

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 44, Number 9

October, 2004

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeiglerjr@aol.com

Vice President:

John C. Hilliard, K4JCH
k4jch@aol.com

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.

"Vox", Vol 44, Nr 9, October, 2004
A Newsletter published monthly except for August by the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 423, Huntsville, AL 35804

Rocket City Marathon

The 28th annual Rocket City Marathon will be held in Huntsville on December 11, 2004, commencing at 8am. This is our premier public service event. We need ham operators to assist in the race communications. Contact Chris Reed, kf4mmf@arrl.net.

73, Leigh Bartlow WD4CPF

A Good Lesson Learned

Greetings all! I started to call this piece "A Tragic Mistake" but thought it was a bit over the top. The lesson I learned was to *never* make assumptions based on incomplete or flawed input. My Dad has tried to drum that into my head for 40+ years now and I never really got it. Until now. Last Saturday I was enjoying the usual weekend routine of sleeping late and slowly creeping out of bed at 10am, shuffling into the kitchen to get some caffeine going. Then that horrible blinding trip out to the street to fetch the paper. Ahhhh! Coffee is perfect and the reading is easy. A little smooth jazz on internet radio. Perfect!

And then the doorbell rings. I know the routine here... Saturday morning is when all the kids are out there trying to raise money for their underfunded schools or the religious/political nuts trying to raise membership for their overfunded causes. Whatever. It had happened once too many times and I had enough at that point. So I did the only logical thing. I jumped out of my chair cursing under my breath, turned down the radio, and peeked out the window without my glasses. I saw a blurry image of a young girl holding something. "Go away" was my only thought as I retreated back into my fat-boy recliner. The doorbell rang a few more times but I ignored it. Then a couple of loud knocks on the door. I remember thinking...."wow, she sure is persistent". Then blessed silence as I got

back into my comfortable routine. For about five minutes. Then my good neighbor Bill across the street called me on the phone and wondered if I was awake now. "Uh yeah, what's up?" Then the facts came out and I felt really bad. Turns out, he and his wife had some relatives over and his wife Mary had cooked up too much of her special breakfast (cheeseburger pie, biscuits/gravy, and blueberry muffins). They had sent one of their grandkids over with a huge plate of extras for me...enough for two meals! Well, Bill came over a couple of minutes later with the goodies and I couldn't have apologized enough for my gross misjudgment and even had to go over there and apologize in person later.

Yeah, it was a painful lesson but probably necessary. And lessons are great if you can learn from them....

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, October 2
Saturday, November 6*

For information contact:

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

Or

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

Exam Sessions are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00. In even numbered months they are held at the Athens EOC. In odd numbered months they are held in Madison at Intergraph, Building 15

For information contact Bob Hudson, W4RKH, 461-7905

"learn from others' mistakes, you'll never live long enough to make them all yourself". So the lesson I learned was to put on my stupid glasses and open the door. Once you have ALL the facts, there's still plenty of time to slam the door shut. And if only one person besides me can learn from this, then it was worth the time to type. You have Paul WB4UEE to thank for this article. I didn't want to mention it to anyone but he suggested the article. So I invested a few minutes of keyboard-mangling in hopes to convince the poor boy to upgrade from the 14.4 dialup connection. No luck yet. But I still have a 300 baud modem and copy of DOS 3.3 available for anyone that feels the need to make bad judgments, ha ha.

73 Chris WB4UFQ

A Little HARC History -- The Gavel

It seems we have two gavels used by presidors at HARC meetings. The one I saw Woodie with a few weeks ago reminded me of a bit of HARC history that'll probably be totally forgotten if I don't pass it on here.

It was the year I was President of HARC -- we were still in the old Naval Reserve Building and it was, I think, in the mid '60s. I was commenting in a bull session at work one day about the problems maintaining order among a bunch of rowdy hams (they weren't all that rowdy, but multiple conversations would break out and the noise would get pretty bad. That still happens, I'm afraid.) One of the fellows I shared an

office with, Gabe Wallace, took note of that comment. The next weekend he went home to visit his folks in Kentucky and, while there, went into his dad's woodworking shop, fired up the lathe and created a nice gavel. He provided a square pounding surface in matching wood with a felt liner on the bottom. If I remember correctly, the year is stamped on there somewhere, along with the notation "HAMS" on one face of the gavel and "NUTS" on the other -- indicating that the system could be used for getting into hickory nuts as well as getting the attention of hams.

The following Monday he presented the gavel to me with the hope it would help in maintaining discipline at HARC meetings. Gabe now goes by the name

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR October, 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	29 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	30 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
3	4	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting	9 *TWIAR >Augusta Hamfest & Computer Show, Ev- ans, GA >Nashville ARC, Smyrna, TN
10	11	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 HARC Meeting VOX & Social Night	16 *TWIAR >NW GA ARC, Rome, GA >Oak Ridge ARC, Oak Ridge, TN
17	18	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 HARC Meeting Program: APRS Tim., N8DEU	23 *TWIAR >Chattanooga, ARC, Chattanooga, TN >Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society, Clarksville, TN
24	25	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	29 HARC Meeting Fifth Friday - Auction Night	30 *TWIAR >Kingsport & Bays Mountain ARC, Kingsport, TN
31 DST ends at 0200. Fall back	1	2 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 CAVEC Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900

*TWIAR -- This Week In Amateur Radio, +442.775 PL203.5 Hz 8 PM Every Saturday
 ATV Net @ 20:00, Check in on 145.33, Tuesdays
 Southeast Linked Repeater Net on +442.775, PL 203.5 Hz @ 20:00, Wednesdays
 Madison County Emergency Net on 34/94 @19:30, Thursdays
 SkyWarn Net on 147.24 @ 20:00, Thursdays

GigaParts
www.gigaparts.com

Huntsville's Only Amateur Radio Store

Visit our new web page for updated pricing!

ICOM hy-gain KENWOOD DIAMOND ANTENNA

YAESU Choice of the World by ARRL

RF PARTS COMPANY ALINCO MFJ WEIL sound

Lowest prices, best service!

4925 University Drive # 140 (256) 535-4442
The Gallery Shopping Center 10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!

Dr. Gabriel R. Wallace, now retired after spending some time in lofty positions at MSFC.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

October Hamfests:

Frank: I'm really glad you postponed the VOX for a week. I waited to the last minute, as usual, and my cable got knocked out by the storm. I didn't have internet or TV. If it wasn't for computer games, I'd be left with nothing to do but read a book. Heaven forbid.

October 9, 2004 Augusta Hamfest and Computer Show, Evans, Georgia. Contact Henry Arostegui, KN4AV at 706-793-1625 or kn4av@bellsouth.net.

October 9, 2004. Nashville ARC, Smyrna, Tennessee. Contact Murray Jones, K4ANH at 615-824-7216 or mj80917@aol.com.

October 16, 2004. Northwest Georgia ARC, Rome, Georgia. Contact Jim Couch, N4SJ at 706-232-9062 or couch@daviscore.com.

October 16, 1004. Oak Ridge ARC, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Contact Tom Muncy, AG4SF at 865-482-4123 or muncytn@msn.com. Hours are 8 to 3 PM at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Building located at 1650 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Admission is \$5.00, parking is free.

October 23, 2004. Chattanooga ARC, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Contact Louise Carter, KE4DGW at 423-821-4043 or mtmagnolia@msn.com. See <http://www.hamfestchattanooga.com>. Hours are 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. The location is Camp Jordan Arena. Admission is \$5.00. Talk-in frequencies are 146.790-, 444.100+ and 224.780-.

October 23, 2004., Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society, Clarksville, Tennessee. Contact Art Varga, WA9LXT at 931-553-0799 or wa9lxt@arrl.net. See <http://qsl.net/kf4l>. Hamfest site is Wilma Rudolph Pavilion at the Clarksville Fairgrounds. hours are 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Admission is

\$5.00. Talk-in frequency is 147.39+ with a 167.9 Hz PL.

October 30, 2004. Kingsport and Bays Mountain ARCs, Kingsport, Tennessee. Contact Paul Marcum, AC4QZ at 423-230-0532 or marcump@preferred.com. See <http://w4trc.tripod.com>. Hours are from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at the TFR Employee Center.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

From The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN OCTOBER!!

A note from Giggles: I was so glad that it was decided that the VOX would be postponed a week. Personally, I wasn't in the right frame of mind to do an article anyway. I was concerned about Ivan and didn't know what the hurricane was going to do. I am glad that the weather turned out to be better than everyone thought. I'm sorry for all the people that Ivan affected and it is my prayer that they get the help that they

*Get Healthy Stay Healthy
We Can Help!*



As Natural As Sunshine

4155 Sullivan Street in Madison

Next to the Railroad Tracks

(256) 325-1792

Mon. - Fri. 9:30 - 6:00

Sat. 10 - 5

*Not valid on food items or in combination with any other discounts and offer is subject to change without notice.
Proprietor - Alicia Hilliard K4ADH

10% OFF

Bring This Ad or Your
Amateur Radio License
to receive your special
Discount.*

Plus on the 3rd Friday Monthly
20% OFF*

Herbs • Vitamins • Liquid Nutrients
Full Line of *Garden of Life* Products
Bath and Beauty • Gluten-Free
and other special Foods
Excellent Therapeutic Grade
Essential Oils

need. Rob Lock, KG4PLK did a fantastic job in taking check-ins and damage reports last Thursday. He really needs an "Atta, Boy" and a pat on the back. I'm glad to see some of the younger members of the club taking charge of things and running with it. ROB, THANK YOU!!! I can't believe that Summer will be over in a few days. School has been in session for over a month now and we have already had to take our weather day. I just hope that we will have one more mild Winter. Cross your fingers. I have noticed that there is a lot of chatter going on while the meeting is in progress. I have found that it is hard to concentrate on what is being said at the meeting. A lot of us usually go out for a meeting after the meeting and we should use that time to catch up. Just think about it, we talk to each other on the RADIO while going through our daily activities through the week. We can't spend 15 to 45 minutes paying attention to the speaker? Aren't we suppose to be courteous. If it is that important, there is the lobby at the Red Cross. I also have been guilty of chatter-

ing during the meeting and I hope that someone tells me to shush if I get too loud. That way, I'll know that you read your VOX this month. We think we are talking low enough where the speaker won't be disturbed, but what about the people around us. I have been told that I am not very diplomatic, well, I'm sorry, but if the shoe fits.... We don't want to run anyone off because we are so rude. We have a fantastic club that helps out where there is a need and we need to keep it that way. On a lighter note, I hope all grandparents got a hug or phone call on Grandparents' Day, September 12th. I did. CUL

**A Joke or Two
The Dead Duck**

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she lay her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, your pet has passed away."

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm sure. The duck is dead," he replied.

"How can you be so sure," she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few moments later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog and took it out and returned a few moments later with a beautiful cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed the bird from its beak to its tail and back again. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly, jumped down and strolled out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." Then the vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, and produced

a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill.

"\$150!" she cried. "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead?!!!"

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$2. But what with Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it all adds up."

OIL SHORTAGE IN AMERICA

An oil shortage here in America. There are a lot of folks who can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in America. Well, there's a very simple answer. Nobody bothered to check the oil. We just didn't know we were getting low. The reason for that is purely geographical. All our oil is in Alaska, Texas, California, and Oklahoma. All our dipsticks are in Washington, DC.

A College Student

A college student challenged a senior citizen, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his. "You grew up in a different world," the student said. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers..." Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, the geezer said, "You're right. We didn't have those things when we were young; so we invented them! What are you doing for the next generation??"

30 Years 30 Years difference

1974: Long hair
2004: Longing for hair

1974: KEG
2004: EKG

1974: Acid rock
2004: Acid reflux

1974: Moving to California because it's cool
2004: Moving to California because it's warm

1974: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor
2004: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

1974: Seeds and stems
2004: Roughage

1974 Hoping for a BMW
2004: Hoping for a BM

1974: The Grateful Dead
2004: Dr. Kevorkian

1974: Going to a new, hip joint
2004: Receiving a new hip joint

1974: Rolling Stones
2004: Kidney Stones

1974: Being called into to the principal's office
2004: Calling the principal's office

1974: Screw the system
2004 Upgrade the system

1974: Disco
2004: Costco

1974: Parents begging you to get your hair cut
2004: Children begging you to get their heads shaved

1974: Passing the drivers' test
2004: Passing the vision test

1974: Whatever
2004: Depends
thought you grandparents would enjoy this. I can't believe it but I can relate to SOME of these. Thanks to the one that sent it to me.

Did You Know:

States with the highest percentage of senior citizens are: FLORIDA, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

The Reminder for the Month of October Happy Halloween

Solve the puzzle: STNERAPDNARG SYAWLA EVAH EMIT

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

From The Editor's Wastebasket

I apologize somewhat for the mixup on the Vox Night schedule. I realized last Tuesday that it was Vox Week and I had not sent my usual reminder to all the usual suspects. I sent a lete reminder, then started listening to all the possibilities as to what Ol' Ivan might do

in the Huntsville area and decided it was best to put it off a week. I figured this 'puter doesn't work well with the power off and neither did anybody elses. John, KC4ZXX can vouch for that. Besides, it appeared a lot of the usual suspects might be busy getting ready for whatever might happen. Anyway, here is the Vox, one week late. I might remind everybody right now that, since October 1 is a Friday, the October Vox night will come up much quicker than we might expect. Be ready for it!

I missed mentioning it in last month's Vox, but Tom Pryor, K4KM passed away recently. Here is the note I got from Gene Finch about Tom:

"Hello Frank, Just to mention that I sent into the ARRL a Silent Key listing for Tom Pryor. Tom was a real gentleman and well respected in the community. I attended his funeral service at the First Baptist Church and was impressed with the beautiful ceremony the church put on for him. It was a tribute to his long time participation in church affairs. As you may know he was very much responsible for the 'Living Christmas Tree' that is such a popular item each Christmas season. He did all the wiring layout as I understand it. He graduated from Georgia Tech back in 1936."

I suppose everything is about to get back into the Fall/Winter groove since it's October (or will be soon) I hope you all have the material ready to do your antenna refurbishments as soon as the weather turns cold and nasty. Remember Frank's rule, the signal strength radiated by your antenna increases by one DB for every 5 degrees it is below freezing when the antenna is installed,

You may have noticed the nice open layout of this month's Vox. That's because the material available didn't fill up the space available. This publishing program has a nice feature. If I'm running short, I can increase the spacing between lines to make things fit. If I'm running long, I can squinch up the line spacing to fit more in. This month it's running short.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

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

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

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