

## Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Information

### Club Officers

#### President:

Chris Best, KB3DXR  
kb3dxr@yahoo.com

#### Vice President:

Rolf Goedhart K4RGG.  
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 7, July, 2006

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

## First Alabama Young Ham Of The Year, Robby Lock, KG4PLK



Robby is the first recipient of the Alabama Young Ham of the Year Award that was presented at the Huntsville Hamfest. Robbie has dedicated himself to helping others especially with regard to Emergency Communications and Amateur Radio.

Robby routinely calls training nets on the 146.940 repeater in Huntsville. These are weekly training nets that help operators become better prepared by testing their radio's and sharing information with regard to preparedness. Robby has called the net mobile, from home and even called the net from a High School football game when the scheduled net control became unavailable. This shows commitment and dedication to Amateur radio that is a model for other Amateurs both newly licensed and old timers alike.

In addition to Emergency Communications, Robby has participated in Field Day since he was licensed and also helps out with the Huntsville Hamfest. He has volunteered many hours in support of amateur radio activities. This June, Robby was nominated and was elected as Secretary of the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club where he continues to expand his horizons with regard to amateur radio. Robby is a very responsible young man. Robby is a deserving winner of the 2006 Alabama Young Ham of the Year Award.

## NARA Notes

Well it is Huntsville hamfest+1 day as I write this. I really enjoyed having eyeball QSOs with everyone. If you didn't get a chance to make it this year to the hamfest you missed a good one for sure. While there might have been

### 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, September 2

Saturday, October 7

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. They are held at the Athens EOC.

For information contact Bob Hudson,  
W4RKH, 461-7905

just a few less swap tables, the crowd attendance looked great and everyone I talked to had a good time. The forum schedule was packed with excellent topics. I just wish I'd had time to see more of them than I did. We had the joint NARA & Alabama Repeater Council booth thanks to the HARC club! It was fun talking about repeaters with our users and comparing notes with other repeater owners. Ron W4VM had an excellent live demo of D-star into the local N4HSV D-star repeater. Through the local system he was connected to the gateway to the K5TIT D-star in Texas. During a QSO with a K6 station Ron was captured on the live streaming video

HTTP://WA5KUB.COM. The K6 ham on the other end was able to get on the WA5KUB Internet site and see Ron talking to him real time. I thought that was pretty slick!

Some of the NARA members are very interested in the new digital voice D-star technology. It will be very interesting to see how D-STAR unfolds and what features they add into the protocol over time. It seems Alabama is a hot bed of activity. It would be safe to say it is still in its infancy, but hopefully will be growing over time. If more equipment manufacturers join ICOM in producing equipment this will definitely help bring the cost down. I've had a chance to play with

the ICOM mobile and HT. They are definitely nice radios. The D-STAR dual-band VHF/UHF radios are capable of both digital and the traditional analog FM voice. So you can use them on the new D-star repeaters as well as the existing FM repeaters like 146.94. One note, in the digital mode it ONLY works through a D-star digital repeater or simplex to another digital D-star radio. You can't work analog FM through a D-STAR repeater and you can't use digital voice D-star through an analog FM repeater like 146.94. The two modes are not compatible.

It has been a very busy year for most of the NARA Board members from a

HARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR September, 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	30 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	31 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	1 HARC Meeting	2 *TWIAR  CAVEC Amateur Radio Exams, Red Cross Bldg, 0900
3	4	5 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	6 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	7 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	8 HARC Meeting	9 *TWIAR
10	11	12 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	13 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	14 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	15 HARC Meeting  Third Friday, Vox Night	16 *TWIAR
17	18	19 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	20 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	21 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	22 HARC Meeting	23 *TWIAR
24	25	26 ATV Net 2000 Check In 145.33	27 SE Linked Rptr Net 2000 +442.775/PL 203.5	28 EMERGENCY NET on 34/94 @ 1930 Skywarn Net on 147.24 @ 2000	29 HARC Meeting  Fifth Friday Auction	30 *TWIAR  Crow Mtn Hill Climb
1  Crow Mtn Hill Climb	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 Amateur Radio 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](http://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                      (256) 535-4442  
The Gallery Shopping Center              10 - 7 Mon-Sat, 1 - 4 Sun

Come see us next to Chili's!

personal perspective. This hasn't allowed us to do as many repeater updates as we had planned so far. Fortunately all of our efforts and hard work in the past have paid off this year. Our repeater systems have been up and performing maintenance free. One of our decisions to standardize on the GE Master II equipment, it just keeps working!

We have a couple of big projects to complete this year. The automatic voter receiver project has had some forward motion recently. This will let us use the Green mountain remote receiver (already installed) without having to change PL tones (100 Hz main or 107.2 Hz remote) to select which receiver you want to come into the repeater on. Another important goal this year is some tower work at two of our repeater sites. The weather will start getting cooler soon which will be good for tower work. Have you ever won-

dered what the repeaters look like and want to seem them in person? Have I got a deal for you! Giving a helping hand on the ground crew might be just the thing for you. We'll need your help!

One of the things that slipped by this year was our July NARA meeting. The summer has flown by me. I've had trips to Montreal, Chicago, St. Louis, Lexington, Phoenix, Tallahassee and Europe this summer to name a few. If we can squeeze a meeting into the HARC calendar perhaps we'll have one a little late this year. In the meantime, I've completed the NARA newsletter and it should be emailed out to the membership soon.

The last item I wanted to mention was our IRLP node access on 147.18. Due to a quirk in the repeater controller firmware if you didn't access the IRLP correctly the controller would vi-

olate an IRLP rule. We got our hand slapped by the IRLP custodians. For now, we've had to change the access codes to IRLP. We are simply requesting you contact RON W4VM W4VM@comcast.net. He will step you through the proper way to access the IRLP (to get around the controller issue) and provide you with the new access codes.

Thanks for the support from the NARA membership!

73, Ralph W4XE  
W4XE@qsl.net  
NARA President  
53.21/145.33/146.94/147.18/224.94/443.5  
00/443.800

### Crow Mountain Hill Climb

The Huntsville section of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) staged their first Crow Mountain Hill Climb (CMHC) in Jackson County Alabama last year. We, the ham radio operators

**ARRL Alabama Section Leadership Team.**  
**Check [www.arrl-al.org/officers.htm](http://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

from Huntsville and surrounding communities provided the essential radio communications for this event. Without our ham radio support, this event can not take place. For the whole 2+ mile length of the course, cars have to be in sight of a radio operator at all times, so that cars about 30 seconds behind another car can be stopped in case of a mishap on the course ahead.

Although this event was held for the first time last year, it was a great success. It was a great success for the SCCA organizers and participants, and it was a great success for us ham radio operators. Although we have never worked together as a team like that before, things went amazingly smooth considering all the things that could have gone wrong.

We had 45 ham radio operators for this event. Most stayed and worked this event for the whole two days, from morning until late afternoon. We needed more ham radio operators, but we managed. It was a great experience in practicing our emergency preparedness, in that we all had to provide our own communications and power source equipment. All of us learnt very quickly how to communicate quickly and effectively, to keep the SCCA organizers and other SCCA staff informed of the course status and the event progress.

The SCCA organizers were impressed with the radio communications that the ham radio operators

provided. We were thanked a lot for our service. The SCCA organizer of the 2006 CMHC has made his formal request for ham radio communications support for this year's CMHC. The CMHC will take place on Saturday Sept. 30, 2006 and on Sunday Oct. 1, 2006.

I hope that we can get together a group of hams again this year to support the 2006 CMHC. Everyone who helped last year, expressed to me personally that they very much enjoyed the activity and want to be part of it again this year. I hope that everyone from last year can make it, and I hope to get even more ham radio operators to help with this event. It would be nice if we could fill additional work positions, and be able to work some shifts to give people more time to have a look at other areas of the event.

Please let me know if you can help. Aside from Field Day, it is another good opportunity to practice our emergency preparedness, besides enjoying the camaraderie, having fun and being appreciated by the SCCA organizers, staff and event participants.

*73 de Dieter kx4y (HARC member)*  
(256) 259-3900

kx4y@amsat.org

### **The Giggle Box**

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

A note from Giggles: I can't believe that Field Day, the Huntsville Hamfest

is over. And summer is almost over also.

We had a great Field Day. The food was fantastic and I think we got everyone's dishes back to them. The rain kept everyone under the tents and it gave them a chance to catch up on old gossip.

When I saw the Golf Cart runing around the Field Day site, I giggled at the little drivers. They really came in handy when we needed something or someone in another location.

It looked like the Huntsville Hamfest was a big success. Again, I saw a lot of people that I hadn't seen in a long time. We really had fun watching the winners play the GAME OF SKILL when they won their prizes.

I saw a lot of happy faces when I asked them what they thought about it.

Congratulations to Robby Lock, KG4PLK on being named Alabama's Young Ham Of The Year.

*CUL*

### **A Joke or Two**

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were 2 boy kittens and 2 girl kittens."

"How did you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

\*\*\* Another three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed that the left shoe was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet."

He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. They're the only feet I got!"

\*\*\* On the first day of school, about midmorning, the kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers."

A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

\*\*\* A mother and her young son returned from the grocery store and began putting away the groceries. The boy opened the box of animal crackers and spread them all over the table. "What are you doing?" his mother asked.

"The box says not to eat them if the seal is broken," the boy explained. "I'm looking for the seal."

\*\*\* A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus."

\*\*\* A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

\*\*\* After the church service a little boy told the pastor, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money."

"Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?"

"Because my daddy says you're the poorest preacher we've ever had."

**The Hint for the Month of September:** Prevent screws in eyeglasses from working loose by applying a small drop of clear fingernail polish to the threads before tightening them.

**The Thought for the Month of September:** The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.

**Solve the puzzle:** NWHE  
EEVYRINGTH'S MINGCO RYOU  
AWY, UOYER IN HET ONGWR  
ENAL.

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

## **September Hamfests**

**September 9, 2006.**

Calhoun County Hamfest, Oxford, Alabama will be held at the Friendship Community Center, 2930 Friendship Road, Oxford, Alabama. Talk-in is 147.04 (PL 131.8) and 147.09 (PL 131.8). Contact Bob Maynard, WA4KSS at (256)393-5079 or c3controls1@3cs.com.

*73 John KC4ZXX*

## **From The Editor's Wastebasket**

Well, how about the hamfest? Things kept pretty busy Saturday and even though Sunday was a lot quieter, there was still a good bit of activity. The Flea Market had some unsold tables but the Dealer Show seemed well populated. A lot of the Flea Market folks packed up and went home when things closed down Saturday. I hope that means they sold out and had no further reason to hold their tables.

I saw WA5KUB and his helmet-cam team touring around the place. I hope they came up with material to interest the folks watching the streaming video coverage on the internet. If you missed out on any of that, they are still running tapes of what they covered on their web site, [www.wa5kub.com](http://www.wa5kub.com).

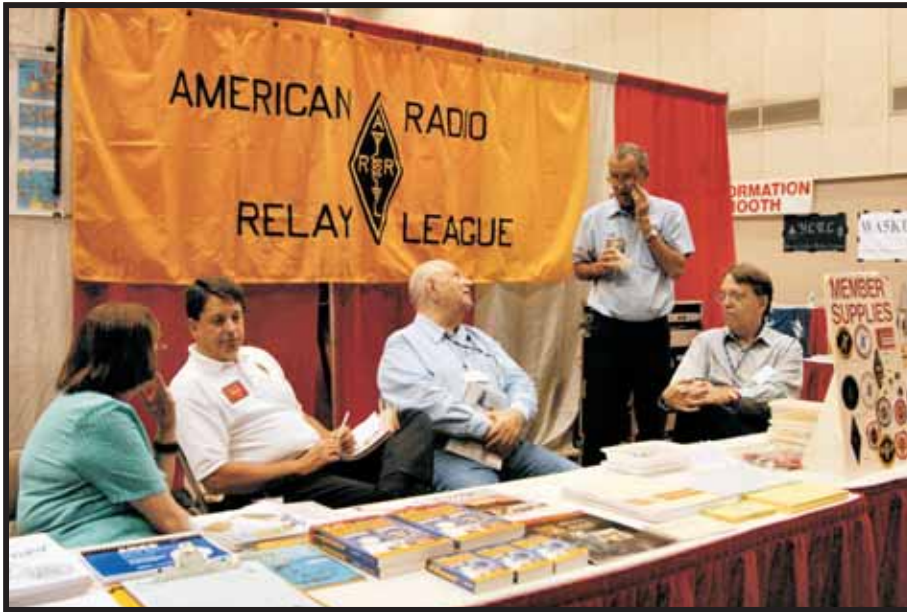
I agree with Miz Giggles, it is hard to believe that FD and the Hamfest are over and folks are thinking about what they'll do come Labor Day. And they've started showing live football games on TV already. Schools are already cranked up and next thing we know it'll be Halloween. They say time does fly when you're having fun and I hope that is evidence that we are!

We can't stress enough that HARC needs interesting programs. Rolf has asked your help in coming up with program ideas and I hope you'll do your best to help him come up with a good program for almost every meeting.

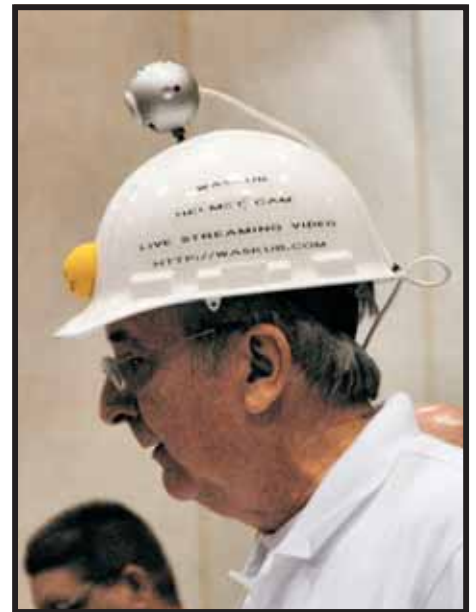
I can't say for certain, but I think this will be the last Vox that is mailed to the entire membership. Those members for whom we have valid email addresses and who have not requested a snail mailed copy will receive an email advising them the Vox is ready with a link to download it. Other members and those who get copies for information (like the clubs that we have newsletter swap agreements with) will still receive snail mailed copies. When I post this issue on the web site and send out an announcement email, I'll be keeping a record of the bounces and will use U S Mail to ask them to give us a valid address. If we are lucky enough to keep the snail mail list small, we should save the club and the hamfest some cash and make the Vox available to the bulk of the membership a lot faster.

If it happens that we have a good email address for you but you are having trouble receiving and viewing the online version of the Vox, let us know. We'll either help you get set up to receive it or put you on the snail mail list.

*73, Frank Emens, W4HFU*



*Dignitaries at the ARRL Bopoth*



*Helmet Cam for Streaming Video*

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