

The President's Corner

One year ago, the talk from Billy Gold in a corner at SIGNALS commenced of me taking on HARC President role. Coming up to a year now and living the role as much as I can while serving the amateur radio community daily in job where you all know where I am 😊. Well, that time is coming again for Elections to if you are interested in keeping this strong amateur radio club going please throw your name in and give it a shot. I will run again for President for another year but after the two-year in the role my time will come to the end and pass along to someone else. This is a personnel opinion but fresh blood is what many successful organizations thrive on and shows in the future too.



The April month we will have a Swap Meet on the 20th during the annual Ham Radio Day at GigaParts and will also have a “GOTA Station” running for anyone wanting to try HF radio that may be a technician or the very common mic shy types too. Come join the Club for a day of not only the swap meet but several vendors in the industry will be present and presentations from many in the hobby not commonly seen often.

Lastly, I ask that everyone support our 2024 Field Day event this year which at the time of this writing we have been thrown some wrenches but let's see what we can work out and make us still strive for 1st Place 4A and Top Ten in the rankings for the complete event. Even I am not sure where I will be during that weekend with a possible trip to an event in Europe being rumored but right now may not be possible due to getting Passport in time...maybe 2025.

Enjoy the April events and see you on the air!!

Steve KI4KWR,
HARC President

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Shack of the Month—by Mark M4BCD



On April 8, 2024 I found a church parking lot in Texarkana, TX to view the total eclipse. During the 3 minutes and 4 seconds of totality, the birds stopped chirping and the street lights came on. Truly an awe inspiring experience.

While waiting I had fun giving out a few contacts in the Solar Eclipse QSO party using my newly assembled POTA setup.

A LiPo battery runs a TS-590 connected to a B&W tuner, then a choke balun to a 4:1 balun and a 44' wire sloping up into a tree.

This was my second time to witness a total eclipse. The first one was in middle Tennessee on August 21, 2017—the Monday after Huntsville Hamfest.

The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club®

Club Officers & Info

Steve Molo	KI4KWR	President	president@harc.net
Billy Gold	KM4BGF	Vice President	KM4BGF@gmail.com
Craig Reinhart	KD4IYD	Secretary	creinhart41@gmail.com
Lisa Shier	N3WQL	Treasurer	treasurer@harc.net
John Morgan	N4CNY	Officer at-large	morganjohn@juno.com
Mark Brown	N4BCD	Officer at-large	mark.n4bcd@yahoo.com
Tim Huffaker	KM4ESU	Officer at-large	thuffaker1@gmail.com

Meeting location: Online via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6588519706?pwd=Z2VxVGJ0SCsvN2NTSFJ5TE5BVklRdz09>

Meeting time: Every Friday, 7:30 PM (except on major holidays)

Mailing address: HARC, PO Box 2196, Huntsville, AL 35804

Visitors welcome at all meetings.

Club website: www.harc.net

Club callsign: K4BFT (<http://www.qrz.com/db/K4BFT>)

Mail reflector signup: follow the link below the HARC logo on the home page

Public Service Communicators Needed by Roger Parsons KK4UDU

Make-A-Wish Trailblaze Challenge 2024 will take place on Saturday, April 20 and again on Saturday, May 4. We need about 18 to 20 operators, stationed about every 4 ½ miles along the Pinhoti Trail and Silent Chinnabee Trail located just south of the Cheaha State Park. Stations are secured as the last hiker arrives at the next station.

The first half of the trail is staffed starting between 0400 and 0700 with the secure time usually by lunch. The second half of the trail is staffed by 1000 and usually secure by 1900.

All stations are self-supported. There is no infrastructure support at the stations. The stations are all in the woods, accessible by Forest Service Roads. The Aid Station are at the intersection of the Forest Roads and paved highways.

They will drop hikers off at Porter's Gap at 0430 in the morning and follow the trails until they reach the finish line at Turnipseed Campground. We will report the First Hiker past a station and the "Back Sweepers" (The MAW staff put 2 hikers to follow the "herd" making sure no one is still on the trail). The MAW sets up "Aid Stations" at the major trail/road crossings to provide support for the hikers, we have stations there. Net Control is setup at Turnipseed Campground. We will be using the Cheaha repeater and the Talladega Repeater as our communications. (Some location can't reach one or the other repeater so we use both).



Net Control and Comms Leader will arrive on Friday morning at Turnipseed National Campground (Primitive). We invite you to participate with us on this important event.

73,

Roger Parsons KK4UDU

205.641.9063

KK4UDU (at) ARRL (dot) ORG

Meeting Minutes— by Craig KD4IYD

March 1, 2024

The meeting began at 7:31 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcomed 36 members, 15 members on zoom and 1 visitor. Then made several announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next week's program will be the TJMD DXpedition (Cameroon) presented by Steve AG4W.
- GigaParts GRAND Opening at the new store will take March 23.-Club Booth Outside.
- GigaParts. HAM Radio Days will be April 20. We will have a Flea Market. If you need more information Contact Steve or Billy.
- We need programs for most of the rest of the year. If you would like to present a program or know someone who is willing to present a program, please contact Steve or Billy.
- It was announced that Bob Heil has become a silent key after losing his valiant battle with cancer.
- Mary KQ4HNC announced that the museum will have a workday next Saturday from 9-3.

Upcoming Activities:

- ARRL International DX(Phone) March 2- 3
- Upcoming Ham fest Birmingham (March 15- 16).
- Cullman Hamfest (July 13).

Old Business:

- KM4ESU is still working on the club generators. The end goal is to rehab them and sell them.

New Business:

- Door Prize \$50 Mystery Box. The winner was KK4URX

The business meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Program: Report on Intellitron products presented by Steve KI4KWR.

March 8, 2024

The meeting began at 7:30 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcomed 30 members, 14 members on zoom and 3 visitors. Then made several announcements.

Meeting Minutes—continued

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next week's program will be The SUN, presented by Lisa W3WQL.

- The weekly Wednesday lunch will take place at 11:00 AM at the New China Buffet on Jordan Lane.
- Mark N4BCD announced that at this year's HamFest there will be vendors that will have Huntsville Hamfest memorabilia for sale.
- Billy KM4BGF asked for ideas for build nights.
- John N4CNY gave a report on school involvement. He said that Sparkman Middle School had invited him to come and speak about amateur radio and interest was shown within the faculty and students. He has been asked back to start teaching a class on amateur radio. This is a foot in the door to increase interest in amateur radio among the school systems.
- A visitor said that he was trying to erect his tower, but was lacking a gin pole to complete that task. Steve said he had one and would get with the visitor and work something out.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- Lisa W4WQL presented the treasurers report for the month of February to the club. The proposal was made and seconded to accept the treasurers report. The vote was unanimous.
- The club had one new applicant for membership. he was: Tyler KQ40KT. The club approved his membership unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Program: TJ9MD DXpedition (Cameroon). Presented by Steve AG4W.

March 15, 2024

The meeting began at 7:31 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcomed 34 members, 14 members on zoom and 3 visitors. Then made several announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Steve gave a brief sneak peek slide show of the grand opening of GigaParts at its new location.
-

Meeting Minutes—continued

- Billy KM4BGF led a discussion on whether we would have an auction night on March 29. Please contact Billy and let him know if you have any ham related items to bring for sale during that night. If we do not have enough items. The auction night will be canceled and we will have another program
- March 30 will be a Museum Work Day

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

*The club had one new applicant for membership. he was: Doug AD4MV. The club approved his membership unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Program: THE SUN presented by Lisa N3WQL.

March 22, 2024

The meeting began at 7:30 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcomed 37 members, 17 members on zoom, and 3 visitors. Then made several announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next week's program will be a video or DVD on a subject to be determined latter.

Upcoming Contests:

- The ARRL Rookie Roundup will take place on April 21.

Upcoming Hamfests:

- Fort Payne Hamfest - March 23, 2024

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- The club had two new applicants for membership. They were Freddy KG4MTS and David WS4M. The club approved their memberships unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

PROGRAM: The Ionosphere presented by Lisa N3WQL.

March 29, 2024.

Meeting Minutes—continued

The meeting began at 7:31 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcomed 30 members, 11 members on zoom, and 2 visitors. Then made several announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next week's presentation will be Calibrate a Bird Model 43 Directional Wattmeter presented by John N5DF.
- GigaParts HAM RADIO DAY will be April 20. There will be club booths outside and a swap meet in the parking lot. There will also be a GOTA station for those who wish to get on the air. There will be several clubs and vendors present.
- Upcoming contests:
 - CQ WW WPX contest, SSB on March 30- 31st
 - Solar Eclipse QSO Party April 8th 1400-2359. Information will be sent out.
 - ARRL Rookie roundup April 21. Please get on the air to support the beginning hams.
- There will be a museum work day tomorrow.
- HARC programs are available to watch, go to the website to access. They are most of the new programs that have been recorded. There will be more to come later.
- There was a discussion about if we want to go to one meeting a month. Also, there was a discussion on where we would meet. The survey that was taken by the members earlier was revealed and what it showed. It was decided that we needed to take another survey and discuss this later.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Some of the programs that are scheduled soon were revealed.
- Field Day - there will be a meeting next week. The club will be receiving information later.
- Field day is in the need for at least 1 trailer. If you can lend a trailer, please contact Tom WS4M.
- There was a discussion of what we could use the \$250 GigaParts GIFT Certificate for. If you have any ideas, please contact Steve or Billy.
- The club had one new applicant for membership. He is: John KQ40XE. The club approved his membership unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Program: The video: Five DXexpeditions of the Year. THE UNTOLD STORY as remembered by Bob K4UEE(SK).

HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL

HAYLARC had an information table at the GigaParts Grand Opening on March 23. We talked to prospective members and people interested in getting started in ham radio.



HAYLARC Vice-President Lisa Shier, N3WQL, gave back to back programs at the HARC meetings on March 15 and March 22. The first was on the sun it's high energy emissions that affect long-range radio propagation. The second was about the ionosphere and how it reflects, passes, or absorbs radio waves. Lisa is also an ARRL Technical Specialist.

We are putting together a POYA activation for March. Stay tuned for details! We will also be doing a marine mobile event (a kayak trip) on May 4. YLs, OMs, and guests are all invited to the kayak trip.

Photo credit -- KQ4HNK.

The HAYLARC social lunch this month was on March 14 at Olive Garden. The next one will be at Ted's BBQ on Madison Blvd on April 11 at 11:30. All YLs or prospective YLs are welcome.

The next business meeting is April 23 at 7 PM on Zoom.



Mari Allen, KQ4HNK, and Laura Morgan, K4CNY, work the HAYLARC information table at the GigaParts grand opening on March 23. Photo credit -- N3WQL.

ARES Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2024

by Steve KM4CJ

The meeting was conducted at the Madison County
EMA EOC
There were 14 in attendance.
The meeting started at 18:00 central time.

Tim, KK5H, opened the meeting by welcoming
everybody.

Announcements:

Tim, KK5H, announced next month's meeting,
April 11, will be a tour of the Huntsville Utili-
ties Operations Centre on Johnson Road. If you
would like to attend, please sign up and let Tim
know, as the list of names needs to be provided
beforehand and the group size is limited.

EMA – Chris, AI4U, announced the EMA move to
the new building is scheduled for May 28th.

Chris thanked the ARES group for their support to the City of Madison ReadyFest.

CERT - Tom, WS4M, announced that class 78 has completed and if anyone is interested in attending the
next CERT class to go to the web site and sign up. <https://madisoncountycert.org/>

Program:

Steve, KM4CJ, provided a presentation on Net operations. We conducted a simulated net exercise where
we took check-ins and damage reports. We discussed what information needs to be relayed based on
the level of activation and contrasted a “good” report versus a “bad” report.

Meeting adjourned 18:55 central time.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Smith

Assistant Emergency Coordinator

ARES Madison County



General Announcements

For those who are interested in learning CW but need some Elmering, Laura K4CNY has created a GroupMe group that you can use to ask questions and arrange with Elmers for on-the-air practice.

If you are interested in Elmering, we can always use your help!

To join, click here: https://groupme.com/join_group/70112276/7m2J4Tpk

Interested in local POTA activations? Connect here.

<https://groups.io/g/harc-pota/messages>

You can request a subscribe here, or write me here for an invite.

robert.ehresman@gmail.com

Time flies. Days turn to years, years into decades. It's a lot easier to renew your FCC license before it expires. That goes for your XYL too. Ask me how I know.

Handy Bookmarks:

What contests are this weekend? <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

What DXpeditions are active? <https://dxnews.com/calendar/>

What are the solar conditions? <https://www.qrz.com/>

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club <http://harc.net>

North Alabama DX Club <http://nadxc.org>

Huntsville Area YL Amateur Radio Club <https://haylarc.wordpress.com/>

Madison Co ARES/RACES <https://madisoncountyaema.gov/amateur-radio/>

North Alabama Repeater Association <http://n4hsv.net/>

Marshall Space Flight Center Amateur Radio Club <https://www.nn4sa.org/>

Photos needed

Send a picture of your shack, mobile setup, or antenna to share with the HARC community to mark.n4bcd (at) yahoo (dot) com.

Program and Project Managers

Madison Co Emergency Coordinator	Tim Holland KK5H
Field Day Chairperson	Tom Cash WS4M
Public Information Officer	Open
K4BFT Club Station Trustee	Laura Morgan K4CNY
Picnic/Food Coordinator	Warren K4MMW & Karen Alford
Training/Education Coordinator	John Morgan N4CNY
VOX Publisher	Mark Brown N4BCD
Program Coordinators	Jessica Molo KN4JJA, Chuck Lewis N4NM, Solomon Bolden KW4GY
Webmaster	Steve Molo KI4KWR
Repeater Program Announcer	Kelley Johns W4VPZ

Important Exam Info (updated Feb 2023)

The next Huntsville testing session is conducted the first Saturday of the month unless that weekend contains a holiday. If it does, the second Saturday will be the test date. Please check the HARC.NET website or www.cavechamexam.com to confirm. The testing location is at The Madison County Fire Training Academy Building, 300 Shields Rd, Huntsville, AL 35811

The exam sessions starts at 9:00 AM. Please plan to arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. New

FCC Requirement Effective 19 April 2022

The FCC released a Public Notice on March 23, 2022, stated the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 application became effective on April 19, 2022. The Federal Communications Commission's authority to impose and collect fees is mandated by Congress.

The new \$35 application fee will apply only to new, renewal, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class, will be exempt from fees.

Applicants will pay the local Huntsville CAVEC exam session fee (Adults - \$10 and any-one in student status - \$5) to the CAVEC VE team as usual. You can go ahead and fill out and print The NCVEC 605 (fill-able) Application at this link: [NCVEC 605 Application](#). You only need to fill it out through the signature and date block. The testing team will handle the rest of the form. We will also have blank NCVEC 605 forms available at the testing session as needed. As a reminder, all applicants are required to provide an email address for licensees on all applications.

The new payment process is as follows:

- 1) When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each qualifying candidate.
- 2) The candidate will have 10 calendar days, from the date of the application file number being issued to pay. If you have any issues with NOT receiving and email payment link within 2-3 days after testing, please contact CAVEC @ cavec.org@gmail.com.
- 3) After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or, in very rare instances, an explanation for why the application was dismissed or denied. The link will be valid for 30 days.

— GET PREPARED. GET OUT THERE. —

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