



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 the second Friday of the month of publication.

"Vox", Vol 45, Nr.8, Sep, 2005

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

Communications Help Needed For The Crow Mountain Hill Climb Event.

On Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2, 2005, the first Crow Mountain Hill Climb (CMHC) will take place on Route 33 in Jackson County, just a few miles north of Scottsboro. During this event, drivers will drive their cars up the mountain one at a time, as fast as they can.

The non-profit, volunteer organizers of this event have asked the ham radio community for help with this event. About 30 hams are needed to help with this event all day each of the two days this event is on.

For more information on the CMHC, please go to

<http://www.crowmountainhillclimb.org/>

The Jackson County Ham Radio Club (JCAR) is doing its best to provide all needed volunteer communications help. But, there are not enough hams in Jackson County available to help with this event. We need all the help that we can get. Please consider helping with this event, and contact Dieter Schliemann kx4y by phone, (256) 259-3900 or via e-mail address kx4y@amsat.org to let him know of your availability to help and the days / hours that you can help with this event. Each volunteer is urged to provide a 2m transceiver, with external antenna and power source for the duration of his / her work assignment.

The CMHC promises to be a fun filled family type of event, and, if successful, is planned to be a yearly, recurring event.

I hope that you can help. We need you.

73 de Dieter kx4y

Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y Named 2005 Amateur Radio Newline Young Ham Of The Year



At age 12, Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y, of Hoover, Alabama, is proof positive that being young is no liability when striving toward success. She entered ham radio in 2001 at age 8. A

year later she had already upgraded to Extra and was awarded a plaque by the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club celebrating her becoming (to the club's knowledge) the youngest Extra ever in the state of Alabama and, possibly, the

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, July 2

Saturday, August 6

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

entire South. Now, she has been named the 20th recipient of the Amateur Radio Newsline's Young Ham of the Year Award.

Among Rebekah's numerous ham radio related accomplishments was her involvement in a toy drive for the Alabama victims of Hurricane Ivan. Rebekah not only received donations of toys, she also raised over \$1100 from Alabama amateurs, which she used to purchase winter clothing and additional toys, all of which she delivered to those in the City of Mobile who were most in need.

Rebekah serves as the Net control station for the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club's weekly BARC Kids Net that she originated in 2002. She also assists in teaching duties with the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club's Technician Class well as at license exam sessions. She has also helped out on Boy Scout Merit Badge Day, sponsored Kids' Day events the past two years at the Bir-

mingham Amateur Radio Club's station and even met with Huntsville, Alabama Mayor Loretta Spencer to discuss Amateur Radio related issues.

As 2005 "Young Ham of the Year," Rebekah will receive — courtesy of Ver-tex Standard USA — an expense-paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, along with a gift of Yaesu ham radio equipment. CQ magazine will treat Rebekah to an expense-paid week at Spacecamp-Huntsville, and will present her with a variety of CQ products. Amateur Radio Newsline will provide Rebekah with a commemorative plaque at the award ceremony. The cost of year's plaque has been underwritten by Dave Bell, W6AQ, President of DBA Entertainment Inc., Hollywood, California.

73, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

A Successful Hamfest!

Huntsville Hamfest 2005 produced another great event for amateur radio and a gracious host for the ARRL Divi-

sion Convention. Everyone I talked to was pleased to be at the Huntsville Hamfest. It was certainly good to see many friends, catch up on amateur radio happenings and pickup a few goodies.

You could say that the Hamfest actually kicked off on Friday with a well attended Emergency Communications seminar. Over twenty amateurs came from all over, including Florida, Georgia and Mississippi for this event. Then the kit building class started with a sold out group completing every kit during the class. How many technical careers and fine amateur radio operators could this class spark?

The Hamfest presented an unbeatable forum lineup this year. There were many interesting forums, with many great topics and speakers. The Director of Alabama Homeland security had a very dynamic talk at the ARES Emergency Communications Forum. The youth forum had a great turnout and I

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR September, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	31 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	1 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	2 HARC Meeting	3 *TWIAR CAVEC Exams 0900 Red Cross Bldg
4	5	6 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	7 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	8 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	9 HARC Meeting	10 *TWIAR
11	12	13 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	14 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	15 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	16 HARC Meeting Vox Night	17 *TWIAR
18	19	20 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	21 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	22 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	23 HARC Meeting	24 *TWIAR
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 Auction	1 *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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expect to produce many fine amateurs. We learned about many different facets and interest of amateur radio during over two dozen forums.

Alabama's own Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y was presented with the Young Ham of the Year award from Amateur Radio Newline. This National award included prizes from ICOM, Yaesu, CQ magazine and a trip to Space Camp.

These are just a few of the many fine events and activities during the Hamfest. I want to thank all the workers, committees, speakers and contributors that helped to make this a very popular and successful Hamfest and Convention. This weekend I saw many examples of people making a difference in amateur radio! Keep up the great work!

*73s, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK Alabama Section Manager American Radio Relay League
National Association of Amateur Radio
Alabama Section web site: www.arrl-al.org*

Hamfest Kit-building Session

Hamfest 2005 was a success in my book, based on the many great forums (I know, it should be fora) I attended. I hope vendors and other attendees are pleased from their perspectives.

Hamfests provide a venue in which hams can be hams, strengthening camaraderie and giving us a good shot in the arm to make it through to the next great ham gathering and the official beginning of summer, Field Day.

The night before hamfest saw an unusual event we hope to repeat in years to come. John Fitzer, KA3TNS, Chuck Lewis, N4NM, and I held a kit building session aimed principally at youngsters, in one of the forum rooms at the VBC. Kit-builders, parents, and elmers came together at 6:00 pm Friday, and by 10:45 every kit handed out for construction left the room in working order. There were many smiling and amazed faces at the end of that session. This bodes well for the viability of radio communications and electronics in general, and ham radio in particular, as a hobbies in coming years.

Our thanks go out to Huntsville Hamfest for providing the VBC room for this event. We hope to grow enough new hams to make up the cost in future hamfest ticket sales! Thanks as well to Robby Lock, KG4PLK, and Jake Pollaty, KI4BTJ, for serving as impromptu elmers. Your careers as farmers for that new crop of hams are well-established.

73, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Club Has New Radio

The club has received a new Alinco DR135T 2M transceiver and a MFJ 5/8 wavelength Mag mount antenna. It will be equipped with cigarette lighter plug and battery clips. The funds for this were supplied by the Spring City Cycling Club. Special pricing from Gigaparts made the purchase possible. It is expected to be used to support bike rides Etc. If you are interested in supporting the September 17th ride contact Jake at KI4BTJ@gmail.com.

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

73, Woodie Zeigler, K8GNM Hamfest Forums

This year's hamfest was blessed with a terrific mix of forums covering public service, technical and operating subjects. In addition to the Emergency Communications Seminar and the HARC-6 Kitbuilding session (both on Friday) we offered twenty-seven forums. The vast majority of these were very well attended; in fact, over the past several years, our forum attendance has increased steadily! We hear reports from other hamfests that forum topics and attendance have declined substantially. Fortunately, our experience is just the opposite! We think it's because over the years we've been lucky to have had a broad base of talented forum presenters and moderators who continue to make our forums interesting, informative and credible; and who, even better, volunteer without being asked! It's to all those fine folks that we offer thanks and kudos for jobs well done!

*Johnny Winter, KR4F
 Chuck Lewis, N4NM*

The Giggle Box

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY THAT WAS BORN IN SEPTEMBER!!

A note from Giggles: I hope everyone enjoyed the Hamfest. I really enjoyed seeing everyone. I heard someone say that it is like a huge family reunion. Some of us get to see friends that we only see once a year. We probably would see them more if we went to more hamfests.

Congratulations to everyone that won a prize! I saw a lot of stuff going out the doors and a lot of smiling faces. I

assumed that they were all happy with their purchases. One of the vendors told me that she was really pleased with how she was welcomed by the people in the Huntsville ham community. As far as I know, we still are the "Friendliest Hamfest" and I'm proud to be associated with it. Everyone was eager to do their part in the Hamfest. If it wasn't for the dealers and vendors, there wouldn't be a Hamfest. A few of the new hams said that they had no idea what ham gear to buy, but with all the dealers and vendors under one roof, it made it easy for them to shop around and compare prices. With the current gas prices, I'm glad that we made it easier for them. I also asked someone that helped with the testing and they said that a lot of people passed and one guy went in and went from nothing to EXTRA. Congratulations to all our new hams. CUL 73

A Joke or Two

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day, only to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner "Good morning," said the young man. "If I could take a couple of minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners.

"Go away!" said the old lady. "I haven't got any money!" and she proceeded to close the door. Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open.

"Don't be too hasty!" he said. "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration." And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure onto her hallway carpet. "If this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse

manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder."

The old lady stepped back and said, "Well I hope you've got a good appetite, because they cut off my electricity this morning.

*** I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area. So I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?"

*** From such humble beginnings! A city boy named Richard moved to the country and bought a donkey from an old farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey to him the next day. But the next day, the farmer drove up in his old truck and told Richard, "Sorry, son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died."

Richard replied, "Well then, just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Richard said, "OK then, just bring me the donkey."

The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with a dead donkey?"

Richard, "I'm going to raffle him off."

The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"

Richard said, "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later the farmer met up with Richard and asked, "So, what happened with the dead donkey?"

Richard said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at \$2 a piece and made a profit of \$898.00."

The farmer said, "Didn't anyone complain?"

Richard replied, "Just the guy who won, so I gave him his \$2 back."

Richard grew up and eventually founded HealthSouth.

*** A Marine squad was marching north of Basra when they came upon an Iraqi soldier badly injured and unconscious. Nearby, on the opposite side of the road, was an American Marine in a similar but less serious state. The Marine was conscious and alert. As first aid was given to both men, the Marine was asked what had happened. The Marine reported, "I was heavily armed and moving north along the highway and coming south was a heavily armed Iraqi soldier. Seeing each other we both took cover."

"What happened then?" the Corpsman asked.

"I yelled to him that Saddam Hussein was a miserable low-life scumbag,

and he yelled back, "Teddy Kennedy is a rich, good-for-nothing fat drunk."

"We were standing there shaking hands when a truck hit us."

Did You Know:

K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.

The Reminder for the Month of September

Do something for the Kid in You everyday.

Solve the puzzle: DOL GEA T'NAI NO CEPLA ORF SSSSIIE. -Bette Davis-

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

Nara Notes:

It has been awhile since the last Nara Notes installment. A lot has been happening in repeater land.

Everyone should have gotten their mid-year NARA newsletter and command sheets. All valid email addresses were sent PDF files. Those without a valid email were mailed via the postal service. If you are a member of NARA and didn't receive your copy, call or email me your request. If you have

HARC Officers Commit Matrimony

HARC Treasurer Heath Thorson and HARC Secretary Rolf Goedhart have both committed matrimony since the last Vox hit the mail. The pictures shown here are courtesy of Woodie, K8GNM. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to both of them.



*Heath & Heather,
Mr. & Mrs. Heath Thorson*



*Rolf & Kim
Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Goedhart*

changed your email address, please let us know!

We held our mid-year NARA meeting in July. Thanks to everyone that attended. If you didn't attend, you missed out. I gave out CD copies of my repeater training materials.

Ron and I ran up to the 443.500 site mid-August. We reinstalled the external preamp on the receiver. It should be much hotter now. We also readjusted the audio levels with a service monitor.

The six meter machine has been working great since the reinstallation in June. If you have the capability, it's a fun band so give it a try 53.21 MHz with

1 meg offset and 100 Hz PL. Everyday a new user is popping up on the machine and experiencing six meters for the first time.

As most of you probably have heard, there has been a lot happening on your 146.94 repeater recently. We had a plan to replace the hardline and antenna up at Chn 31 this year. I challenged the technical team about three weeks prior to the hamfest. The optimistic goal was to have a new 146.94 ready for hamfest talk-in. First, we installed a new antenna and hard-line at the Channel 31 site. Many thanks to all that had a hand in the several days of activity to bring this about. Several members went the extra mile and we do appreciate their efforts! Second, we installed a complete auxiliary .94 repeater at Chn 31. Most of this hardware was loaned to NARA for the test phase. We wanted the hardware to be as identical to the original repeater (GE Master II base) as possible. In this way if we could overcome any interference issues with the backup gear, it would also work for the main equipment. For the test repeater we used our backup CAT-300 controller. It was placed on a 136.5 Hz PL tone different than the main repeater on 100 Hz. With different PL tones we could test out the new site with minimal interruption to all of our users on the main repeater. We didn't want to carry the main 94 hardware back and forth between sites like we did last year, which disrupted the 146.94 service. Again my many thanks to all involved. We estimate over 100 man-hours were expended to meet our goal.

During the hamfest we turned off the main .94 remotely and enabled the test .94 on carrier access. We had both machines available for 146.94 operations. Should one have failed, within a few keystrokes we could have had another online immediately for net talk-in duty.

The results of our testing and hamfest use of the new .94 have shown us that there are definite improvements in the coverage, especially in the outer lying areas. We have always had holes in the coverage due to local terrain. The remote receiver project will address that issue. The channel 31 site is still an RF haven, with multiple pagers in the area. I think we identified about 5 pager signals. However, after some experi-

mentation we think we've reached the optimal amount of filtering without killing the receiver sensitivity. The plan is to move the original 146.94 hardware back to its home at channel 31. Since the backup equipment was very similar, we shouldn't have too many issues pop up during the transition.

I think this year's Huntsville hamfest was a great success. I enjoyed seeing everyone for an eyeball QSO. Both groups (NARA/ARC) had a number of membership renewals and new member signups. I had a number of older hams come by that said they were getting back into FM after a long absence. The advent of IRLP & Echolink was of great interest to them. The ARC repeater wall map of Alabama was a big hit. Ron W4VM has some left over if you are interested in purchasing one. I want to thank the HARC group for providing us a booth at the hamfest.

We've been busy on other projects and haven't moved the .94 remote RX to its new home atop Green Mountain yet. However, the antenna for the remote receiver has been mounted at the new site on the mountain.

The 220 repeater is working better than ever. After Bill installed a DCI filter on its front end the receiver is very sensitive. It is another fun band to use if you haven't tried it before.

Our battery backup system on 147.18 alerted us with a different courtesy tone to the fact that we'd lost AC power up at the site and we were on battery backup. This happened a day or so before the hamfest. Repeater bug-a-boos always seem to happen when you need them the most. We were concerned something may have gone wrong with the battery backup system itself. A couple of our repeater assistance group went to the site and discovered our AC circuit breaker had tripped. So our battery system was doing what it was supposed to do. Someone had cut an AC extension cord outside the building with a weed whacker. This tripped the breaker our system was on. We disconnected the shorted extension cord and enabled the breaker. It's good to know our backup power system worked like a charm!

Hope to hear you on the repeaters soon.

73, Ralph Hogan W4XE, NARA President

From the Treasurer:

Greetings Hams:

WOW!!! what a field day and hamfest. I had the pleasure of working one of the stations at field day for around 6 hours or so. What a wonderful feeling it was to talk to people all over the country. I think also Peggy K4EGB deserves wonderful credit as usual for her picnic at field day. If you came to the field day picnic and left hungry it was your own fault. She had more stuff out there than could feed a small army.

We did very well this year for field day cost in comparison to previous years. We spent around \$600.00 or so which is much better than we expected. Thanks to all the people who made field day such a success.

Now that being said, can't leave out hamfest in this article either. I was present all day Saturday from open to close and even spent some time in the hospitality suite. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlow, Peggy, and others kept it all going over there. I talked to many of the vendors as well as the guests and it was a great success again this year. The hamfest takes lots of volunteers to make it happen and many don't know just how much their hard work and efforts are appreciated. I can assure all of you from working talk in Friday and Saturday nights along with Paul WB4UEE, many guests from out of town were very happy with Huntsville and the people they came in contact with who make the hamfest the wonderful event it truly is. Lots of the people who work never hear such great comments however the 146.940 repeater was full of them both nights. All of that being said, we have had some great events in recent months.

Now we are on a quiet time until the Christmas party. I am sure a few activities will come up. Come on out and join us at the Red Cross each Friday at 7:30 p. m. The more the better.

See you there!!

73, Heath Thorson (KC4HRX)
Email: hthorson@bellsouth.net

2005 Hamfest Flea Market Wrap-up

Well, another "fest" under our belt and this one went so smoothly it was scary. However, upon reflection, I

know that everyone of you that volunteered your time to help is the reason it went so well. I want to thank each and every one of you for your contribution. The show could not go on without you. I heard numerous compliments, especially from our first time vendors, about how much they were impressed with the assistance they got during move-in, how friendly everybody was, and how well the show was organized.

In the flea market we started out with 320 tables. By the time we opened the doors to the public all but just a few tables had been rented and we didn't have to turn anyone away. So from the flea market perspective, this was another successful hamfest.

*Thanks to All, Dave K5RSI Flea Market
Chairman*

To All The Hamfest Workers...



I would like to express my deepest appreciation to every person that took the time to work the Huntsville Hamfest this year. With out your effort and dedication, the Hamfest just simply would not happen.

I have heard so many kind comments about how enthusiastic the Workers seemed to be, and how much, both the Vendors and Flea Market Folks appreciated all the help with the unloading and handling of the equipment they brought. They all say they just don't get that anywhere else.

We have one of the best Hamfests in the Country, and one reason it for that,

is because of the fine Hamfest Crew we have here. Thank you very much.

Charlie Emerson/N4OKL

Mystery Explained

We get very good information on the statistics of people accessing the hamfest web site. (Www.hamfest.org or www.huntsvillehamfest.org, just in case you don't already know.) I was putting together a summary of the activity on the site for the hamfest folks when I ran into a mystery. For some reason there was a big peak in visits to the site on August 6 and 7. A big peak just before the hamfest on Friday the 19th occurred as expected, but why the 6th? I asked the question along with providing the rest of the statistics.

Tonight I get the answer from Robby Sperr at GigaParts. On August 6th, the bonus question of the day for the GigaParts.com IC-756PROIII Sweepstakes was:

On what dates will the 2005 Huntsville, AL Hamfest be held?

- * August 6 & 7
- * August 20 & 21
- * August 13 & 14
- * August 27 & 28

<http://www.gigaparts.com/sweepstakes/>

I think we should all take the opportunity to thank the GigaParts folks both for their support of the Huntsville Hamfest and for their making a lot of extra hams aware of the hamfest.

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU

Fleas

Sick Kenwood TS 180

I have a Kenwood TS 180 [with matching power supply]. The radio does have some problems with it. It works good all the time on 20 through 10 meters. On 80 and 40 meters it works for about 15 to 20 min and then it shuts off on the read out, along with receive and out put on these two bands. I am asking \$100 for everything including all the manuals. I do not have a mike for the transceiver. Phone number is [256]-852-4962. You can also reach me via E-mail <eagwach@aol.com>

73, George Wachter

Found:

A blue and white 6 pack Igloo cooler was found at the front of the South Hall after the hamfest. Please call Woodie, K8GNM, at 830.4147 to claim.

From The Editor's Wastebasket

Well, FD is over and the Hamfest is wrapped up. What do we do now? It's time to get into our "regular" groove and carry on until Christmas and the big joint HARC NARA membership mailing. I think the general opinion is that we need to mail to every ham household in Madison County plus a few more this year. That decision needs to be made early because the time period for massaging those addresses coincides with Christmas shopping and sending out Christmas cards. Last year I ended up eschewing Christmas cards and sending out New Year's cards instead.

Another thing we need to be thinking about is **PROGRAMS**. We've had too many nights in the past six months or so when the routine was Introductions, Stories, Announcements, Old Business, New Business sometimes Monkey Business, Adjournment, Goodbye. Ask yourself, if you were a ham considering joining HARC and attended a few meetings like that, would you want to come back? I don't think I would. I believe programs are too important to the club to depend on one person to come up with them every week. That's too big a load on one person. I've maintained before that every member of HARC has some special interest or is involved in some activity that would be of interest to the club. Offer it to the officers as a program. If you don't think it warrants a full program, there's nothing wrong with having a night with a few "Mini-Programs".

Speaking of folks joining HARC, we need to encourage that. I ran the pre-sort program for the September Vox a week or so just to see where we stood and a critical number which was required to be 200 or over was exactly 200. Loss of even one member would have dropped us out of bulk mailing. Some folks have been added since then, so things aren't all that bad, but we are perilously close to dropping below the line if we aren't careful. I know the number of hams seems to be dropping and some of those who remain don't

seem to be interested in joining. We **MUST** offer something besides a short business meeting every Friday night to keep people coming back.

A month or so ago I came up with a list of those who were members at the beginning of '04 and whose dues had expired since then. Members were going to try to call those individuals and see if they meant to not renew or had just forgotten it. The last Vox included a strong reminder that folks needed to check their expiration date on the Vox label and get right with Heath if they needed to. Since then a few have done so. I should be getting the latest list from Heath soon and I propose we send all those folks a letter with a membership application if they need to update their information and a reminder that we need their dues.

When I send a bulk email to the membership there's a group of individuals for whom I get "Bounce" messages. I've distilled a list of the call signs of those folks they are listed below. I'd appreciate it if they would send me an email (femens@hiwaay.net) with their correct email address.

K4ARG
N4SCO
N4FIH
WA4LML
K4JQS
KW4D
KE4BQC
K9LTR
AA8BR
WB4UT
WA9TOC
WB4PQE
KF4LFV
W1IEH
W4IJC

73, Frank Emens, W4HFU



Crowd Waiting For The Saturday 4:00 Prize Drawing

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

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