



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.9, Oct, 2005

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

Amateur Radio Assistance For Katrina Aftermath

I can't begin to tell you how awesome your response to Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath has been. The Tactical and Formal traffic handling as well as the overall professionalism, has truly been impressive.

Those of you that have packed up and gone to the needed sites to operate in dismal conditions deserve all of our gratitude. You have made our state proud, and me too.

For those who went but were turned around because of mis-communication, please accept my sincere apologies. With a half million people homeless, and hundreds of thousands without power, water and basic services, all of us in Emergency Services were simply overwhelmed. We're trying to get it right, and using the experience to make sure of a good plan should this magnitude of event ever happen again.

This is what we have learned:

The 800mhz and other trunked systems commonly used by local and state agencies, were the first to go in the hard hit areas. In many cases, we found Police and Fire units were dispatching from a car or HT. Even after two weeks, we still have hams handling All of the EOC and Public Service communications in a number of counties and Parishes on the coast. This is really hot gristly work. Many of the hams were able to repair the commercial antenna systems and bring some public services back online. Cell phones were out initially, but began to come up after a week, but many areas are still overloaded or spotty.

The most valuable asset by far has been the totally self contained ham or team who went in with radios, generators, antennas, food, water, and sleeping bags. This is what everyone onsite began to ask for, and what we are running short of. Keep this in mind for a club or group project in the future.

ARRL has set up a Clearing House for needed hams at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/agen cies/>.

Also Greg W4OZK has been working as Amateur Radio liaison at the American Red Cross Disaster Operation Center that has been set up in Montgomery. You can contact him at DR871-06RTT-RCO3@usa.redcross.org for placement.

We are still looking at at least 60 days of operations that will require our assistance. Anything that you or your clubs can do will mean a great deal to those folks who still can't communicate with the needed agencies.

73, and God Bless, Jay Isbell KA4KUN
ARRL Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator

ARES - ARES Mutual Assistance Team -
ARES Rapid Response Team - "It's Not Just A Hobby Anymore"

ARES Support to Red Cross Shelters after Hurricane Katrina

As many of you know, the call for help came out from Alabama Section manager Greg Sarratt and Section EC

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 1
Saturday, November 5

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

Jay Isbell to staff Red Cross shelters across the Mississippi gulf coast with communications. I decided to go on Sunday and left Monday morning with Jim Spikes N4KH. We processed in with Greg and his team in Montgomery and headed to Moss Point near Pascagoula After finding that several shelters had been closed during or just after the storm itself due to flooding, we ended up at East Central High School near Hurley MS in the North East part of Jackson Co. MS. There was a local ham there (Steve KD5RIW) with a radio set up who's home in Pascagoula had been flooded with 5 feet of water. With WA2EIU also there to help Steve, we

helped them improve their station and then after looking at the map and talking with Jackson Co EC (Darrel: KD5CQT) we headed for VanCleave H.S. Shelter which was in the center of Jackson Co. The shelter manager (Becky Brown) was glad to see us and we were able to set up a good VHF and HF station there.

Most of the repeaters in South MS did not survive the hurricane. The only machine which was working well was the 146.73 machine in Gulfport. It was constant key down from sunup to mid-night with ECOM traffic. We also got the 146.88 machine going in Gulfport

while we were there. I was only part of hooking the right folks together to assist. The 145.11 machine which served Jackson Co from VanCleave was still on the air but un-usable due to antenna damage. From our central location, we were able to relay VHF traffic between Pascagoula, Hurley and the Red Cross operation center in Ocean Springs. We handled emergency traffic and shelter logistics needs as well as health and welfare. I have lots of stories to tell but there is not room here. Yes, damage further west on the gulf coast was much worse but these folks in the Pascagoula area were hard hit as well and there is not much press there. Please keep them

**HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR
October, 2005**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	28 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	29 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	30 HARC Meeting	1 TWIAR CAVEC Exams RC Building 0900 6th Annual Ten-Tec Hamfest, Sevierville, TN
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 Armor Making, Jake Polatty	8 TWIAR ARC of Augusta, Augusta, GA
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 Wi Fi Networking	15 TWIAR Al Brock Memorial Hamfest, Rome, Ga Oak Ridge ARC, Oak Rifge, TN.
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 Vox & Social Night	22 TWIAR Clarksville ATS, Clarksville, TN Hamfest Chattanooga
23	24	25 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	26 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	27 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	28 HARC Meeting Scary Radio Stories	29 TWIAR
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 Exams RC Building 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!

Lowest prices, best service!

4925 University Drive # 140
The Gallery Shopping Center

(256) 535-4442
10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!

and all in the effected areas in your prayers. Recovery will take a long time!

BTW, we did have sporadic cell phone service in some areas. A signal that is. I quickly found that when I tried to call out, I got a message that said "emergency calls only". Interestingly, I was able to connect on some incoming calls but only a few got out. The Red Cross folks were having trouble with their satellite phones as well. They were apparently not 100% reliable so they very much took advantage of their dedicated Ham Radio support. If you do decide to go please keep one thing in mind: I have learned there are 3 types of people in an emergency: Those needing help, those giving help and unfortunately those in the way. Yes I saw some of that too. Be sharp and set your ego aside. Use your training and be diplomatic with a servant spirit.

73, Ron Shaffer, W4VM

Nara Notes:

We are very close now to moving the remote receiver for .94 to the green mountain site. With the new antenna and hardline at .94 and the experiment a success with backup equipment at Channel 31, we will probably move the

main .94 hardware back home to that site soon as well.

The big news of course is Katrina. We fared much better than our friends down south. What a tragic situation. Our repeater systems made it through the high winds without damage to any of our antenna systems, at least as far as we know. During the storms pass over Huntsville, we did lose power at our main .94 site. There is a manual switch over battery backup system we could have enabled if the need arose. The emergency net was active on 146.94 during that time period. Unfortunately, our 'hot' standby backup system on 146.94 at Channel 31 also lost power at the same time. Evidently the emergency generators didn't come on line that usually supply us emergency power at that site. The net diverted to the 147.18 system per SOP and continued operation. Fortunately, the 147.18 system across the river had not lost power. Even if it had, we would have automatically gone to battery backup. A number of other repeaters in the area, mine included lost power during the storm. It was a couple of days before all of the systems around town came back online. I'm glad NARA has been con-

centrating on battery backup capabilities this past year.

With the catastrophe down south, it really becomes clear to the ham community our need to practice emergency communications (such as field day and message handling) and be prepared with ready to deploy equipment and emergency power. In talking to hams deployed down south, several of their local repeaters were destroyed or left without power causing large areas to be without repeater coverage in a time of need. I've been told the local VHF/UHF frequencies are carrying a huge number of health and welfare traffic. I've often thought about building up a field deployable portable UHF repeater. Certainly there is enough equipment around to do this. This is something NARA should entertain in its future plans.

Finally, I want to commend all of the local hams from Huntsville and other areas that have gone down to help with communications in the Katrina disaster area. A number of our own club members are still down there as I write this. In the time of need Ham Radio contin-

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

ues to provide support to the commu-
 nity.

73, NARA President, *alph Hogan, W4XE,*
W4XE@qsl.net

Scary Radio Stories For Pre-Halloween Meeting

On October 28 we will be having Scary Radio Stories. One of our fellow hams suggested for Halloween that we have a story telling of scary stories about bad things that have happened to use involving amateur radio. That all you show up and tells us something freaky, spooky, scary, and/or terrible that happened to you or maybe someone you were helping. If you can't remember one, come and listen to the others and maybe it will remind you of one.

John Hilliard, K4JCH

Local Area Hamfests for September/October

- 17 Sep 2005 + Calhoun County Emergency Radio Club Talk-In: 147.04 (PL 131.8); 147.09 (PL 131.8) Contact: Keith Allen, AG4AC PO Box 485 Ragland, AL 35131 Phone: 205-472-3947 Email: ag4ac@netscape.com Oxford, AL Friendship Community Center Friendship Road Div: Southeastern Sect: Alabama
- 17 Sep 2005 + Paulding Amateur Radio Club <http://www.pauldingarc.com> Talk-In: 146.895 MHz (PL 77) Contact: AL Martin, KF4RPQ 409 Sleepy Hollow Road Powder Springs, GA 30127-6751 Phone: 770-920-1309 Email: KF4RPQ@yahoo.com Dallas, GA Paulding Meadows Park Highway 61 North Div: Southeastern Sect: Georgia

- 17 Sep 2005 + Monroe Amateur Radio Society Talk-In: 146.820 neg. offset (PL 141.3) Contact: Cecil Ritchie, WZ4V 1572 Old Highway 68 Sweetwater, TN 37874 Phone: 423-337-0466 Email: N4NLM1@CHARTER.TN.NET Tellico Plains, TN Tellico Plains Community Center 136 Bank Street Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee
- 24 Sep 2005 + Mississippi ARRL Day in the Park ARRL MS Section/Tupelo ARC Talk-In: 146.64- Contact: Malcolm Keown, W5XX 64 Lake Circle Drive Vicksburg, MS 39180 Phone: 601-636-0827 Email: w5xx@arrl.org Tupelo, MS Tupelo Antique Auto Museum Intersection of US 45 and MS HWY 6 Div: Delta Sect: Mississippi
- 30 Sep-1 Oct 2005 + 6th Annual Hamfest Ten-Tec <http://www.tentec.com> Contact: Stan Brock, WD0BGS 1185 Dolly Parton Parkway Sevierville, TN 37862 Phone: 865-453-7172 Fax: 865-428-4483 Email: sales@tentec.com Sevierville, TN Ten-Tec Factory 1185 Dolly Parton Parkway Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee
- 8 Oct 2005 + Amateur Radio Club of Augusta <http://www.qsl.net/w4dv> Talk-In: 144.890 input / 145.490 output Contact: Allen B. Menges, KF4NXL 2904 Oklahoma Avenue Augusta, GA 30906 Phone: 706-798-8763 Email: menges5@comcast.net Evans, GA Evans Middle School 4318 Washington Road Div: Southeastern Sect: Georgia
- 15 Oct 2005 + Al Brock Memorial Hamfest/Computer Show Northwest

Georgia ARC <http://www.w4vo.org>
 Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 88.5) Contact: Grover Keith, KA5QFI 61 Surrey Trail Rome, GA 30161 Phone: 706-292-0516 Email: gfkeith@bellsouth.net Rome, GA Civic/Welcome Center Turner McCall Blvd. (across from Days Inn) Div: Southeastern Sect: Georgia

- 15 Oct 2005 + Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club <http://www.korernet.org/orarc/> Talk-In: 146.880 (no tone) Contact: Thomas N. Muncy, AG4SF 142 Manhattan Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830 Phone: 865-482-4123 or Cell 865-599-9223 Email: AG4SF@arrl.net Oak Ridge, TN Fraternal Order of Eagles Building 1650 Oak Ridge Turnpike Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee
- 22 Oct 2005 + Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society <http://www.qsl.net/kf4l> Talk-In: 147.390 + 600 (PL 123.5) Contact: Jim Shelton, KT4FQ 2329 Pendleton Drive Clarksville, TN 37042 Phone: 931-431-4081 Fax: 931-647-1914 Email: kt4fq@charter.net Clarksville, TN Clarksville Jaycees Building Highway 48/13 (Next to Clarksville Fairgrounds) Div: Delta Sect: Tennessee
- 22 Oct 2005 + Hamfest Chattanooga Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club <http://www.hamfestchattanooga.com> Talk-In: 146.790 MHz (-) 444.100 MHz (+) Contact: Charles E. Curle, AD4F 8719 Snow Hill Road Ooltewah, TN 37363-9869 Phone: 423-344-8447 Email: ad4f@arrl.net East Ridge (Chattanooga), TN Camp Jordan

Arena 323 Camp Jordan Road Div:
Delta Sect: Tennessee

Steve Bell KD4TFN: sbell@hiwaay.net

The Giggle Box

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

A note from Giggles: I think we are over the summer of 2005, but we could stand a little rain to wet the dust. I can't believe that it is almost time for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. My least favorite season is coming up. I love the pretty colors that the leaves turn when they fall to the ground, but then the trees are so bare for a couple of months. Oh, well, you have to take the good with the bad. School is in full swing and I'm already hearing students and teachers talk about plans for the Fall Break in October. Don't forget to pray for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and keep your ears open to the radio for unfamiliar call signs. It might be a ham looking for help and information. CUL 73

A Joke or Two: I put just one joke in this time because it's so L-O-N-G. I hope you enjoy it.

ABBOTT AND COSTELLO'S COMPUTER CONVERSATION.

If you remember Abbott and Costello, this is fun. If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, "Who's on first?" might have turned out something like this:

**COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A
COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT.**

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes. COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue "W".

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue "W" if you don't start with some straight answers. OK, forget that. Can I watch movies on the Internet?

ABBOTT: Yes, you want Real One.

COSTELLO: Maybe a real one, maybe a cartoon. What I watch is none of your business. Just tell me what I need!

ABBOTT: Real One.

COSTELLO: If it's a long movie, I also want to watch reels 2, 3 and 4. Can I watch them?

ABBOTT: Of course.

COSTELLO: Great! With what?

ABBOTT: Real One.

COSTELLO: OK, I'm at my computer and I want to watch a movie. What do I do?

ABBOTT: You click the blue "1".

COSTELLO: I click the blue one what?

ABBOTT: The blue "1".

COSTELLO: Is that different from the blue W?

ABBOTT: The blue "1" is Real One and the blue "W" is Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: But there are three words in "office for windows"!

ABBOTT: No, just one. But it's the most popular Word in the world.

COSTELLO: It is?

ABBOTT: Yes, but to be fair, there aren't many other Words left. It pretty much wiped out all the other Words out there.

COSTELLO: And that word is real one?

ABBOTT: Real One has nothing to do with Word. Real One isn't even part of Office.

COSTELLO: STOP! Don't start that again. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!
(A few days later...) ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on "START"

*** Did You Know: (I ran across this in a Neighbors magazine, the September, 2005 edition. After a lengthy talk with my 7-year-old granddaughter about lying and stealing, I read this to her and laughed at the big eyes she made when I read the first sentence. :-0)

"To be successful, you should resolve to do four things: drink, swear, steal and lie every day. Drink from the fountain of friendship and happiness. Swear to do your job a little bit better. Steal a little time to do an act of kindness for someone, and don't expect anything in return. Lie down at night and thank God you live in a free country and

pledge to do your part to keep it free." - John A. Garrett - The Reminder for the Month of October When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Solve the puzzle: **TIONAMBIT SI A OORP ESUCXE ROF TON VINAHG OUHGNE SSEEN OT EB ZYAL**

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

From The Editor's Wastebasket

I was really dismayed to hear of the passing of Hal Scofield, W4YNG last week. Hal and I were classmates at Auburn way back in the nineteen ought fifties. It was with Hal that I visited the impressive (at that time) club station, W4UJJ, of the Auburn Amateur Radio club and it was Hal who you can blame for getting me interested in Amateur Radio.

We have a couple of important chances to assist by providing commu-

nications for local events. Hopw we can muster up enough participants to bring them off satisfactorily. There is also the continuing need for assistance with relief and recovery efforts for the areas affected by Katrina. Jay Isbell has made the need there clear in this month's lead article. Please do what you can to help.

By the end of October we should be back into shorter days, standard time and cooler weather. It won't be long before it's time get that antenna work done so you can sit over a warm transmitter and communicate with your friends on those cold winter nights to come.

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.

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

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