the plate to resolve these issues and came through with another spectacular event. KF4BFT placed 2nd in 5A and 9th overall. Thanks to all who participated.

In other recent club events, on Saturday October 15th, Woodie, K8GNM, Tim W, KI4HQL, Paul, WB4UEE, and Steve, KB4TFN, spend the later part of the morning installing a replacement 40/80m dipole for the club shack. At this time it was also discovered that the Yaesu FT-840 HF radio no longer desires to transmit. As I write this, Paul and Steve are troubleshooting an apparent problem with the PTT circuit. With any luck the radio will be repaired in short order and the shack prepared for handling any traffic when hurricane Wilma makes landfall. I would like to thank all these gentlemen (using the term lightly) for the time they have offered the club in the past week.

Finally, over the years there has been somewhat of a debate over the topic of the club applying for non-profit status with the IRS. There are valid arguments on both sides of this issue and, as such, this matter should not be taken lightly. In order to provide a fair forum for debate, we will open the floor to discussion on this topic after the completion of club business at the November 11, 2005 meeting. Robert's rules of order will be enforced during the course of this discussion to allow all interested parties the opportunity to address questions and opinions on this subject. In order to allow all raised questions to be properly investigated and answered, we will not vote on the question of applying for non-profit status until at least a January or February 2006 meeting.

73, Christopher Best, KB3DXR

Toy Drive For Storm Victims

Hello. We are working to collect toys for kids in the Alabama area, who are still without homes due to the destruction by Hurricane Katrina. We wish to help make the holiday season a little brighter for them. We still have many displaced families in Alabama that have come from New Orleans and Mississippi, as well as families in Alabama that were affected by this hurricane. Most of us are familiar with the devastation that Hurricane Katrina left behind. Many of us have experienced damage first-hand or know someone personally who has experienced damage from this hurricane. It not only hit New Orleans and Mississippi, but also hit Alabama's gulf coast doing a lot of damage there.

A toy drive is a great way to come together as a ham community and show our support for those in our state who need our help. I would love to see a large number of our hams and clubs participate in this great cause. If your club has a large number of donations,

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 5

Saturday, December 3

For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244

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

we can arrange to meet and pick them up. Another great idea for clubs is to take up a monetary donation for the toy drive at your next meeting. I have found that this works better at the clubs that I belong to, because they don't have to remember to bring toys this way. New unwrapped toys will be collected until December 1st. This gives us only a few short weeks to show our support. Please include a QSL card with your donation, so we can track where the donations are being sent from.

I would love to see statewide participation for this cause. This is a great way to show a community that really needs us, just what amateur radio operators are capable of doing when they join together.

If you would prefer to send money instead of a toy donation, I will personally go and purchase toys to be included with the other toy donations. Donations are tax deductible through the Alabama Historical Radio Society.

For last year's toy drive, we successfully raised almost \$1100, in addition to the toys collected. We are hoping to exceed this amount this year and be able to help out more kids. As always, thank you so much for your support. Don't forget the deadline for all donations is December 1st.

Please send your donations to:

Alabama Historical Radio Society
c/o Amateur Radio Toy Drive
Rebekah Anne Dorff, WG4Y
239 Russet Woods Drive
Hoover, AL 35244

*Thank you, Rebekah, WG4Y Assistant
Section Manager for youth activities
American Radio Relay League
wg4y@arrl.net*

From The Section Manager

We pulled all the amateurs out of the field and closed down the Katrina Montgomery operations center on October 9th. Amateurs were deployed in the field for over 30 days.

Four Huntsville amateur radio operators worked out of town in the relief operation. Jim Spikes N4KH, Ron Shaffer, W4VM, Chuck Lewis N4NM and Greg Sarratt W4OZK.

Amateurs came from all the United States and Canada to run communications for a multitude of served agencies. Amateurs were in every EOC in south Mississippi, a multitude of American Red Cross shelters, kitchens, and service centers, Salvation Army and many community locations. I'm proud of all the amateurs that worked to provide communications and helped in many ways during this large relief effort. The amateurs did what they were asked to do plus much more.

We now have an opportunity to enhance our amateur radio capabilities, keep amateur radio in the spotlight and prepare ourselves for next time. The Katrina relief operation was a success and showed the public and government what works when all else fails. Join ARES, take emergency communi-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR November, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	2 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	3 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	4 HARC Meeting	5 TWIAR* Cavec Exam 0900 at Red Cross building Stone Mountain Hamfest, Lawrenceville, GA.
6 Stone Mountain Hamfest, Lawrenceville, GA.	7	8 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	9 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	10 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	11 HARC Meeting Hybrid Combiners	12 *TWIAR Montgomery Hamfest, Montgom- ery, AL
13	14	15 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	16 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	17 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	18 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night	19 *TWIAR
20	21	22 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	23 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	24 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	25 HARC Meeting ARISS (Amateur Ra- dio on International Space Station): Dieter Schliemann, kx4y	26 *TWIAR
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 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	3 *TWIAR Cavec Exam 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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cations training, practice calling nets, and prepare your portable amateur and camping equipment.

73s, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK Alabama Section Manager, ARRL

Alabama Section web site: www.arrl-al.org

In Katrina's Wake Ham Radio Triumphs

Reprinted from Electronic Design News

A few months ago, NBC's Tonight Show staged a race between a pair of ham-radio operators with Morse-code keys and a couple of kids with text-messaging cellphones to see who could communicate faster. The hams won hands down, proving, in the minds of some, that old technology could hold its own against new. In recent days, ham radio was put to the test again by Hurricane Katrina. This time, however, lives were at stake.

In the world of design engineers and electronics in general, change is essential. Designers work diligently to make the fruits of their labors obsolete almost before they see daylight. The turnover in technology is sometimes like a flood, with old being washed away by new over and over. Often, the new beats the

heck out of the old. But there are times when old isn't necessarily bad; in fact, sometimes old works when new doesn't. And then we're glad that old is still around, or at least we should be.

Wireless technology, while relatively new to many consumers, is of course not new at all. A few (very) old-timers remember the original "wireless" of radio. The revolution wrought by the pioneers of wireless changed the world then, and the technology behind that revolution has been re-invented and re-applied time and again. Its pre-eminent incarnation today is our near-ubiquitous wireless communications infrastructure, which has freed us from the shackles of landlines and made our mobile lifestyles possible. Technology truly is great stuff.

Until, of course, a monster hurricane comes along to render it nearly useless. Here we see a scenario in which a flood literally swept away the new. As Hurricane Katrina's fury hammered the Gulf states on August 29, the communications infrastructure took a devastating hit. Telephone service, including wireless, became at first intermittent and then unusable in many localities.

Where there was phone service, 911 switchboards were often unreachable due to the massive volume of calls. The response of local authorities, now termed "confused" by deposed FEMA chief Michael Brown, wasn't helping much. The Gulf Coast was about to descend into darkness, chaos, and, worst of all for many, silence.

But proponents of the old were at the ready. The "old," in this case, is ham radio. In the eyes of the "man on the street," ham radio has a pretty stodgy reputation. Aren't hams still using Morse code? Don't some of them use radios with tubes, for goodness sake? What the "man in the street" probably doesn't know is that it was amateurs who advanced the radio arts early in the 20th century. Down through the decades, amateurs have embraced (and often driven) all of the innovations in wireless technology, up to and including all digital modes and the Internet. But many have stayed in touch with their roots, which is good old-fashioned analog HF operation. And while amateurs have a longstanding tradition as innovators and experimenters, they also have a mandate that comes with their licenses: to be ready, willing, and

ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.
Check 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, Randy Cox, AI4FP, ai4fp@yahoo.com
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winger, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

able to provide emergency communications whenever and wherever they're needed.

As Katrina bore down on the Gulf region, amateur radio operators, under the aegis of the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), prepared to swing into action with emergency networks that would run health-and-welfare traffic into and out of the disaster zone. As early as the Monday following the storm, hams throughout the hurricane zone were putting emergency stations on the air. In one instance, hams were instrumental in the rescue of 15 people clinging for life to a New Orleans rooftop. Meanwhile, in Alabama, amateur SKYWARN weather nets kept the National Weather Service apprised of conditions throughout the state. In hard-hit sections of Mississippi, hams running off generators and with makeshift antennas were the only means of communication, getting word to out-of-state friends and relatives concerning their loved ones.

There were numerous other instances of hams helping those who were not simply inconvenienced by the storm, but whose lives were in imminent danger. Now that things have calmed down in the Gulf region, many of the emergency nets have stood down. But hams continue to serve the public in the many areas that are still without power or phone service.

As our nation collects itself in the aftermath of the Katrina disaster, President Bush has promised federal reviews of what went right and what went wrong. One of the findings of those inquiries should be that the federally-instituted Amateur Radio Service, which functions under the licensing authority of the FCC, stood tall when the country needed it.

Amateur radio currently faces various threats to its existence. Chief among those is the advent of broad-

band-over-powerline (BPL) technology, which, if broadly adopted, has the potential to cause widespread interference to HF communications, not just for amateurs but for other services that use the HF spectrum.

Amateurs and the ARRL have made a lot of noise about BPL, asserting that it could seriously hamper their efforts and those of relief agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, in the event of a disaster such as Katrina. It's rumored, though, that the same FCC commissioners who have given their blessing to BPL field trials will now take a much harder look at the technical issues concerning BPL and its interference potential in the HF spectrum. Let's face it: The federal government didn't handle the emergency in the Gulf very well; it'd be prudent for it not to sanction a technology that could impede one of the few things that actually worked.

Many readers of this newsletter are amateur radio enthusiasts. If you are, and if you haven't already done so, consider writing your congressman to express your concern about the future of the Amateur Radio Service, especially in light of its outstanding efforts in recent days. Remind your elected representatives that a vibrant and unimpeded Amateur service can and will be a lifesaver when disaster strikes. Also, consider how you yourself might help. What if a hurricane, tornado, or earthquake ravages your area? Are you prepared to get on the air without relying on the mains to handle emergency traffic? Get in touch with your local amateur-radio club and find out how you can pitch in.

Your cell phones and wireless routers are indeed great stuff, but so is a good old HF transceiver. We shouldn't always be in such a hurry to let the flood of new technology wash away the old. The geek down the block with all the antennas on his property could turn

out to be your best friend someday. Because sometimes, old trumps new.

Written by David Maliniak for publication in Electronic Design News, a product of Penton Media. Reprinted here with permission

Nara Notes:

The 220 machine was down for a short period of time this month. Seems the Astron supply locked up during an AC power flicker. They are prone to do that. You just have to recycle the power supply to bring it back to life. When Bill KCOONR went up there he put a new power supply on the 220 machine. So now it has a separate supply all to itself. The repeater is working great. If you haven't tried 220 you are missing out!

We haven't had time yet to put up the 146.94 remote receiver on Green Mountain. Hopefully we will get to it soon.

Very soon we plan on enabling the 146.94 backup repeater at channel 31 as the main system. Just need to change the PL board settings to 100 Hz from its test PL tone. We'll take down the original 146.94 for a little bench time cleanup. The remote base port needs to have a standardized ?NARA? connector put on it. Currently I have a GE Phoenix SX radio on the bench that will go back up as the UHF voter link radio. Once all of that is completed we will move the original 146.94 equipment to channel 31 and remove the backup test system.

With the fall weather finally here, it is time to address some of our antenna chores on the 443.500 remote base uhf repeater system. The tri-bander for the remote control radios up there has a high SWR and needs to be replaced. If you signed up for ground crew help, we may be calling you soon.

We've had a couple of good service events where the 146.94 and/or 147.18 repeaters have been used for public

events. I want to thank all of the hams that participated in these events. It definitely promotes good will toward ham radio and lets the general public know who we are and what capabilities we have to offer. I did hear some discouraging news where someone was intentionally jamming one of the events. It is certainly a sad affair when someone tries to ruin it for everyone.

The repeaters have been pretty quiet lately. Everyone must be driving around monitoring or just too busy talking on the cell phone. I know I'm guilty as charged. Time to break radio silence! We all need to pick up the mike and throw out a call now and then. Who knows you might make a new friend.

73, Ralph Hogan W4XE
NARA President
W4XE@qsl.net

NATRA Annual Winter Race

Once again the North Alabama Trail Riders Association (NATRA) asks for assistance from the local amateur radio community. Our annual winter race is Sunday October 30 on a sod farm in New Hope, AL. The race course was 10.1 miles last weekend, subject to change. Its only a couple of miles from one end to another and right beside US-431 but doubt anyone would see us from the road.

The race format is known as Hare Scrambles. 20 classes of motorcycles and riders will start, one class per minute. Expecting to have over 300 motorcycles running. The adult race runs for 2 hours starting at 11:00 AM. This race is mostly narrow trails thru the woods, no high flying jumps. Top riders will average about 24 MPH but can hit 60 or 70 in a place or two.

ATVs (4-wheelers) run for 90 minutes after the motorcycles are cleared from the course. It is the adult motorcycle and ATV races that NATRA asks for your help. We also have kids races for as young as 4 years old. Kids races start at 8:30 AM. A shorter section of the full course is used. Usually most of their course is lined with friends and family so extra help isn't needed but you are most welcome to come help anyway. Bring your kids (unless you are afraid to put ideas in their head). These races are family events, most racers travel a good distance to be there and bring their family rather than be away. Many from Kentucky, Indiana, and occasionally Michigan. Most arrive on Saturday, camp on site. Some arrive in a pickup truck and sleep in the open. Some ar-



This picture shows me (David Kelly) at race speed (15 MPH lap average) in a race this past January. Notice the couple and child (under blanket) sitting on the hillside watching the race.

rive in \$200k "toy haulers". Its a spectacle.

Radio operators are needed for the usual observation and data relay tasks. We'll put you in interesting places in the woods where those of weak ethics might be tempted to deviate from the course. I intend to be a "ghost rider" this year. Thats about the same thing as an observer but I'll be riding and looking for trouble. Also means for a first that for once somebody the hams know can stop by a time or two during the race to say hello. If all goes well you'll have a relaxing day sitting in the woods watching motorcycles and ATVs fly by.

NATRA should be able to provide lunch for race workers. In the past the logistics have been spotty. Most workers will be in the woods most all day but can bring your car close if you don't mind driving on dirt roads. Bring a chair, hat, umbrella (we actually prefer to race in the rain), water, snacks, lunch, camera, and bug repellent. Toilet paper often comes in handy.

We will hold another race 3 weeks later, November 20, at Westpoint, TN. Thats only 80 miles from Huntsville. Then a lull until our biggest event ever, an ISDE Qualifier on June 17-18, 2006 (Father's Day weekend) again at Westpoint. Thats big. Maybe national TV coverage.

If you can help at any of these events please contact me at 256-837-4740 or, dkelly@hiwaay.net

73, David Kelly N4HHE

2005 Crow Mountain Hill Climb A Success.

I would like to express my thanks to the amateur (HAM) radio operators, who provided such a professional safety net of communication for the October 1 and 2, 2005 Crow Mountain Hill Climb. This was the first time that the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) held this event in Jackson County, near Scottsboro. In his presentation just before the trophy awards for the contestants, John Barnett, the Crow Mountain Hill Climb Chairman, made it a point to thank the amateur radio operators who helped make this event possible. He assured us (the hams), that our efforts are needed and appreciated very much. The 33 ham radio operators to provide the safety net communications not only came from Jackson County, but came from all over, including SCCA HAMS from Tennessee, Huntsville, and other areas in Alabama.

It was amazing, not only to me, but also to the organizers of this event and many of the SCCA workers at different safety stations, to see how well we all functioned during such a long two day event that was new to all of us, including some of the SCCA members and

workers. As the person who worked for a few months on soliciting ham radio operator volunteers for this event and who made a for the most part arbitrary staffing schedule, I am very grateful for the support that was shown for this event by the many amateur radio operator volunteers. Many of these ham radio volunteers came from Huntsville, Madison and surrounding areas. It proved the cooperative spirit in the ham radio community to help where help is needed. Without this help provided by the ham radio operator community in our area, the Crow Mountain Hill Climb would not have been possible.

I personally would like to express my thanks for the fantastic help with the Crow Mountain Hill Climb. It is nice to know to have such good friends in Huntsville, Madison and the surrounding areas. I am looking forward to see you all again for the 2006 Crow Mountain Hill Climb on September 30 and October 1, 2006.

73, Dieter kx4y

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER!!

A note from Giggles: A few weekends ago, Steve and I went to the Crow Mountain Hillclimb in Scottsboro and had a great time. The first morning was very interesting when one of the pickup trucks left with someone's ham gear, and the ham was rather upset. He later found it at the bottom of the hill near where he had loaded it. The truck driver moved the truck while the ham went back for more equipment. After he finally collected his stuff, he realized that he had forgotten the power cord and then found out that a jump start power supply works great. (I found out that it can jump your car battery off if the battery is not completely dead.)

Anyway, it was the first one that a lot of us had participated in and we really learned a lot and we look forward to one next year. It was a really fun weekend watching all the cars race all the way up the hill. I found out that the more that you volunteer the more you learn about ham radio. I would have never known that a jump start power supply would power a ham radio. Live and learn. I have been a ham for a few years and there is always something new to learn. I guess it is like on-the-job-training. Keep hamming!

A Joke or Two It is with the saddest heart that I must pass on the following

news: Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma, complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The gravesite was piled high with flours. Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers.

He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he still was a crusty old man and was considered a roll model for millions. Doughboy is survived by his wife Play Dough, two children; John Dough and Jane Dough, plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

*** I imagine that most of you have already read this story, but the benefit of the ones that don't have email, much less, computers, here it is again. This makes a lot of sense:

A man eats two eggs each morning for breakfast. When he goes to the grocery store, he pays 60 cents a dozen. Since a dozen eggs won't last a week he normally buys two dozens at a time. One day while buying eggs, he notices that the price has risen to 72 cents. The next time he buys groceries, eggs are 76 cents a dozen. When asked to explain the price of eggs, the store owner says, "the price has gone up and I have to raise my price accordingly". This store buys 100 dozen eggs a day. I checked around for a better price and all the distributors have raised their prices. The distributors have begun to buy from the huge egg farms. The small egg farms have been driven out of business. The huge egg farms sells 100,000 dozen eggs a day to distributors. With no competition, they can set the price as they see fit. The distributors then have to raise their prices to the grocery stores. And on and on and on.

As the man kept buying eggs the price kept going up. He saw the big egg trucks delivering 100 dozen eggs each day. Nothing changed there. He checked out the huge egg farms and

found they were selling 100,000 dozen eggs to the distributors daily. Nothing had changed but the price of eggs. Then week before Thanksgiving the price of eggs shot up to \$1.00 a dozen. Again he asked the grocery owner why and was told, "cakes and baking for the holiday". The huge egg farmers know there will be a lot of baking going on and more eggs will be used. Hence, the price of eggs goes up. Expect the same thing at Christmas and other times when family cooking, baking, etc. happen.

This pattern continues until the price of eggs is \$2.00 a dozen. The man says, "there must be something we can do about the price of eggs". He starts talking to all the people in his town and they decide to stop buying eggs. This didn't work because everyone needed eggs. Finally, the man suggested only buying what you need. He ate 2 eggs a day. On the way home from work he would stop at the grocery and buy two eggs. Everyone in town started buying 2 or 3 eggs a day. The grocery store owner began complaining that he had too many eggs in his cooler. He told the distributor that he didn't need any eggs. Maybe wouldn't need any all week. The distributor had eggs piling up at his warehouse. He told the huge egg farms that he didn't have any room for eggs would not need any for at least two weeks. At the egg farm, the chickens just kept on laying eggs. To relieve the pressure, the huge egg farm told the distributor that they could buy the eggs at a lower price.

The distributor said, "I don't have the room for the %\$&^*&% eggs even if they were free". The distributor told the grocery store owner that he would lower the price of the eggs if the store would start buying again.

The grocery store owner said, "I don't have room for more eggs. The customers are only buy 2 or 3 eggs at a time". "Now if you were to drop the price of eggs back down to the original price, the customers would start buying by the dozen again". The distributors sent that proposal to the huge egg farmers. They liked the price they were getting for their eggs but, them chickens just kept on laying. Finally, the egg farmers lowered the price of their eggs. But only a few cents. The customers still bought 2 or 3 eggs at a time.

They said, "when the price of eggs gets down to where it was before, we will start buying by the dozen." Slowly the price of eggs started dropping. The distributors had to slash their prices to make room for the eggs coming from

the egg farmers. The egg farmers cut their prices because the distributors wouldn't buy at a higher price than they were selling eggs for. Anyway, they had full warehouses and wouldn't need eggs for quite a while. And then chickens kept on laying. Eventually, the egg farmers cut their prices because they were throwing away eggs they couldn't sell. The distributors started buying again because the eggs were priced to where the stores could afford to sell them at the lower price. And the customers starting buying by the dozen again.

Now, transpose this analogy to the gasoline industry. What if everyone only bought \$10.00 worth of gas each time they pulled to the pump. The dealers tanks would stay semi full all the time. The dealers wouldn't have room for the gas coming from the huge tank farms. The tank farms wouldn't have room for the gas coming from the refining plants. And the refining plants wouldn't have room for the oil being off loaded from the huge tankers coming from the Middle East. Just \$10.00 each time you buy gas. Don't fill it up. You may have to stop for gas twice a week but, the price should come down.

As an added note...When I buy \$10.00 worth of gas, that leaves my tank a little under half full. The way prices are jumping around, you can buy gas for \$2.65 a gallon and then the next morning it can be \$2.15. If you have your tank full of \$2.65 gas you don't have room for the \$2.15 gas. You might not understand the economics of only buying two eggs at a time but, you can't buy cheaper gas if your tank is full of the high priced stuff. Also, don't buy anything else at the gas station, no cigarettes, no bread, milk or chewing gum, don't give them any more of your hard earned money than what you spend on gas, until the prices come down.. Think about it.

Did You Know:

Cabbage, broccoli and fish can smell up a kitchen. Turn on the fan above the stove and set out a small bowl of household vinegar on the counter next to the stove to absorb smells.

The Reminder For The Month of November:

Make yourself a better person and know who you are before you try and know someone else and expect them to know you.

Solve the puzzle: **A UTER ENDIFR
SI ENOEMOS HOW EEARSH FOR**

OURY ANDH DAN USOTCHE UOYR EARTH.

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

Local Area Hamfests for November:

November 5-6 2005.

- Georgia Section Convention/Stone Mountain Hamfest & Computer Expo., Lawrenceville, Georgia. The 'fest will be held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. For more info contact Randy Bassett, KR4NQ at 770-663-4244 or hamfest@totr-radio.org. Talkin will be on 146.76, PL 107.2. More info can be found at <http://www.totr-radio.org>

November 12 2005

- Alabama Section Convention Montgomery Amateur Radio Club <http://w4ap.org> Talk-In: 146.24/.84 Contact: Rik Doll, KU4PY 142 Oldfield Drive Montgomery, AL 36117 Phone: 334-277-0864 Fax: 334-277-0864 Email: ku4py@arrl.net Montgomery, AL Garrett Coliseum Federal Drive Div: Southeastern Sect: Alabama

*73, Steve Bell KD4TFN & John Farr,
KC4ZXX*

ARISS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

It is very exiting for students in high schools around the world to speak with astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS), to be able to ask questions of the astronauts and hear them answer live.

NASA, AMSAT and the ARRL have formed the ARISS team to organize and coordinate these school contacts. All of the ARISS team members are amateur radio operators, all of them are volunteers.

At the November 25 HARC meeting, Dieter Schliemann, KX4Y, will show a video of one of these contacts, and will provide information on what the ARISS program consists of and how these school contacts get organized.

The Editor's Wastebasket

Well, it sure hasn't been a normal year so far - I wonder how it'll end up. We've had killer hurricanes moiling around the Gulf area and folks are watching Wilma and getting ready to hunker down now. I understand Wilma is the last name they had on the

list for this year. I dunno if the storms will take the hint or not. I'd hate to think of having to dodge a storm named Yvette or Zelda -- and what name could they use for "X"? All the "X" names I can think of are male, Xerxes and Xenophon and such. Maybe "Xenia" would qualify.

If you haven't read it yet, be sure and check the item reprinted here from Electronic Design News. It is one of the best descriptions of Amateur Radio's role in a major disaster that I've seen. It was referred to me by Ralph Hogan, W4XE. If I remember correctly, the worst one I read was from the Wall Street Journal. The writer was all taken with the fact that the hams were using old "retro" hardware that wasn't up to modern standards. He completely glossed over the fact that that stuff was working while all the shiny state-of-the-art "stuff" he thought so much of was completely unusable.

I hope some of you have been able to come up with some eerie, spooky ham radio related stories for the pre-Halloween meeting. The only things I can think of are really propagation related and aren't all that spooky -- unless the idea of legitimate Russian stations coming into Huntsville with strong signals and the beam pointed East instead of over the Pole. Not very spooky, but strange anyway.

The upcoming hamfest list this month was a collaborative effort between Steve Bell and John Farr. John had to drop out from digging up that information some months ago because of health problems and Steve took over. John has announced he's back now and will be covering the hamfest schedules henceforth. John, good to see you back -- and Steve, thanks for covering for him.

Keep program ideas flowing to John and let's have the coming months filled with interesting programs and good attendance.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Flea Market

Cleaning House:

- Free QST and CQ magazines from the 1960s through 2000. Free to anyone who can haul them off. Contact k5ry@arrl.net

Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, YHOTY for 2004 stands with Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y as she is applauded as Young Ham Of The Year for 2005. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF is holding the mike. The other folks in the picture are involved in supporting the YHOTY program, but I can't attach names to them. If someone gives me a left-to-right list of who is who, I'll set things right next month.



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