



Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

Vice President:

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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 9, October, 2006

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

WO4V - Silent Key

Longtime HARC member
Hayward O. Handy, WO4V,
died Tuesday, 19 September
2006.

Visitation will be Saturday, 23
September, at 6-7 p.m. At Nelms
Memorial Funeral Home,
2501 Carmichael Ave, NW
Huntsville, AL 35816-1601
256-539-8189

Funeral will be Sunday, 24 Sep-
tember, at 2:00 p.m. At: Lakeside
United Methodist Church
3738 Meridian St N
Huntsville, AL 35811
256-536-9400

Report from ARES District 6

September 14, 2006 was "Be Ready Day" here in Alabama. Emergency responders from all over the State showed up at the Space and Rocket Center. Governor Riley was there, as was the Alabama Director of Homeland Security, Jim Walker. The Madison County EMA Director "Rusty" Russell gave a good introduction to each of the visiting dignitaries. Some of the other agencies present were the Madison County E-911 Center (Director Ernie Blair), Madison/Marshall County Red Cross (Director Shirley Crutcher), National Guard members, including the Adjutant General of Alabama, MGEN Mark Bowen, State Police, National Weather Service, firefighters, police, and many more. The point of the "preparedness event" every year is to cross-train and to

learn about disaster preparations. It was an outstanding success.

Madison County ARES, backed by over two dozen ham operators, set up a "field day" station, complete with crank-up tower, HF and VHF, plus digital modes. Be Ready Day was covered with amateur Digital communications, Winlink and D-STAR. We demonstrated Winlink 2000 and Air-mail, to many of the visitors. I guarantee you that none of them are used to seeing their Blackberry pop up a message composed and delivered by an Amateur Radio station! And yes, they were mighty impressed that ham radio has come so far.

Here in District 6, we need to be prepared to pass two kinds of messages for our "served agencies" - first, and most common are "tactical" messages - these can be handled by nor-

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 7
Saturday, November 4
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

mal HF and VHF circuits. The second kind, and by far the hardest to do correctly (and the most time-consuming) is called "record traffic". An example of this might be a list of supplies that is need at a shelter. Up till now, we passed messages using ARRL Radio grams, either by voice, or by Morse code, or whatever mode was appropriate. Unfortunately, as we all learned in the last couple of disasters, we need to make wiser use of bandwidth and personnel. That's where Winlink comes in. It is a "hybrid" communications system that can take advantage of the internet (when it is available), plus HF and VHF circuits (multiple frequencies), all at the same time. Passing record traffic with an attachment is quite easy to do, and that is what our served agencies expect -

something nice and simple, yet bullet-proof.

Winlink uses modems (terminal node controllers, or TNC's) to pass messages. This is a very reliable form of communications because modems use advanced digital signal processing (DSP) and forward error correction (FEC) to get the job done - even in conditions where human operators can't hear the other side of the signal. When you get a chance, please start learning about Winlink. Sign up to the Yahoo Winlink groups, and start to read about this fantastic program. Start at <http://groups.yahoo.com> and look for the group "arestechnology" and "loading_wl2k_user_programs" and "wl2kemcomm"

Winlink is a powerful tool in our bag of magic that we can successfully

apply to the world of EMCOMM. I want it to become the standard method of passing "record traffic" in our District. Let me know what you think. I can be reached at AG4FL at ARRL dot NET Or, at AG4FL at WINLINK.ORG when you are hooked up - let me know!

Don't forget that the ARES Simulated Emergency Test is just around the corner!

*73, Doug Hilton, AG4FL
Ala ARES District 6 Emergency
Coordinator ARRL
Alabama Section web site:
www.arrl-al.org*

From the EC

We had a great "Alabama Be Ready Day", but sacrificed our monthly ARES meeting for it. Next meeting will be 2nd Thursday in October at the Madison County EOC at 6 PM.

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR October, 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	4 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	5 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	6 HARC Meeting	7 *TWIAR Cavec Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
8	9	10 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	11 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	12 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	13 HARC Meeting	14 *TWIAR
15	16	17 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	18 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	19 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	20 HARC Meeting Vox & Social Night	21 *TWIAR
22	23	24 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	25 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	26 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	27 HARC Meeting	28 *TWIAR
29	30	31 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33 Be on the alert for spooks!	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 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

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Come see us next to Chili's!

á If you are interested in becoming an active participant please check out <http://www.madisoncountyares.com>
 á The National Weather Service will offer a Storm Spotter training on September 28 at 6:30 PM at the Jaycees building off Airport Rd. More info at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/skywarn.php> Highly recommend even if your are not an ARES member.

Don't forget to check into the net. Thursday nights at 7:30 PM on146.940. PL 100

*73 de K4RGG Rolf G. Goedhart
 Madison County Emergency Coordinator*
From The Editor's Wastebasket

Well, here we go with an abbreviated Vox. Either something went astray when I sent out the reminder to all the Vox contributors that it was time for another issue or everybody has been extremely busy with something or other. Anyway, a lot of the

things that are usually in the Vox are missing this month.

I won't rule out the possibility that something went wrong with the reminder email. I've been having problems with the computer during the last week or so. Last Wednesday night the HD went all spacey on me and the system wouldn't come up and run. Patrick Bramlett at Gigaparts replaced the drive (which is almost identical with doing a brain transplant) and did a great job of recovering a lot of the files. I've been re-installing software ever since and am almost back up to normal operation. Got a few things yet to find and re-install, only two of which are critical.

This issue is a week late. Since the first day of the month was a Friday, the third Friday came along a lot sooner than was expected. I realized it the afternoon of the third Friday, so

we are a week late. Just as well, since there's no way I could have gotten a Vox together last week along with the 'puter failure.

Don't know how noticing you are of such things, but there's another difference in this issue. The type face I've always used for the newsletter doesn't come with Winders XP, it's one I came to like years ago and have always made it a point to have it available. I Still haven't gotten it loaded on this HD yet, so you're reading a substitute.

This is the first month we'll be trying using the internet as the primary means of distributing the newsletter. If you get one in the mail it'll mean one of three things. Either you're on the "information" list of people who get courtesy copies of the newsletter, we simply don't have an email address for you (If you are a member and get a mailed copy and have and normally

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 Winingar, KY5R, timky5r@direcway.com

use an email address, send email to me at femens@hiwaay.net with your email address) or we have an email address for you which has not worked

in the past few months and we assume is incorrect.

If we can keep the list of people who get hard copies of the newslet-

ter down, we stand to save the club a considerable amount of cash.

Enough for now.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



from left to right: Madison County Emergency Coordinator Rolf, Alabama Section Manager Greg, Ares Member John and District 6 Emergency Coordinator Doug.



Special Liaison Mike.



**Pictures on this page
by Doug Hilton,
AG4FL, from the
“Be Ready Day”
event
September 14**



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HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

