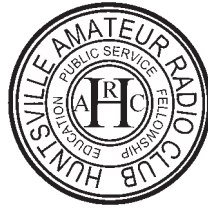


VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 48, Number 11

November, 2008

The Prez Sez

Temperatures in the 40's and 50's, a cool fall season is starting up and Halloween is upon us: exciting times.

Exciting also because the club passed a resolution to fund an earlier resolution to incorporate the club. Further evidence the club can do without me. (Just kidding to counter act you all in the club, who threaten I'm elected for life, however long that maybe. Halloween is here after all. Can you imagine a ghostly Prez, see picture).



K4RGG On Halloween

So it's time to get together hammer out the final version of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. We have had several commission meetings, polishing up the BARC bylaws and we just got to get down and finish it.

We had some busy weeks with several public service events, 100 mile bike ride, car races and just finished the Simulated Emergency Test. Thank You all for making this happen and helping the cause. Coming up soon is the Rocket City Marathon.

Ham Radio is great during emergencies, but what do you do if the power goes out. Al W6GBG gave a great presentation about all the do's and don'ts and in's and out's of using generators and how to keep them running, safe and quietly. Go to QRZ.com and look up his call sign and read how a 4 man ends up with a 6 callsign. Thanks Allan!

Set was postponed and went well and as always valuable lesson were learned. See the Ares update later on.

Before we know it Thanksgiving and Christmas are here!

Be well, do good work and stay in touch,

73 de K4RGG Rolf Goedhart Your Prez

SKYWARN

I am your SKYWARN coordinator for Northern Alabama and Southern-middle Tennessee. One of the reasons that hams become inactive is simply due to lack of opportunities to serve. It takes real effort to get a license, then get a working ham shack, then check into a few nets, then - then what? Well, once a year, ARES has a Simulated Emergency Test (SET), and once a year is ARRL Field Day - both fine exercises, for sure. Then what? Ah well, that's up to you! Some hams get into the sublime pleasure of working big pile-ups during "contests", and some hams "work DX", meaning reaching across the planet with their rig, trying to establish a contact with an elusive radio signal from far, far away. Then what? Well, there's other fun to be had, you just have to dig for it.

I managed to dig up an opportunity a few years ago, and it still pays dividends today. I'm talking about Army MARS. MARS stands for Military Associate Radio System, and it

is run by the military, and used at their pleasure. There is also an Air Force MARS and a Navy/Marine Corps MARS, since each branch of the service had historical reasons to send messages in their own unique way, and operators were trained slightly differently. MARS is in a state of change, and over the last few years has just about completely re-invented itself. It started out as a way for service personnel to stay in touch with their loved ones via radio (especially phone patch), and a lot of older hams and veterans recall using MARS to send messages to and from home. But lately, modern communications technology gives battlefield soldiers very good communications capabilities - in fact much better than MARS can offer. So MARS leaders made some choices - either fold up the tent or change. And change they did! The leader of this great organization, Mr. Stuart Carter just isn't the kind of guy to fold up a tent and slink home. MARS is now a vital part of emergency communications in the U.S. MARS operators have been getting assignments starting with Hurricane Katrina and Rita, and continuing until today (Hurricane Ike comes to mind).

Working as a radio operator for the U.S. Army doesn't mean you have to shave your head and do push-ups! But you are trained well, and held to a high standard. During emergencies, you have a real chance of helping your neighbors - locally and remotely. Being part of a MARS net is a thrill if you want to keep your skills sharp. Being part of an Emergency Response Team and traveling with the National Guard to a disaster area is more thrill than you might want, but hams are

(Text continued on page 3)

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG
K4RGG@arrl.net

Vice President:

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeigler@aol.com

Secretary:

Doshia Wilson, KI4VFU
wilson.00.doshia@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Heath Thorson, KC4HRX, 325-2507
hthorson@knology.net

The club's address is Box 423, Huntsville, Ala. 35804. Meetings are held each Friday night at 7:30 P.M. at the American Red Cross Building, 1101 Washington Street. Dues are \$12.00 per year, family memberships are \$15.00 per year. The club maintains a Web Site at "http://www.harc.net", and a discussion forum at

"http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/harc-al"

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. They have a web site at "http://www.qsl.net/nara"

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 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.

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 1
Saturday, December 6
For information contact:

Larry Frost, KR4GU, 864-3244
kr4gu@hamfest.org
Or
Rick Earl, AA4II, 256-653-0101
aa4ii@bellsouth.net

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

For information contact Dean Thompson, WW0I, 256-230-0270 or Rick Earl, AA4II (see above)

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR November, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	5 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	6 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	7 HARC Meeting	1 TWIAR* CAVEC Exams, 0900, Red Cross Bldg 8 TWIAR*
9	10	11 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	12 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	13 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	14 HARC Meeting	15 TWIAR*
16	17	18 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	19 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	20 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	21 HARC Meeting	22 TWIAR* Athens Exams, 1300 at Athens EOC
23	24	25 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	26 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	27 Thanksgiving Day EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	28 HARC Meeting	29 TWIAR*
30	1	2 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	3 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	4 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	5 HARC Meeting HARC Christmas Shindig???	6 TWIAR* CAVEC Exams, 0900, 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

GigaParts
www.gigaparts.com

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NEW LOCATION!

Map showing location at the intersection of University Dr. - Hwy 72 and Research Park Blvd. Nearby landmarks include Back Yard Burgers, Providence, and Target.

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working shoulder-to-shoulder with trained emergency professionals all over the U.S. MARS has established relationships with FEMA, and we're expected to take the basic FEMA independent study courses (IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800). MARS operators also take a home-course in radio rules and procedures (called Standard Operating Procedures or SOP). MARS operators even get their own personal trainer to make sure that they succeed. Not every ham likes the formality of MARS - you actually can't say "ROGER ROGER", you must say "AFFIRMATIVE", for example. But if you go through the training and participate in some exercises and some actual incidents, you'll be hooked. Mostly, I find that it keeps me interested in ham radio to be able to volunteer and do some good. Some of you are looking for an opportunity, and here it is, knocking on your door! Imagine working closely with real military

folks, using military frequencies and military procedures, and being a vital part of a communications system where you actually make a difference - are you hooked yet? Like I said - hams get bored after talking on the 2-meter repeater for a couple of years; it's like same-old, same-old. But as a MARS operator, you can get the juices flowing again and use your ham license for real good during real emergencies.

Dan Miller, Bill Adams, Ron Shaffer, John Trickey and other friends are local ham operators who are also MARS operators. You can say hi-y'all to them at the local HARC meeting on Friday nights. Ask them why they're MARS operators, and you'll get different answers, but you'll get the idea. Now here's the rest of the story - there are thousands of MARS operators out there, and they actually are called upon during emergencies, because they're skilled, trained professionals. Is that what you'd like to be? We

can help! Lately we've been very active on Redstone Arsenal. Bill is in a high-level position at Fox Army Health Center (FAHC), and he is in charge of the Army MARS station there - and he has quite a nice setup. We're making it even better, and getting it hardened, and prepared for the next big one. What's that you say? There aren't any "big ones" coming? Seems like SEVERE WEATHER is always coming, it's just a matter of which day it will arrive. Also, a flu pandemic is possible. And the New Madrid fault could send shock waves into the Tennessee Valley and cause lots of problems. We've even worked with Tennessee EMA during practice and actual emergencies.

If you're ready to join up, and re-discover the thrill of ham radio and helping your brother in a time of crisis, then MARS may be the way forward. We also work with Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and we've demonstrated our

capabilities to them. Are you a new ham who wants to find out what it's all about? Our youngest member is 18. Are you an old timer who has worked all states, and all counties and all over the universe? Our oldest member is 91. Are you a woman who wants to show your stuff? Several states have women MARS Directors. Are you physically challenged? The Tennessee State MARS Director is blind. Are you looking for a place to find the latest digital modes, including WINLINK, PSK-31, MT-63, OLIVIA, etc.? Want to challenge and stretch yourself? Want to help your neighbor during the next real emergency? Emergency professionals all across the U.S. call on MARS operators first, because they know that the message will absolutely get through - accurate, complete and timely. By the way, we don't crave emergencies - we love to be prepared to help our fellow citizens out when they need it most. You won't have to deploy to a destroyed area to be useful, you just have to turn on your radio, tune to the right frequency and you'll probably hear "THIS IS ALPHA ALPHA VICTOR FOUR YANKEE PAPA, OVER." Interested? When the next twister rips across the area, I hope you're a trained Army MARS operator!

*73, Doug Hilton,
WD0UG / AAV4YP
SKYWARN Coordinator,
Northern AL / Southern-middle TN*

Ares / Races Update.

It finally happened: we got our Red Cross Training. All three and half hours of it. But it was time well spent. We were impressed with all the material presented in such a short time and Shirley and Charlotte from the Red Cross were impressed with the quality of participants in our Ares/Races group. Thank you Woodie, K8GNM for all coordination work. We had about 20 participants in the training and you may expect your volunteer card in the mail soon.

SET

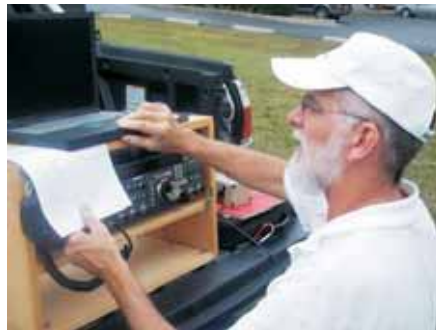
We did our Simulated Emergency Test, thanks Les, N1LF, our new ARES AL Section Emergency Coordinator for spearheading the event. Thank you Chuck N4NM for the excellent, real life scenario. The only hard part was imagining the flooding under clear blue and sunny skies. We had to postpone a week because some key people were missing, but the suffered from the same condition. But we had a good exercise; the net was operated by Charlie W1CST. We started with a real emergency. The repeater was - not planned- non functional and we migrated successfully to 147.180. Downtown was partly blocked (for real!) and we made that part of the exercise. Operators were sent to different locations, which in the past have been prone to flooding and gave us "real life" reports at

1. Indian creek at Farrow road Coe K4COE;

2. Aldridge creek at Sherwood drive Tom KI4VFFV,
3. Flint river at Brownsboro road Tim, KK5H;
4. Flint river at Old big cove road in Owens crossroad Doshia/ Andy KI4VFFY/ KG4PAE
5. Beaver dam creek at US 231 north of Bob Wade lane Mark N4BCD.

Contact was made with law enforcement in Owens Cross Roads (thanks Scott W4SSW), A simulated shelter was opened and evacuations started. The EMA was staffed (thanks Chris, K4MMF) and the EOC's event logging software was fired up. Travis, KE3Y had set up his VHF winlink station and together with undersigned tried to keep it up as traffic was being passed. The Radio room needs a bit of work and more desk space created if we are to operate with multiple people in there. New for us was to have the exercise being logged "live" for operators and public on www.hmcraces.org. Alan, WB5RMG did a great job creating it and keeping it up to date during the exercise. This is especially important for long events when multiple net control stations need to pass control with out losing all valuable information gathered.

Chuck, N4NM manned the HF station and passed some traffic. It was a good exercise and a lot of things were learned. We got our HF Winlink modem working but were unable to get out on HF. Fell back to



Alan, WB5RMG



Rolf, Radio Host



Chuck, N4NM



EMA Website

ftp messages. John K4JCH tried to pass APRS traffic to the State EC but did not get confirmation back. Additional traffic was passed by Doug, N4CZ, Dan KI4PMW. All in all, a lot of things learned and time well spent. See some of the after actions reports on www.hmcraces.org like the one from Mark N4BCD.

Our district 6 EC Thom came by the EOC at the end of the exercise and ranked ours in the top. Have you visited his new website at www.AlabamaAres.org yet?

Mike, X4AL compiles an Alabama ARES newsletter every month. I'll start posting it on our website from now on, so you know what's going on in the state.

Our next meeting will be on November 13 at 6 o'clock on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Huntsville Madison County Emergency Management Agency at their Operations Center at Fountain Circle in Huntsville. There will be pizza as usual. More information go to www.hmcraces.org

73 de K4RGG
k4rgg@arrl dot net

Rolf Goedhart Emergency Coordinator
Madison County

THE GIGGLE BOX

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GUYS AND GALS THAT HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER!!

Notes from Giggles:

As I pick stories to put in my article, I have run across some real gems in the past, but they weren't really VOX worthy because they are too suggestive in the wrong way. I am bad about procrastinating when it comes to writing my article and I try to read it over before sending it to the editor. Sometimes I goof and put something in that is a little questionable. I hope my stories put a smile on your face.

Last week, Steve and I went to the Smoky Mountains for our vacation and had a wonderful time. It rained on Wednesday, but we still enjoyed driving through the mountains. We watched the beautiful leaves turning while we were there. I've never

seen the leaves change so fast. When we got back to Huntsville, the leaves weren't changing, but it won't be long.

While we were there, I looked for bears, but I didn't see any, except on postcards. We did see a raccoon run across the road in front of us. There were a few Indians in their own attire, but I don't think they were full blooded. A few years ago, I went to the Smokies for the first time, with Ed, WA4KMA/SK and his wife, Marg Berisford. I remember looking for Indians and bears, but never saw any. We did make some wonderful memories with Ed and Marg. You never know what you will say or do that you or someone else will remember in the future, so make good memories.

Better go. CUL

A Story or Two:

HUMOR FOR LEXOPHILES (LOVERS OF WORDS):

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Police were called to a day care where three-yr-old were resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

The dead batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist & a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your count that votes.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you a flat miner.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulted in linoleum blown apart.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

(Hey, someone took a lot of time thinking up some of these.)

Listen, Grace says:

Barb's granddaughter is in kindergarten. There was a boy in her class that wasn't listening to the teacher. The teacher said to him, "Since you don't want to listen, you sit at that table by yourself."

After a few minutes, Barb's grand-daughter raised her hand and said, "I don't want to listen either. Can I sit with him?" - from Heart Warmers

Bubba Names the Twins Bubba's sister is pregnant and is in a bad car accident, which caused her to fall into a deep coma. After nearly six months, she awakens and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins — a boy and a girl. The babies are fine. Your brother came in and named them."

The woman thinks to herself, "Oh, no! Not Bubba; he's an idiot!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?"

"Denise," the doctor answers.

The new mother thinks, "Wow! That's a beautiful name! I guess I was wrong about my brother. I really like the name Denise." Then she asks the doctor, "What's the boy's name?"

The doctor replies, "Denephew."

The Banana Test

There is a very, very tall coconut tree and there are 4 animals, a lion, a chimpanzee, a giraffe, and a squirrel, which pass by. They decide to compete to see who is the fastest to get a banana off the tree. Who do you think will win? Your answer will reflect your personality. So think carefully . . . Try and answer within 30 seconds. Got your answer? Now read further. If you picked: Lion - you're dull. Chimpanzee - you're a moron. Giraffe - you're a complete idiot. Squirrel - you're just hopelessly stupid. A Coconut tree doesn't have Bananas!!!! Obviously you're stressed and overworked. You should take some time off and relax! Have a great day!

Wife: 'What are you doing?'

Husband: Nothing.

Wife: 'Nothing...? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour.'

Husband: 'I was looking for the expiration date.'

Wife: 'Do you want dinner?'

Husband: 'Sure! What are my choices?'

Wife: 'Yes and no.'

Wife: 'You always carry my photo in your wallet. Why?'

Hubby: 'When there is a problem, no matter how impossible, I look at your picture and the problem disappears.'

Wife: 'You see how miraculous and powerful I am for you?'

'Hubby: 'Yes! I see your picture and ask myself what other problem can there be greater than this one?'

Stress Reliever

Girl: 'When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden.'

'Boy: 'It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles.'

Girl: 'Well that's because we aren't married yet.'

Son: 'Mom, when I was on the bus with Dad this morning, he told me to give up my seat to a lady.'

Mom: 'Well, you have done the right thing.'

Son: 'But mom, I was sitting on daddy's lap.'

A newly married man asked his wife, 'Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?'

'Honey,' the woman replied sweetly, 'I'd have married you, NO MATTER WHO LEFT YOU A FORTUNE!'

Father to son after exam: 'Let me see your report card.'

Son: 'My friend just borrowed it. He wants to scare his parents.'

Girl to her boyfriend: "One kiss and I'll be yours forever."

The guy replies: 'Thanks for the early warning.'

The Thought for the month of November:

Self-pity is our worst enemy and if we yield to it, we can never do anything wise in this world.

Helen Keller

The Puzzle for the month of November:

TI SI TON HET RDACS OUY
REA DALTE TUB HWAT OUY OD
ITHW EMHT TTHA ONUTSC.

Anonymous

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Weather is beginning to cool down a bit, but it is still not down where we turn on the heat - though it may feel good before this weekend is over..Everything is still green outside, though it begins to look like it may be thinking about changing. Before we know it we'll be going into the season where things can get more interesting on the lower HF bands. Forty and eighty meter CW can get quite interesting on those long, quiet winter nights.

Peggy & Steve's visit to the Smokies arouses memories. I remember once when I was in about the fifth grade, going up there with my aunt & uncle and setting up to eat lunch on a picnic table in the park. Along came a bear who was extremely interested in a box of doughnuts that we had on the table. We retired to a safe distance and let the bear do his thing -- which amounted to sampling a doughnut or two, then hauling the box and it's remaining doughnuts off somewhere. We resumed lunch sans dessert.

Keep up with the activities that the Huntsville mobile folks are providing support for -- don't forget

the Marathon coming up in a month or so.

We should be announcing plans for the HARC Christmas party before long. Stay on the watch for information about that.

Was good to see Mike Sabin, who was an active member of HARC as KA4UZJ about the time he finished high school. He presented an interesting program about running a SW broadcast station on Guam.

Received the following story from Ron Marshall, KD4HN. Some days lately I seem to feel that it could be a true story.

Two elderly hams had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures on the ham bands.

Lately, their activities have been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me.....I know we've been friends for a long time.....but I just can't think of your name and your call.! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember them. Please tell me what they are."

His friend glared at him. For at least three minutes he just stared and glared at the gray haired old man.. Finally he said, "How soon do you need to know?"

Guess I'd better start thinking about addresses for the HARC/NARA (or is it NARA/HARC ?) joint membership mailing. It won't be too long now.

73. Frank Emens, W4HFU