

VOX



HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 44, Number 8

September, 2004

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

Club Officers

President:

Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM
tzeiglerjr@aol.com

Vice President:

John 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.

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35804

Remarks From The President

Another super Huntsville Hamfest has come and gone. We owe a big thanks to all of the people and companies responsible for making it a big success.

At the same time the hams and others in emergency service have found how fragile our communications networks are. As you have all heard the phone lines and the cell towers are down in hurricane ravaged parts of Florida. This leaves only the ham and other radio networks. I think, there will be a big surge of interest in ham radio by the Red Cross and other agencies.

Reports I have heard from Floridians say that the ARES and RACES networks have been very valuable. I hope to be able to provide more on this at a later date.

73, Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM

The Veep's Remarks

I would really like to thank everyone who helped out with the Hamfest. Everything seemed to move like a well oiled machine. I don't know if the rain on Friday was a curse for a blessing for the Move In. It seemed to keep people from coming in all at once. Even the move out was like a smooth compared to the past several years.

I also want to thank everyone for there ideas for programs. I think I'm going to have to keep a notepad with me all the time so I don't forget any of the wonderful ideas I've been given. I want to thank Kris Kirby, KE4AHR, for his presentation on wireless networking. He showed how easy someone could connect to a wireless LAN whether it is a home system or commercial one. For those of you who couldn't attend, make sure your broadcasting or beacon is turned off, and the routers defaults have been changed. Also, Kris will be giving the program again in the future for those of you who missed it and wanted to see it.

Coming up on September 10, Mary Moreillon is going to give a Red Cross Volunteer Orientation which will include Red Cross' history and rules and what volunteers can do to help, and how you can volunteer to help. She will touch on Emergency Services that the Red Cross provides which I hope to get her to return and give a talk about. I became a volunteer shortly after the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center to help with parking for the amount of people that came in to give blood

. If you missed Ron Rateno's program on Icom radios, he has asked me about doing another program, and he said that February looks good at this time. Although a date has not been set, you may want to keep your calendar clear for around that time.

If you have something you think the club would like to see, something you would like to see, or see again, please

CAVEC Amateur Radio License Exams

Exam sessions are held the first Saturday of each month unless a holiday causes the session to be delayed for one week.

*Upcoming sessions are:
Saturday, September 4
Saturday, October 2*

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*

email me and I will see if I can make it happen. Please add your call sign or 'Program for the HARC' in the subject line so I know you're not SPAM. k4jch@arrrl.net

73, John Hilliard K4JCH

Hamography

K8GNM — Thornton W. (Woodie) Zeigler, K8GNM

Woodie was born in New Orleans, LA in 1938. He lived in Ann Arbor, MI from 1939 to 1961. Woodie was in the United States Signal Corps from 1957 to 1958; and attended the Radio Repair School at Ft. Gordon, GA in 1957. Woodie attended the University of Michigan from 1956 to 1961 and attained his BS Degree in Electronic Engineering in 1961.

His professional career has been interesting and extensive. From 1968 to 1991 he was with the Chrysler Corporation, including their Introl Division and the Chrysler Electrical Division. From 1992 to 1993 He was in Contract Engi-

neering with Huntsville Electrical. From 1993 to the present He has been the Facility Coordinator, Madison/Marshall County for the American Red Cross.



The progress of Woodie's life, interest, education and talent made it inevitable that he would gravitate toward HAM Radio. His basic bent for and talent related to electronic technology led him toward our avocation. Woodie received his HAM license while at the Radio Repair School. He joined HARC in 1982;, and now carries the Extra Class Ticket. This is his second stint as President of HARC.

Woodie has been an active participant in Field Day Activities since the

late 1980's. This year at field day, he had his golf cart running around the site, checking on one one station or another. He was like a Mother Hen watching the Chicks. His interest in all that was going on was evident.

His interest in HAM Radio naturally led him into the area of Emergency Operations. Woodie has been part of the Disaster Action Team with ARC since the 1989 tornado. He has been a member of and ARC Disaster Service Human Resource Group and has served in supporting the : 1989 Huntsville Tornado ; Hurricane Andrew; The Northridge Earthquake; other hurricanes; the Midwest Floods; and the Arizona Wildfires.

Woodie's other interests include woodworking, photography, travel and his church. He is a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Even here his interest in Ham Radio exists. He is proud of the fact that the church has a permanent 2 meter antenna mounted 20 feet up, thanks to W4WW, Scottie

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR September, 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	1 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	2 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	3 HARC Meeting	4 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams, 0900 Red Cross Bldg
5	6	7 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	8 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	9 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	10 HARC Meeting	11 *TWIAR Monroe ARS Fest, Madisonville, TN
12	13	14 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	15 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	16 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	17 HARC Meeting	18 *TWIAR Dallas Fest, Dalton, GA Kingsport & Bays Mtn ARCKingsport TN
19	20	21 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	22 Southeast Linked Repeater Net 2000 on +442.775 PL 203.5 Hz	23 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	24 HARC Meeting Ten Tec Fest, Sevierville, TN	25 *TWIAR Ten Tec Fest, Sevierville, TN
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, 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

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Neustader. Woodie has served on the Vestry and as Building and Grounds Chairman.

His Ham Shack consists of a KWM-2, and Alinco DJ150, a Yasue 2 meter mobile and ATV receive only. His primary operating interest is 2 meters.

Woodie wants to maintain the value of the 50 year history of HARC. He notes that each generation of HARC has added to and enhanced the value of HARC to the public and HAM Radio in general. He would like to see more members of HARC qualified as Red Cross volunteers; as part of our HAM tradition of supporting public interest and Emergency Communications and operations.

HARC — May I Re-Introduce your new Club President — K8GNM!!!!

FOOTNOTE: It is with mixed feelings that I have made a very hard and important decision in my life. Effective 1 September, 2004, I will retire for the forth time. I will be moving back to my home in the St. Louis, MO area. Many reasons have resulted in this decision.

As I have said before, I have belonged to HAM Clubs in 5 states; and HARC has been the best yet. My only regret is that I did not join you earlier.

73, Fred Kersey, WB0UCI
Next Generation Hams

The last Space Camp fox hunt of the year, held August 9th, was a HARC success story in several ways. Technical difficulties with signal strength and lack of directionality were conquered in large part by K4RGG's crop of yagis, which will serve us even better as we move next year from the Family Radio Service down into the 70 cm ham band, where at the very least we can operate with a clearer conscience. Armed with properly-working equipment, all teams of Space Campers showed their understanding of principles of radio direction finding to home in on the fox.

Thanks to Rolf, K4RGG, and Melissa, KI4CWU, equipment manufacturers have been recruited to help out with ham band gear. Next year's fox hunts are planned for Space Camp tours of sufficient duration to include classroom

training on communications, and possibly activities in addition to radio direction finding. The next generation of hams can grow, in part, from programs like these. Thanks to all the other HARC volunteers, who I'm sure have found the experience exciting and rewarding.

On a related note, Doug Hilton, AG4FL, suggested high-school and middle-school robotics clubs as fertile ground for ham recruitment. According to Doug, these clubs abound in the Huntsville area, and the technical nature of robotics is a perfect match for ham radio. Anyone with kids involved in robotics clubs, please let me know how you think we could approach these groups.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

NARA Notes

What a great Hamfest! The NARA booth was a great success tucked next to HARC. We had a LOT of folks stop by & chat. Many thanks to all who helped staff the booth - both of them! I was very busy with both the Repeater council booth and the NARA booth so if

I missed you I apologize but I'm sure we'll catch up on the air. Many things thanks to Don & Huntsville Hamfest for making the booths happen.

With the hamfest behind us, we will once again dare to piddle with '94 to improve coverage using remote receivers. Watch for experimentation with the first remote receiver soon. I think we could see some diminished coverage in the talk-in compared to last year particularly to the East. Still, it has not been as bad as it could have been if it had not been for our gracious host WA4BPS. The '94 coverage has been good from there! If you want to get a taste of how the current '94 antenna system at Ch 31 is performing, try out the 145.33 machine which is holding that spot at Ch 31.

We are taking on an ambitious \$ project to replace the '94 antenna and feed line for '94 at Ch 31. The old antenna and feed line have been up for over 20 years and may have gotten jarred in the move down from the top. If we can swing it in the budget (it may drain us dry!) we want to have a new antenna and feed line ready to go at the next tower work opportunity. These opportunities only come along once in a while so we want to be ready. The antenna alone (Station Master) will cost over \$800 and the feed line will be over \$300. If you would like to kick in something extra to the hat, we'll be glad you did! Still, this is a long range investment & your continued dues support help make it possible. We hope to capture an opportunity to get on the west side of the tower - we'll see what happens! Keep up the great work supporting ARES, the Red Cross & other public service functions & I know our value to the community will continue to be recognized.

Speaking of antennas, I got a great deal on a dual band Hustler at the Hamfest which will either be used for one of the '94 remote receivers or for a transmit antenna on '18 to get relief from the crackle. We'll let you know what happens.

I don't think there has been a Vox since the NARA mid year update meeting - That was a great meeting! We had several folks step forward to help out with the technical committee and other various projects. If you were one of those, expect to hear something soon. Ralph and I plan to have some lunch-

time meetings for training and planning soon.

How about the new 443.500 machine? - the sensitivity is great! - I think it is almost out performing '94 which is on the same antenna! Drag out that 440 handie, you might be surprised! When we get the DVR going (it was working on the bench - honest!), expect to see the DVR test codes standardized to what is on the 2004 command sheet. That way, '94, '18 and 443.500 will all have the same DVR test codes even though they are 3 different controllers. '18 has already been changed but '94 will be soon.

In related hamfest news, I was elected to president of the Alabama Repeater Council and my wife Sandie: KE4LRX was elected to Secretary / Treasurer. Since we are also teaching a Technician Class licensing course at the Whitesburg Heritage Bible College, we will have to budget our time!

We are also remodeling and one room to get moved & painted is the hamshack. Ralph and I both have our plates full so we're grateful for those who stepped forward to help - the challenge now is to get you equipped to do things when ever Ralph and I are not there. Let's make that happen together!

73. Ron, W4VM, NARA President
The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN
SEPTEMBER!!

A note from Giggles: Well, we survived another Huntsville Hamfest. For those of you that missed it, you missed a fantastic one. I saw a lot of people that I hadn't seen in a year or more. I can remember about twelve or so years ago, I didn't know anyone there and was bored and couldn't wait for the hamfest to be over where we could do something else. Also it is always interesting to see the new things at the hamfest. It gave me a lot of ideas of what to ask for at Christmas time. Last year, I couldn't think of a thing, but this year is going to be a little different. Of course, what I want, Santa Claus may not think that I've been good enough. Oh, well, then there is next year. This year, I made the mistake of telling some friends that I would watch their prize ticket stubs while they either worked or shopped around for treasures. I didn't realize that I was blessed with 14 friends. Next

year, I think I will limit the number of tickets to ten, since I've just got 10 fingers. :-). Someone said that they might as well forget buying extra prize tickets because it looked like the prizes were already won. I had to assure them that I was not going to win anything. I did enjoy watching people walk away with big smiles on their faces after accepting their prizes. Anyway, congratulations to all the winners of the hamfest. Atta boy (or girl) to all the hamfest workers, we couldn't have done it without you. CUL

A Joke or Two

The Correct Way To Call The Police
George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things. He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" and he said no. Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available. George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again. "Hello I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now cause I've just shot them all." Then he hung up. Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips residence. Of course, the police caught the burglars red handed. One of the Policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

*** Photographer A photographer from a well-known national magazine was assigned to cover the recent southern California fires. The magazine wanted to show some of the heroic work of the firefighters as they battled the blazes. When the photographer arrived, he realized that the smoke was so thick that it would seriously impede or make it impossible for him to photograph anything from ground-level. So he requested permission to rent a plane and take photos from the air. His request was approved, and arrangements were made. He was told to report to a nearby airport, where a single-engine plane would be waiting for him. He arrived at the airport and saw a plane

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warming up near the gate. He jumped in with his bag and shouted, "Let's go!" The pilot swung the plane into the wind, and within minutes they were in the air. The photographer said, "Fly over the park and make two or three low passes so I can take some pictures." "Why?" asked the pilot. "Because I am a photographer for a national magazine," he responded, "and I need some close-up shots." The pilot was silent for a moment; finally he stammered, "So, you're telling me you're not the flight instructor?"

*** Blondes and Brunettes Two bowling teams, one of all Blondes and one of all Brunettes, chartered a double-decker bus for a weekend bowling tournament in Brisbane. The Brunette team rode on the bottom of the bus, and the Blonde team rode on the top level. The Brunette team down below really whooped it up, having a great time, when one of them realized she hadn't heard anything from the Blondes upstairs. She decided to go up and investigate. When the Brunette reached the

top, she found all the Blondes frozen in fear, staring straight-ahead at the road, clutching the seats in front of them with white knuckles. The brunette asked, "What the heck's going on up here? We're having a great time downstairs!" One of the Blondes looked up at her, swallowed hard and whispered, "YEAH, BUT YOU'VE GOT A DRIVER."

*** Alabama humor An Alabamian had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road, and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he got back in the car to wait. A passerby from Mississippi studied the scene as he drove by and was so curious he decided to be a "Good Samaritan and turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was. The man replied, "I have a flat tire." The passerby asked, "But what's with the flowers?" The man responded, "When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back! I never did understand it neither."

Did You Know: Stretched end-to-end, the blood vessels in your body would go around the equator two and a half times.

The Reminder for the Month of September Righty, Tightly; Lefty Loosey This phrase is to jog your memory about opening or unscrewing jars or removing a screw or tightening things! Turn it right to tighten and left to loosen. Now you know!

Solve the puzzle: EW LAL VEHA A SUREMEA OF EVOL OT VIGE

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

September Hamfests

September 11, Monroe ARS,
Madisonville, Tennessee.

See <http://www.monroe-ars.com> or contact Horace Taylor, WA4HT at 423-337-9561 or wa4ht@charter.net.

Talk-in is 146.820- MHz with a 141.3 Hz PL.

September, 2004

September 18, Dallas Hamfest, Dallas, Georgia.

See <http://www.paldingarc.com> or contact Danny Allen, AG4PR at 770-445-0682 or harleyec@bellsouth.net. Gates open at 8 am. Free admission and free parking.

Talk-in is 146.894 MHz with a 77 Hz PL

September 18. Kingsport and Bays Mountain ARCs, Kingsport, Tennessee.

See <http://w4trc.tripod.com> or contact Paul Marcum, AC4QZ at 423-230-0532 or marcump@preferred.com.

September 24-25., Ten-Tec, Sevierville, Tennessee.

See <http://www.tentec.com> or contact Stan Brock, WD0BGS at 865-453-7172 or sales@tentec.com.

73, John Farr, KC4ZXX

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Well, another Great Huntsville Hamfest has entered into the logbooks of history. It sure seemed that everybody was having a good time, especially the lady with the souped up powered chair contraption. She must have had a hot-rod background 'cause she got more speed out of that thing than anybody I've ever seen. On Sunday, when the aisles were more clear, I watched her have what looked like a drag race with a fellow in a similar chair. She left him eating her dust.

Johnny Winter and Chuck Lewis said the forums were well attended on Saturday. I've not heard a report on how many folks got ticketed by CAVEC over the weekend.

Speaking of the clear aisles on Sunday, there has to be something we can do to improve on the Sunday atten-

dance. It almost (but not quite) seems a shame to have all those dealers and flea marketeers and such standing by for the relatively small crowd that shows upon Sunday.

With the resumption of school and the arrival of Labor Day, it's time to start thinking about getting that last BBQ done, getting those antlers fixed up for the Winter, integrating the new goodies you bought at the 'fest into your shack and generally getting ready for the return of the Fall storm season and generally messier weather than we've been having.

Thanks to everybody who did their part to make it a successful hamfest.

73, Frank Emens, WAHFU

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