



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.
k4rgg@arrl.net

Secretary:

Robby Lock, KG4PLK
huntsvilleweather@gmail.com

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, Nr 10, November, 2006
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

SILENT KEY

Ed Berisford, WA4KMA

We lost Ed last month just a day or two too late to make mention in the last Vox.

Ed was a long-time member of HARC and spent at least one term as President.

He, along with his XYL, Marge, provided coffee and doughnuts to exhibitors and workers at the Huntsville Hamfest for years.

He will be missed!

Report from ARES District 6

The Winlink 2000 and Airmail demonstration at the HARC meeting on October 6 was very successful. Gary Dion (Madison County AEC) and I were able to send messages back and forth between our QTH's that were separated by approximately 24,000 miles (or 5 feet, if you turned around and looked right at each other). He used a VHF setup and simulated a command center. I used an HF setup that would be at a shelter, for example. Winlink is a powerful digital mode that we need to get proficient in using here in District 6.

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) went well. A small team proved that EMCOMM is possible after a disaster, so now we're all very comfortable(?). I hope for better participation next year.

Speaking of participation - we need more check-ins on the Madison County Emergency Training net. Thursday at 7:30 lo-

cal time. Become a proficient EMCOMM operator - practice.

It's more important to be prepared for an emergency than ever before. Our "served agencies" here in District 6 are planning and practicing and thinking. We need to be in their thoughts, plans and practice events. The only way to do that is for us to be trained, and certified to an acceptable level. What's that? Most of the agencies nowadays require you to know about NIMS and ICS. Do you? It's easy to find out, since FEMA offers free online independent study courses. Red Cross requires a simple background check. The EMA has certain requirements, too. If you're waiting until the next disaster to start the process, then you'll understand why you'll probably get turned away - the days of showing up with just a ham license is just about over. The agencies are not being mean, they are following their new guidelines. Even Santa Claus has a

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 4
Saturday, December 2
For information contact:*

*Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244
kr4gu@hamfest.org*

*Or
Don Tunstill, W4NO, 536-3904
dontunstill@hamfest.org*

Athens Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. They are held at the Athens EOC.

*For information contact Bob Hudson,
W4RKH, 461-7905*

list that he checks twice just for delivering presents - I suspect that soon, all of our served agencies will be in conformance with Santa's performance. Tomorrow would be a great chance to start preparing, don't you think?

If you have suggestions on how we can become better "holistic emergency communicators", please let me know.

73, Doug Hilton, AG4FL Alabama ARES District 6 Emergency Coordinator American Radio Relay League, National Association of Amateur Radio Alabama Section web site: www.arrl-al.org

NARA Notes

We have made some great progress on our Voter system for the 146.94 repeater since I last reported in Vox. This will allow us to fill in some holes in our 146.94 receiver coverage area. All of the donated

GE Voter equipment has been tested out on the bench and is working great. I've been using another GE Mastr II repeater on the bench as a test bed so that we didn't have to upset the 146.94 system on the mountain while experimenting. I've made up an adapter interface box that will allow us to unplug the GE Mastr II repeater from the CAT-1000 controller and insert the interface in series. This will be plug and play due to our standardized DB9 connector scheme. It will allow us to rapidly change from the current setup at Channel 31 to the new voter system. It will also let us fall back on the old configuration within minutes if something goes haywire. With another time or two on the bench we should have the system ready to carry up to Channel 31 for deployment. I ask that users bear with us as we get the kinks worked out. Adding a voter is a major undertaking and we will have some leveling

of audio to contend with so that the system performs at peak capability. The users will no longer have to think about switching between receivers. It will automatically do this for you to provide the best signal quality to the repeater transmitter.

We still have a couple of important tower climb projects to undertake. Once we get a date set (very soon!), we'd appreciate some ground crew help if you want to lend a helping hand.

We also installed the new 146.94 GE power supply with battery backup. Shortly after installation we had some trouble and unfortunately the 146.94 repeater went down during a weather net. Murphy wasn't too kind to us that day. The net was able to immediately move over to our 147.18 repeater and continue operation for the duration. The 147.18 alternate has al-

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR November, 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	1 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting	4 -TWIAR CAVEC Amateur Radio Exam session, ARC at 9:00
5	6	7 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	8 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	9 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	10 HARC Meeting	11 -TWIAR
12	13	14 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	15 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	16 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	17 HARC Meeting Vox night	18 -TWIAR
19	20	21 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	22 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	23 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	24 HARC Meeting	25 -TWIAR
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	29 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	30 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 -TWIAR CAVEC Amateur Radio Exam session, ARC at 9:00

*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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ways been in their weather net operations plan as a backup system to 146.94.

We were up at the site the next day after it went down and were able to get it back on the air immediately by dropping some backup spares into the system. The power supply had blown a fuse. We removed the power supply for test/repair and also removed the RF PA just to make sure it hadn't shorted or gone spurious. We've determined the failure was not related to the new backup modifications to the supply. The supply and PA are both ready to carry back up to the mountain.

I've programmed up another UHF GE Phoenix link radio to put up on 146.94. Once we put up the voter system, it has it's own UHF link receiver so the Phoenix won't be used as a remote link receiver to Green Mountain anymore. We've programmed in some more frequencies of interest such as other UHF repeaters in the

area. It will still be used for the linking capability to 147.18.

If you have any questions or want to help out please feel free to send me an email anytime.

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

THE GIGGLE BOX
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER!!

Hi Guys and Gals, You will have to forgive the arrangement of the Giggle Box this month. I am going to try to wing it and attempt to put everything in it as I have in the past. I goofed and failed to put a copy of my article in my computer. I woke up a few days ago and realized that it must be the fall of the year. I am glad to see the pretty colors of the leaves, but when they fall off the trees, it is not so pretty. I am glad that winter only last a

few months for us. Oh, well, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year are during the winter months and that is not so-o-o bad. I just hate to wear the coats because they get in the way, but I hate to be cold. I guess we have to take the good with the bad. I am just thankful that we have coats to wear. Anyway, I hope everyone has a fantastic Halloween and Thanksgiving this month. CUL

A Joke or Two

GIT- ER- DUN

"Hello, is this the Sheriff's Office?"

"Yes. What can I do for you?"

"I'm calling to report 'bout my neighbor Virgil Smith....He's hidin' marijuana inside his firewood! Don't quite know how he gets it inside them logs, but he's hidin' it there."

"Thank you very much for the call, sir."
 The next day, the Sheriff's Deputies descend on Virgil's house. They search the

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, Melinda F. Alsobrook, KI4CIA,
 ki4cia@arrl.net
 Technical Coordinator, Tim Winger, KY5R,
 timky5r@direcway.com

shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they busted open every piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They sneer at Virgil and leave.

Shortly, the phone rings at Virgil's house. "Hey, Virgil! This here's Floyd...did the Sheriff come?"

"Yeah!"

"Did they chop your firewood?"

"Yep!"

"Happy Birthday, buddy!"

(Rednecks know how to git-R-dun)

The Muffler

A blonde got a dent in her car and took it in to the repair shop. The repairman, noticing that the woman was a blonde, decided to have a wee bit of fun. So he told her that all she had to do was take it home and blow in the tailpipe until the dent popped itself out. After 15 minutes of this, the blonde's blonde friend came over and asked what she was doing. "I'm trying to pop out this dent, but it's not really working." "Duh. You have to roll up the windows first!"

Handicap Golf

A guy about to tee off was approached by a man who held out a card that read, "I am a deaf mute. May I please play through?" The first man gave the card back, angrily shaking his head, and saying, "No, you CANNOT play through." He assumed the guy read lips so he mouthed, "I can't believe you would try to use your handicap to your own advantage like that!"

Shame on you!" The deaf man walked away and the first man whacked the ball onto the green and then walked off to finish the hole. Just as he was about to putt the ball into the hole he was hit in the head with a golf ball that knocked him out cold. When he came to a few minutes later, he looked around and saw the deaf mute sternly looking at him, one hand on his hip, the other hand holding up four fingers.

New Rules For Employment

SICKNESS AND RELATED

LEAVE:

We will no longer accept a doctor statement as proof of sickness. If you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

SURGERY:

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an employee here, you need all your organs. You should not consider removing anything. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of employment.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:

This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, Relatives or coworkers. Every effort should be made to have non-employees attend to the arrangements. In rare cases, where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch hour and subsequently leave

one hour early, provided your share of the work is done enough.

YOUR OWN DEATH:

This will be accepted as an excuse. However, we require at least two weeks notice as it is your duty to train your own replacement.

RESTROOM USE:

Entirely too much time is being spent in the restroom. In the future, we will follow the practice of going in alphabetical order. For instance, all employees whose names begin with "A" will go from 8:00 to 8:10, employees whose names begin with "B" will go from 8:10 to 8:20 and so on. If you're unable to go at your allotted time, it will be necessary to wait until the next day when your turn comes again. In extreme emergencies, employees may swap their time with a coworker. Both employees' supervisors in writing must approve this exchange. In addition, there is now a strict 3-minute time limit in the stalls. At the end of three minutes, an alarm will sound, the toilet paper roll will retract, and the stall door will open.

PAYCHECK GUIDE:

The following helpful guide has been prepared to help our employees better understand their paychecks: Item Amount Gross pay \$1,222.02 Income tax \$244.40 Outgo tax \$45.21 State tax \$11.61 Interstate tax \$61.10 County tax \$6.11 City tax \$12.22 Rural tax \$4.44 Back tax \$1.11 Front tax \$1.16 Side tax \$1.61 Up tax \$1.08 Down tax \$1.14 Tic-Tacs \$1.98 Thumbtacks \$3.93 Carpet tacks \$0.98 Stadium tax \$0.69 Flat tax \$8.32 Surtax \$2.23 Ma'am tax \$1.23

Corporate tax \$2.60 Parking fee \$5.00
 F.I.C.A. \$81.88 T.G.I.F. Fund \$9.95 Life
 insurance \$5.85 Health insurance \$16.23
 Dental insurance \$4.50 Mental insurance
 \$4.33 Disability \$2.50 Ability \$0.25 Lia-
 bility \$3.41 Coffee \$6.85 Coffee Cups
 \$66.51 Floor rental \$16.85 Chair rental
 \$0.32 Desk rental \$4.32 Union dues \$5.85
 Union don'ts \$3.77 Cash advance \$0.69
 Cash retreats \$121.35 Overtime \$1.26 Un-
 der-time \$54.83 Eastern time \$9.00 Cen-
 tral time \$8.00 Mountain time \$7.00
 Pacific time \$6.00 Time Out \$12.21 Oxy-
 gen \$10.02 Water \$16.54 Heat \$51.42
 Cool air \$26.83 Hot air \$20.00 Miscella-
 neous \$113.29 Various \$8.01 Sundry
 \$12.09 - Net Take Home Pay \$0.02

Thank you for your loyalty to our com-
 pany. We are here to provide a positive
 employment experience. Therefore, all
 questions, comments, concerns, com-
 plaints, frustrations, irritations, aggrava-
 tions, insinuations, allegations,
 accusations, contemplations,
 consternations, or input should be directed
 elsewhere.

Have a nice week.

The Management Thought for the
 Month of November (I ran across two
 thoughts this month. Whew, I am tired. I
 could not pass this one up.)

Life is a mixture of successes and fail-
 ures. May you be encouraged by your
 successes and strengthened by your fail-
 ures. As long as you never lose faith in
 God, you will be victorious over any situa-
 tion you face.

Peace Pilgrim - When a person finds
 themselves predisposed to complaining
 about how little they are regarded by oth-
 ers, let them reflect how little they have
 contributed to the happiness of others.

- Author Unknown

Hints for the Month of November

Shower Curtains

Put plastic shower curtain and liners
 into the washing machine to eliminate
 grime. Toss in a bath towel or two for

scrubbing action, along with the usual
 amount of detergent. Then place in the
 dryer for a couple of minutes or hang to
 dry. Heres hint from my mother: To stop
 mildew buildup, use pinking shears to cut
 off the bottom seam of a liner or a
 non-decorative plastic curtain, so the wa-
 ter drips off. - Heloise -

Sterling Silver

Sterling silver and stainless steel can be
 washed by hand or in the dishwasher. If
 you put them in the dishwasher, dont place
 the utensils in the same basket with stain-
 less steel because this could damage the
 sterling. If you put sterling or silver-plate
 (no hollow-handled knives) in the dish-
 washer, stop the machine before the dry-
 ing cycle and take them out to hand dry.
 For regular care, a good quality silver
 cream or polish will have excellent results.
 - Heloise

Puzzle for the Month of November
OT HPOC A ERTE IUCQLKY,
DPENS IWECT HET MITE
NNGIAERPSH UROY XA.

Chinese Proverb

CUL Peggy Bell, K4EGB (Giggles)

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Hard to believe that here we are putting
 together the November issue of the news-
 letter. Seems like only yesterday it was FD
 and hamfest time. I forgot to mention last
 month that the copy of the old Vox cover
 by Bill Owens, W4YXW, was provided
 by Marion Gibson, K4LHR (K4 Little Hot
 Rod). He has come up with a November
 cover and a December cover that you can
 look forward to for next month. The
 W4YXW covers used to be one of the
 things you looked forward to the next Vox
 for. Back then, the newsletter was printed
 using a mimeograph machine (Old
 Ink-Slinger) and Bill would draw his cov-
 ers directly on a mimeograph stencil.
 When I typed the text onto stencils, I
 found correction fluid to be an essential
 commodity. I don't know if Bill even had
 a bottle of the stuff -- at least it never
 showed up on his cover stencils.

It would surely improve the usefulness
 of the Vox to HARC's membership if we
 had an occasional article about what's go-
 ing on with the club -- where we stand,
 where we are going, what we'd like to ac-
 complish as a club. It certainly isn't that
 we don't have room for such material. It
 just doesn't appear in my inbox.

I'm still trying to recover from the HD
 failure a month or so ago. From the first
 Vox produced using Ventura Publisher, I
 used my favorite type font, Zapf Calli-
 graphic. It doesn't come free with Win-
 dows XP or anything else I have and I
 haven't found the distribution disk for it
 yet. I will have to fire up the backup com-
 puter in the back room and copy the font
 files from it to get it set up here. So, if the
 Vox looks different somehow this month,
 that's the reason. It's done with Times
 New Roman instead of Zapf Calligraphic.
 Probably noone but me would even notice,
 but I just like that type face.

If you are a HARC member and you get
 this month's Vox by postal mail, it is be-
 cause either we don't have an email ad-
 dress for you, we know you don't have an
 email address, we know you have prob-
 lems receiving the Vox by internet, or the
 address we have for you has proven faulty.
 If you do have a good email address and
 can receive the Vox via internet, please
 send me your correct email address at
 "femens@hiwaay.net". Every member
 who we can add to the internet distribution
 list saves us \$7.15 per year. -- the cost of
 printing and mailing 11 issues.

Those members who can receive the
 Vox by internet will receive an email in-
 forming them that the new issue is avail-
 able at
 "http://www.hamfest.org/newvox.pdf". On
 going to that URL, they will find a PDF
 copy of the current newsletter available
 for downloading.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

Time to Count Our Blessings!



HAVE
A
HAPPY

Thanksgiving too!