

The President's Corner

HARC Membership, THANK YOU for allowing for me to be your President for the last year and enjoying every minute of it. I write this going into the election with no competition so unless something happens between VOX release and election night; you got me for another year.

As I mentioned at the first meeting held at the new GigaParts retail location I will do this for one more year and that is it. Both Jessica and myself have been slowly making are next move in our lives and that being the next "Chapter". What does that mean; well we will be moving and likely to where I grew up or even possibly Ohio/West Virginia area. Several options are on the table and the current one allows me unlimited potential in the antenna farm and at the same time taking care of my parents as some songs say..."Grow Old". Will you see us yearly at Huntsville Hamfest after we leave; let me just say a simple yes.



Learned while writing this that the CQ Publisher Dick Ross K2MGA became a silent key last weekend. From John K1AR: It's my sad duty to report that Dick Ross, K2MGA, became a SK last weekend. While CQ has had its ups and downs, Dick managed the machine for over 60 years, publishing contest results while many of us were still crawling around on the floor as toddlers.

Out of respect for Dick's contributions to DXing and Contesting, he will be dual inducted into the DX and Contest Halls of Fame in Dayton this year.

It has been a difficult week for ham radio, with this news clearly meaning the end of CQ. And, hard for me personally as I've known and worked for/with Dick for nearly 50 years.

RIP K2MGA.

73, John, K1AR <continued...>

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The President's Corner—continued

With less than two weeks away from the largest Hamfest in the United States happening again I am in my hamfest phase and prepping for the event. Some local hams help me in this week long adventure and I truly appreciate it.

Field Day...we have decided on Ditto Landing for 2024 ARRL Field Day and will need some help to make this the best 4A or maybe 3A category event. If you are new to this hobby; here is where I ask for you to come and give it a try at the GOTA station and no fear a coach is there for you. With the current Technician class in session we may have almost 15 plus new to see what we love...amateur radio.

Enjoy the month of May and if you have checked over your equipment from a possible winter layup...good time now to check it over. The Club has purchased a RigExpert antenna analyzer to loan out to Club Members to check out antennas. We have several Elmers in the Club here to help so do not hesitate to ask for guidance on something that has you confused or maybe needing reassurance.

73,

Steve KI4KWR,
HARC President

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	clreinhart41@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

Meeting Minutes— by Craig KD4IYD

HARC Minutes April 5, 2024.

The meeting began at 730 PM. Billy KM4BGF welcomed 33 members, 10 members on zoom, and 5 visitors. Then made several announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next week's presentation TBD.
- The Technician class starts Tuesday from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM at GigaParts.
- The April 19 meeting will take place at GigaParts.
- 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.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- There is a need for new programs for 2024. If you are willing to give a program or know someone would like to give a program, please contact Billy or Steve.
- Field Day Update-The Space and Rocket Center contacted the chairman of field day and told him that the field we usually use is not available. They did however give him 3 options. None of which are good choices. He asked each one of the members to think and come up with an idea that would be a feasible solution. He called for a 6:30 PM meeting before our next scheduled members meeting to meet and discuss this problem.
- There was a discussion of what we could use the \$250 giga parts GIFT Certificate for. If you have any ideas, please contact Steve or Billy.
- A door prize drawing was held and the winner was John N4CNY.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Program: Calibrate a Bird Model 43 Directional Wattmeter by John N5DF.

April 12, 2024

Meeting Minutes— continued

Before the HARC meeting there was an emergency meeting concerning the 2024 Field Day. This meeting ran from 6:30 PM -- 7:00 PM. It was revealed by Tom WS4M the 2024 Field Day Chairman that in his meeting with the US Space and Rocket center due to construction that we will no longer be able to use the field that we use as our Field Day Site forever. There was a discussion by the members present on the location of a site that may be usable to for field day this year. It would have to be accessible to the public, secure, and be lit at night. Some of the sites mentioned were Whitesburg Baptist Church Field, Campus 805, a field in research Park by Blue Origins, a field by Dianetics in the mid-city district. And as a last resort. Gary's farm. There was a lot of discussion and ideas past around, but no firm answer found. This will probably need more discussion to solve the field day problem.

HARC Meeting April 12, 2024

The meeting began at 7:04 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcomed 33 members, 9 members on zoom, and 1 visitor. Then made several announcements.

Announcements:

- Next Week's Meeting will be held at GigaParts in their classroom. The program will probably be a presentation by Ray Novak.
- The Technician Class will meet on Tuesdays 5:30 PM through 7:30 PM at giga parts.
- Giga Parts Ham Radio Day will take place on Saturday, April 20 there will be club booths outside/a swap meet in the parking lot and several vendors and clubs represented at giga parts.
- The HAYLARKS is sponsoring a Marine Mobile Ham Day, a Trip down the Flint River on May 4. This event is open to all, bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one from Brown Bear. Meet it at Brown Bear Canoe and Kayak at 9:00 AM and bring your radio. Please let Lisa N3WQL know if you plan to attend.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- Lisa W4WQL presented the Treasures report for March to the club. The proposal was made and seconded to accept the treasurers report. The vote was unanimous.
 - Steve asked for volunteers to become the election committee for next year's officers and at-large members on the board. Those who came forward were John KK5KKT, George W4SQ, and Lee W4CPF. They were quickly appointed to the nominating committee.
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Meeting Minutes—continued

- The club has 1 new applicant for membership. He is: Patrick KQ4QWQ. The club approved his membership unanimously.
- There was a motion made and seconded to buy a long extension cord from Home Depot to use at Field Day. The vote was unanimous to make the purchase.
- There was a motion made and seconded to purchase three instructional Ham Books to donate to the library. It was unanimous.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Program: Six Meters—You Must Be Present to Win! Presented by Bruce AC4G.

April 19, 2024

Before the HARC meeting there was a meeting concerning the 2024 Field Day.

This meeting ran from 6:45 PM---7:26 PM. Tom WS4M answered questions and presented his thoughts on which sites would be the best for field day 2024. He took questions from those who were present and said that he would get answers to those questions when he got back into town on Monday. After a long discussion there was a motion made and seconded to concentrate on the sites of Dittos Landing and Sharon Johnson Park because they seemed the most hospitable and most eager to work with HARC to make Field Day a success.

HARC Meeting April 19, 2024

The meeting began at 7:38 PM. Steve KL4KWR welcomed 42 members, 7 members on zoom, and 2 visitors. That made several announcements.

Announcements:

- He reminded those present that field day is just around the corner and that we need to start thinking about preparations soon.
 - Ham Radio Day will take place tomorrow at GigaParts. Please plan to attend. It will have a swap meet in the parking lot. Several Clubs will be outside. Several vendors will be in attendance. There will also be a Test Session at 3:00 PM.
 - There is a vacancy for the secretary position in the upcoming election for officers. If you are interested, please contact the election committee.
-

Meeting Minutes—continued

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- The club had 2 new applications for membership. They are: David KQ4QWC and Darrell KY4VS. The club approved their memberships unanimously.
- There was a motion made and seconded to use the \$250 gift card from GigaParts to purchase a Rig Expert Stick 500. It passed unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Program: Build Night: MFJ Shortwave Receivers provided by Steve KI4KWR.

HARC Meeting April 26, 2024

The meeting began at 7:30 PM. Steve KI4KWR welcome 34 members, 18 members on zoom, and no visitors. Then made several announcements.

Announcements:

- The Technician Class is ongoing. It meets from 5:30 PM through 7:30 PM at get the parts.
 - Chameleon Day at GigaParts will happen in the first weekend of June. More details will be revealed later.
 - There will be a Signals work day tomorrow. It will require no heavy lifting.
 - Field Day is just around the corner so we need to become eager to start putting things together.
 - The HAYLARKS is sponsoring a Marine Mobile Ham Day, a trip down the Flint River on May 4. This event is open to all, bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one from Brown Bear. Meet at Brown Bear Canoe and Kayak at 9:00 AM and bring your radio. Please let Lisa N3WQL know if you plan to attend.
 - There will be an election for club officers and 3 members at large. Next week (Maybe).
-

Meeting Minutes—continued

Old Business:

- Tom WS4M conducted the third meeting concerning Field Day. He answered many of the questions that he was asked at last week's meeting. More questions were asked and he said he would find out the answers. He felt it was time to select a field day site for the upcoming Field Day in June. With some give-and-take discussions among the members. A poll was taken to determine which field of the two, that we narrowed down last week, to use for Field Day so we as a club can start to prepare for Field Day. The poll revealed that we would hold Field Day at Ditto Landing in South Huntsville.

New Business:

- It came to the attention of the club that one of the members of the election committee had to drop out. So, it became imperative to find a new chairman and member of the committee. Rick KE4IOH said he would be a member of the committee, but would not chair the committee. John KK4KKT said he would chair the committee. Now we have a committee of 3 Rick KE4IOH, John KK4KKT, and Lee W4CPF to find candidates for the election next week.
- The club had 1 new applicant for membership. She is: Martha KQ4QPP. The club approved her membership unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Program: The DX expedition in Micronesia presented by Kevin N4DVR.

HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL

HAYLARC sponsored a POTA activation at Joe Wheeler State Park on April 14. Brandi Wheeler, KQ4JNW, made her first POTA contact as a not-yet-YL friend looked on. (Photo Credit: Mari Allen, KQ4HNK). The event was attended by several HAYLARC members and even a few OMs.



HAYLARC is sponsoring a Marine Mobile event (a kayak trip with radios) on May 4. We'll meet at 9 AM at Brown Bear Canoe and Kayak. Rental boats are available. Please contact Lisa Shier, N3WQL, if you wish to attend this event. We welcome all hams and other interested people to this event.

The next HAYLARC social lunch is Thursday, May 9, at 11:30 AM at Nothing but Noodles at Airport Rd. and Whitesburg. All YLs and future YLs are invited to join us. Our next business meeting will be May 28 at 7 PM on Zoom. Login information is available at our website.



ARES Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024

by Steve KM4CJ

The meeting was conducted at the Huntsville Utilities Operations Centre.

There were 12 in attendance.

The meeting started at 18:00 central time.

In lieu of a formal meeting, we met at the Huntsville Utilities Operations Centre on Johnson Road for a tour. We were able to see where the utilities are monitored and where the trouble reporting and dispatching is performed. It was a very informative tour and many thanks to Huntsville Utilities.

Announcements:

Our next meeting will be May 9th at the Madison County EOC at 6:00 pm. The program will be presented by Stephen, KY4G, and the subject will be NVIS antennas.

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.

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