

## From your Publisher

Hello fellow HARC members. The end of the year is quickly approaching and winter is just around the corner. That also means it is almost that time of the year again for the Holiday season. Normally our club would be getting ready for our annual Holiday/Christmas party. Unfortunately, with the current COVID-19 pandemic in place, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the HARC Christmas Party this year. I was really looking forward to another great party with all of you and the great food and of course playing Dirty Santa. I sincerely hope that we will be back to normal by this time next year and will be able to continue this great tradition again. Every please have a safe and happy holiday season.



Even though many events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HARC did recently have Tailgate Swap Meet event on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> in the parking lot at GigaParts in Huntsville. Although we did not have as big a turnout as I had hoped it was still a very enjoyable event and everyone seemed to have a good time.

We had around 10 sellers and many more buyers in attendance with many different types of items for sale. I also stated a Zoom session for those who were unable to attend in person. The vendors were selling everything from Antique Heathkit ham radio equipment to 3D printed cellphone stands.

One seller had some tower sections, custom built Hazer tower system and lots of 11-meter radio gear. Another one of the sellers had a full Yaesu FT-897D HF radio system including everything you need to setup a portable HF station. For those who could not find what they were looking for outside, you could always make a trip inside GigaParts and get just about anything you want. Since the last

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## From the President—continued

event went so well we are thinking of having another Swap Meet or maybe even an outside auction sometime in the near future. So please keep a look out on the email reflector the HARC website and the HARC Facebook page for more information.

We could also use some volunteers. We currently have a couple of vacant positions in the club that need to be filled. One is the Training/Education Coordinator position that was left vacant when Bob Burns stepped down. We also have the Programs Manager position that just recently vacated by Anita Vibbert. I want to thank both Bob and Anita for serving in the positions they both done a great job. We are also looking for a HARC Social Media Liaison.

If you are interested in one of these positions or know of any of the club members who you think would be a good fit, please contact me and let me know.

73,  
Billy Gold KM4BGF  
HARC President

## The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club<sup>®</sup>

### Club Officers & Info

Billy Gold	KM4BGF	President	president@harc.net
Jared Messervy	W4XXX	Vice President	w4xxx@sanctum.tech
Anita Vibbert	KD2KAG	Secretary	KD2KAG@gmail.com
Lisa Shier	N3WQL	Treasurer	treasurer@harc.net
Tom Hatter	K4AKC	Officer at-large	k4akc@arrl.net
Dick Christiansen	W1TV	Officer at-large	W1TV@arrl.net
Paul Nix	KE4EOW	Officer at-large	Bomber1672@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](http://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

## Field Day Congratulations! By Laura K4CNY

To: members (at) harc (dot) net

Tue, Nov 3 at 12:47 PM

Hot off the press: Field Day 2020 Results!

HARC scored:

- **THIRD PLACE in the HIGHLY-COMPETITIVE 2A category!**
- **SECOND PLACE in the club category of AMSAT Field Day!**
- **SEVENTH PLACE in club aggregate scoring!**

That's THREE TOP TEN FINISHES and I haven't even finished breaking down the results! If you want to see for yourself, the full results are available here: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2020/Field-Day-2020-FinalQSTResults.pdf>

CONGRATULATIONS! Especially considering all we were up against this year, I could not be more proud of this team!

73, Laura K4CNY    HARC Field Day Coordinator

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HARC is in the planning stages of its first foray in Winter Field Day. You'll be hearing more about it from Chairman Steve Molo KI4KWR during meetings and on the reflector. What is Winter Field Day?

Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns.

We believe as do those entities of ARRL Organizations like ARES & RACES that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why WFD is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.

Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. WFDA's goal is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall and winter Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services.

If you are serious about emergency communications as we are; we welcome you to join us for our yearly event. We are sure you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal summer time field day.

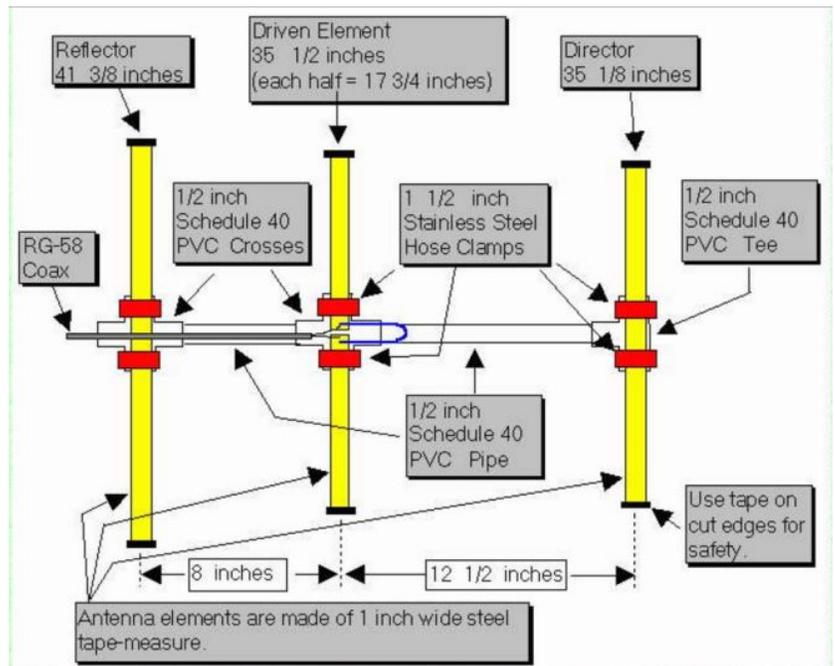
## The HARC Fox Hunt 10-17-20 by M.D. Smith, WA4DXP

On a bright, sunny, and chilly Saturday, I looked forward to HARC's first Hidden Transmitter (The Fox) hunt since before COVID. The rules said for each hunter, or team, to check in on the .33 repeater at 12:45. Don Roden, W4DNR, met me at 12:30 where I had a book table at an outdoor craft show selling some of my books.

We checked in promptly at 12:45 and were assigned team One. I thought that was a good omen. Don had not done a fox hunt in many years and was not familiar with my equipment. He IS a AM Radio broadcast engineer, so he was familiar with attenuators, just not the kind I built with the club a few years ago.

It's the one on a 1" PC board with a Potentiometer attached for reducing RF to radio. It's a clever little device with 50 ohms in and out, so it's a good match to the radio. It has a 2 MHz mixer, so you can hear both on the original simplex frequency, say 147.48 as it was last Saturday, and at full gain, the same signal at 145.48, in the range of all 2-meter radios.

Then, when listening on the output of the mixer 145.48 and finding the signal, turn the 3-element beam to maximum signal, reduce the gain on the 'pot' to barely breaking squelch at maybe S-5 or something. Once you are sure the direction of maximum signal, you are off for a quarter of a mile or so, jump out of your car and repeat. When you again find the maximum signal, try to spot distant landmarks to head in the general direction of. If you are really particular, take a compass reading and follow that bearing. Soon as you are finding the signal in a different direction, you know you are closer, and you proceed in that direction for another quarter mile and another reading in as clear of a spot as you can find, since trees and buildings can deflect readings.



We were over by the Senior Center on Drake when we started, and the initial direction looked like the old airport or Joe Davis stadium. So we went to Leeman Ferry Road for our next reading. Same direction.

## The HARC Fox Hunt —continued

Again to intersection with Airport road. Looked like the Parkway, so we headed to the last stop, a tavern parking lot on the edge of the parkway....woops...the direction reversed itself. That meant back toward the old Airport. The signal was very strong. Don who was holding the antenna and attenuator, took the HT from me to proceed on grassy ground on foot toward the area, and I got in the car to drive back to the first open area I could find in my car, near the tavern.

I saw a few cars parked near a tiny park with some kids swings, and then I saw a monument further away on a hill. There I saw Don W4DNR waving the tape measure antenna and I saw a figure sitting in a chair in front of a big stone monument. We'd found the fox.

It was Dick Curtis, W1TV with his HT, the stuffed fox mascot to prove authenticity, and all the outfit you see in the photo. I looked at my watch. It was 1:20 p.m. We had found the fox in a record twenty minutes. I've never found a fox in less than an hour, I don't believe.

We left the area soon as as not to give away the location of the fox to other hunters. I heard others searching for over an hour longer. Billy was giving more and more specific clues, like "South of Drake, North of Airport, East of Leeman Ferry, and West of the Parkway." He all but said, look on the old airport property, and it still took some others longer to find it.

But the fun, whether you are first or last to find the fox, its the skill you build in directional antenna location of hidden transmitters. In past years, club members have found bogus, unlicensed radio operators using this same method. If you use two hunters doing cross-fixes and chatting with each other, the time to locate the hidden transmitter is much shorter as both home in on the signal.

Thanks to the club for an activity that is not limited by COVID, fun to do, and builds ham skills.



## Meeting Minutes—by Anita KD2KAG

### October 2, 2020

This is the 28th Isolation Net.

The chair brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm with Billy Gold, President, presiding.

**Attendance:** 34 members 0 visitors

#### Announcements:

1. October testing information was listed.
2. There was an announcement about the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> SET by Lisa Shier.

#### Old Business:

1. The Social-Distancing Swap Meet went very well last Friday at the HSV Optimist Club.

#### New Business:

##### 1. New Club Applications:

Thomas Murray	KO4IDE	Technician as of Oct. 10, 2020
Jesus "Rod" Rodriguez	KH2GM	General as of Oct. 8, 2020 (First licensed: 1983)
Jim Perillat	K2LAT	General (Tech. Sept.2020; Gen. Oct. 2020)

All three were voted in unanimously.

The club meeting adjourned and was followed by the program reviewing the highlights of the recent All You Can Eat Century Ride.

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### October 9, 2020

This is the 29th Isolation Net.

The chair brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm with Billy Gold, President, presiding.

**Attendance:** 35 members 2 visitors

#### Announcements:

1. November testing information was listed.
2. There was a reminder about the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> SET.
3. Steve Smith mentioned the annual International ShakeOut Day this year on October 15<sup>th</sup> and encouraged groups, individuals and families to participate in the earthquake awareness/preparedness drill.
4. Our club's annual Fox Hunt will be held October 17<sup>th</sup> with check-ins beginning at 12:15pm.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The September report was read and approved.

From now on, the Treasurer's report will be sent out on the Reflector, the club email system, and for those who are not on the Reflector you may email [Treasurer@harc.net](mailto:Treasurer@harc.net) to receive a copy of the report. To subscribe, go to [harc.net](http://harc.net); scroll down and click on the envelope icon you'll see on the left side. Any questions? Please email [Info@harc.net](mailto:Info@harc.net).

The club meeting adjourned at 8:02pm followed by the program about preparing for the Fox Hunt.

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## Meeting Minutes—continued

### October 16, 2020

This is the 30th Isolation Net.

The chair brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm with Billy Gold, President, presiding.

**Attendance:** 25 members 1 visitor

#### Announcements:

1. Exam information was given for November.
2. Reminder: Steve Smith invited everyone to participate in the November 7<sup>th</sup> SET.
3. Reminder: The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our human presence on the Space Station is Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
There will be an special-event-operation from 00:00 UT on 31 October to 06:00 UT on 3 November.
4. The HARC COVID-19 waiver has been reworded so that signing one form for each club-related event will no longer be necessary. Thanks go to Laura Morgan.

#### Old Business:

1. Social-Distancing Tailgate Swap Meet Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> in the GigaParts parking lot from 2:30pm – 5:30pm.  
Social distancing, masks and signed waivers will be required by all attending.

#### New Business:

##### 1. New Club Applications:

Thomas Murray	KO4IDE	Technician as of Oct. 10, 2020
Jesus “Rod” Rodriguez	KH2GM	General as of Oct. 8, 2020 (First licensed: 1983)
Jim Perillat	K2LAT	General (Tech. Sept.2020; Gen. Oct. 2020)

All three were voted in unanimously.

The club meeting adjourned and was followed by the program discussing the January 30/31 Winter Field Day 2021 presented by the Chairman, Steve Molo.

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### October 23, 2020

This is the 31<sup>st</sup> Isolation Net.

The chair brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm with Billy Gold, President, presiding.

**Attendance:** 36 members 1 visitor

#### Announcements:

1. November testing information was given.
2. Reminder: The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our human presence on the Space Station is Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
There will be an special-event-operation from 00:00 UT on 31 October to 06:00 UT on 3 November.
3. Contesting news was sent out in the Reflector.

#### Old Business:

1. The Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Tailgate Swap Meet at the Gigaparts location was discussed.
2. MD Smith won the Fox Hunt and the club thanks Gigaparts for providing the \$50 1<sup>st</sup> prize and other prizes.

The club meeting adjourned followed by the program: Marine & Maritime Mobile Operation by Lisa Shier.

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## Meeting Minutes—continued

**October 30, 2020**

This is the 32<sup>nd</sup> Isolation Net.

The chair brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm with Billy Gold, President, presiding.

**Attendance:** 29 members 1 visitor

**Announcements:**

1. Amateur Radio Exam for all levels:

Huntsville – Sat. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am. For details: CavecHamExam.com \$10

Athens - Sat. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1:00pm. For details: [KJ4DWX@yahoo.com](mailto:KJ4DWX@yahoo.com) \$15

2. During the morning of Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> the SET is scheduled. Most northern Alabama counties will participate in this Simulated Emergency Test as if a winter ice emergency were happening. Each year a different scenario is suggested and each county is free to implement their own version. All amateur radio operators have been encouraged to participate.

**PLEASE EMAIL ANY PICTURES YOU TAKE** during the SET to Rick Copeland: [KE4IOH@yahoo.com](mailto:KE4IOH@yahoo.com)

3. In commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous human presence on the International Space Station, the NASA MSFC Amateur Radio club will be on HF but Eric KM4ECH will be on the 145.33 repeater as NN4SA following the HARC meeting to get you in the log. A QSL card will be available with an SASE to the QRZ.com address for NN4SA.

4. The certificate arrived awarding K4BFT's 2<sup>nd</sup> placd achievement in the Field Day competition. This award came from AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation's president and the Director of Contests and Awards.

5. The Huntsville area now has a 900 MHz repeater.

**Old Business:**

1. Reminder: Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Tailgate Swap Meet – 2:30pm-5:30pm at GigaParts parking lot.

2. A request for submission of members' ham shack virtual tours (pictures and info) was requested.

Submissions may be made to [Info@harc.net](mailto:Info@harc.net) or [Secretary@harc.net](mailto:Secretary@harc.net) and several may be featured each week when possible.

**New Business:**

1. There was one applicant to the club:

Brian Decker KO4IPY and he became a Technician one week ago.

He was voted in unanimously.

**The club meeting adjourned followed by the program:** Dick W1TV directed and produced a special video regarding a departed and much-beloved Field Day & Club event participant, “Quirky the Cooler” who served the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, uncomplaining, for many many years. The historical retrospective and heartfelt eulogy was eloquently presented by the most ir-Reverand Thomas Duncan KG4CUY

Special accolades are warmly extended to Fred Sayers for the vigilance and careful cemetery assistance. Graveside mourners included Billy Gold, Karen and Warren Alford and Anita and Stephen Vibbert.

## For Sale

- Alpha 91B amplifier
- a few bench ammeters
- Heathkit IM-2420 counter
- MFJ-259 antenna analyzer
- TenTec Pegasus transceiver
- MFJ-704 LPF
- variable attenuators
- HP 6202B power supply
- Astron 35A power supply
- HP 8657 signal generator
- Palomar tuner tuner
- Entire run of Ham Radio Magazine, 1967-1991, printed, in volumes
- a few speakers

My prices are all negotiable. All pieces are looking for good homes. A few might even be free, but you have to ask. Drop me a line if you have any interest.

Bob, K8KI [mailto: k8ki \(at\) Comcast \(dot\) net](mailto:k8ki@comcast.net)

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Looking at clearing out the shack and add a few new things to it.

- Kenwood TS140 with matching PS430 Power Supply and MC60A desk microphone and mounting bracket
- Ameritron ALS500 solid state amp (needs new finals; does have mod upgrades)
- Dentron AT-1K Antenna Tuner with Dentron W2 Watt Meter (sold together)
- MFJ901B Versa Tuner
- Kantronics Packet Communicator 3 (no cables or power supply - as is)
- Advanced Electronic Application M# PK-232MBK (radio cable only no power supply - as is)
- Kenwood TM261 2M mobile
- Azden PCS-4000 2M 25amp mobile (older unit)
- MFJ-1112 Multiple DC Power Outlet
- Mirage B108 (2X) 2M amp (1 works with ~90W out FM/SSB 2nd unit power on but no power out) Sold Together
- Band Pass Filters - Drake TV1000 and TV100 low pass filters (sold together)

### WANTED:

- 2M 10 element or more beam (trade or sale)
- Satellite antennas and rotors (trade or sale)
- VHF/UHF Antenna switches with N connectors

Please call to discuss pricing. Looking for local transaction only. Not listing on QRZ yet.

73, Todd N7KDT [n7kdt \(at\) aol \(dot\) com](mailto:n7kdt@aol.com)

## Important Exam Info

The next Huntsville testing session will be (*check the HARC.NET website*). The Red Cross building is currently closed due to COVID. **The temporary testing location is beside the Huntsville Executive Airport area at the Executive Security building (ESSCERTIFIED Virtual Gun Range), 299 Bolling Rd., Meridianville, AL 35759. There will be a CAVEC sign at the entrance to the parking lot to guide you to the correct building.**

All social distancing procedures will be in place to help ensure a safe environment for testing. We will have the 6 ft rule in place and will be asking health related questions and taking no contact temps of those wanting to test prior to their entering the facility. Please come with whatever Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) you feel is necessary for your particular situation. Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer will be available and used appropriately. Expect the testing to take a bit longer than usual due to this situation.

**The exam sessions start promptly at 9:00 AM. Due to the COVID-19 procedures and limited time we have to use the facility, late arrivals cannot be accommodated. Please plan to arrive between 8:45 and 9:00 AM.**

## Program and Project Managers

<b>Madison County Emergency Coordinator</b>	<b>Tim Holland, KK5H</b>
<b>Field Day Chairman</b>	<b>Laura Morgan K4CNY</b>
<b>Public Information Officer</b>	<b>Bill Yell K4IBY</b>
<b>K4BFT Club Station Trustee</b>	<b>Tom Duncan, KG4CUY</b>
<b>Picnic/Food Coordinator</b>	<b>Dick Christiansen, W1TV</b>
<b>Training/Education Coordinator</b>	<b>Bob Burns, K4RHB</b>
<b>VOX Publisher</b>	<b>Mark Brown, N4BCD</b>
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	<b>Anita Vibbert, KD2KAG</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Jared Messervy, W4XXX</b>
<b>Repeater Program Announcer</b>	<b>Kelley Johns W4VPZ</b>

## Madison County, ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes, October 8, 2020 by Steve KM4CJ

The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom Meeting.  
There were 21 in attendance.  
The meeting started at 19:00 central time.

Tim, KK5H, opened the meeting by welcoming everybody.

### Announcements:

Tim, KK5H, announced the 2020 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.  
EMA - Scott, W4WSM, reported the 147.220 repeater has been temporarily relocated to the Burritt site due to water tank maintenance on Monte Sano. It will be several months until the maintenance is complete.  
Steve, KM4CJ, provided a treasury report of \$778.00.



### Program:

Tim, KK5H, led a discussion of planning for the 2020 SET.  
The frequency list has been updated and distributed to include the neighbouring county repeaters.  
We will go with the State's scenario of a winter icing event.  
If you have suggestions of injects for this year's set let Tim know.  
The SET will start around 8 am Saturday, be monitoring the 145.330 repeater.

Meeting adjourned 19:35 central time.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Smith  
Assistant Emergency Coordinator  
ARES Madison County

*Please send your articles & photos for upcoming issues by the end of the month for the next issue.*



[YAESU](#)
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