

The President's Corner



Happy New Year. 2026 is here and we have a whole year of ham radio ahead of us.

Unlike the past few years, we won't be doing Winter Field Day. No one stepped up to organize this event. We try to have events that are of interest to club members.

If you have an idea for something the club should do, let us know! We can help you make it happen. Clubs like ours rely on the membership, not just the leadership, to make things happen. We are always in need of people to step up.

This year, the ARRL National Convention will be at the Huntsville Hamfest and Youth on the Air (YOTA) will also be in Huntsville over the summer. Both events already have leadership teams, but I'm sure that there will be plenty of need for volunteers.

Please consider how you might make time to help with these major events this year.

Your President, Lisa Shier, N3WQL



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Email Reflector Sign-Up

Want to be informed of club announcements? Would you like to pose a radio question to the membership? This is a reminder that HARC has an email reflector but, YOU MUST CHOOSE TO JOIN IT.

The reason for that is when the reflector was set up years ago, the HARC Board wanted to give individual members the ability to specify their choice of email address and the ability to choose a digest format or once a day emails. And it was evident some people did not wish to be automatically enrolled.

As it is, HARC only sends 2 or 3 emails annually to the entire membership, those being the HARC/NARA meeting announcement where dues are collected, and a Field Day blast. By joining the reflector, you'll stay informed of all the other news & happenings.

Joining is simple.

1. Open the www.harc.net page in any browser.
2. At the lower left corner of the page, click on the envelope icon 'Join Our Email List'.
3. Fill out the form with your preferred email address and choose individual email or daily digest.

The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club[©]

Club Officers & Info

Lisa Shier	N3WQL	President	president@harc.net
Rick Copeland	KE4IOH	Vice President	vicepresident@harc.net
Don Carter	KZ4DJC	Secretary	secretary@harc.net
Bill Yell	K4IBY	Treasurer	treasurer@harc.net
David Oakley	KQ40AO	Officer at-large	doakley314@gmail.com
Mark Brown	N4BCD	Officer at-large	mark.n4bcd@yahoo.com
Leigh Bartlow	WD4CPF	Officer at-large	brtlo54@gmail.com

Meeting location: Signals Museum, 1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35801
 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 Don KZ4DJC

December 5, 2025

Call to Order-7:30 PM By: Rick-KE4IOH Adjourned-7:39 PM

Announcements:

Christmas Party December 12th (next week). Club will provide meat, drinks, and paper goods. Members and guests, please bring a side dish or a dessert. Dirty Santa and Prizes will be awarded in a drawing to HARC members.

HARC will not participate in Winter Field Day because no one has volunteered to organize the effort.

No meetings are scheduled for December 26, 2025 or January 2, 2026.

Rocket City Marathon – December 14th

Upcoming Contests:

FT8 and FT4 80 Meter-through 10 Meter December 6th & 7th

ARRL 10 Meter Contest (Phone and CW) December 13th & 14th

Presentation:

R T Systems Radio Programming Software - Karin - KD4DXX

R T Systems offers HARC Members a 10% on their Programming Software for the month of December. Use code - K4BFT2025.

New Memberships: Total for the Year 65

Dec 12, 2026 -- Christmas Party, no formal meeting

Dec 19, 2026 -- meeting cancelled due to Museum being unavailable

Dec 26, 2026 -- meeting cancelled due to Christmas

Rocket City Marathon 2025—by Bill K4IBY

The Rocket City Marathon 2025 will probably go down in history as one of the coldest marathons ever run here in its 49-year history. With temperatures in the mid-teens and brisk winds, the wind chill factor was in the single digits when nearly 1500 runners hit the streets on December 14. The temperature struggled to get to freezing during the entire race.

Once again, HARC provided on the course radio support for the race as we have done every year since the Marathon was first run here in the late 70's. Eleven HARC members braved the cold weather to give updates on the race leaders, course conditions and requests for assistance at aid stations along the course.

Thanks to Steve Smith KM4CJ and Stephine Clark KN4MEW for running Net Control. Kelley Vann-Johns W4VPZ for providing comms support for the race director. Dick Christensen W1TV for being in the lead vehicle. Finally, thanks to David Oakley KQ40AO, Rex and Elizabeth Simmons K4WAJ and KK4YVA, Leigh Bartlow WD4CPF, Tom Cash WS4M and Harry Babin KN4TAP for braving the cold and providing information out on the course.



Bill Yell K4IBY

2025 RCM-HARC Coordinator

HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL



HAYLARC members gathered for our annual Christmas potluck on December 12 at the home of Lynda, KB4TJE and Leigh, KD4CPF, Bartlow. We had a fine meal and a gift exchange.

Our next meeting is on January 8 at 11:30 AM at Big Papa Gyros (4925 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35816). We be discussing an activity for January and plans for our February Anniversary dinner. Bring \$5 for dues if you haven't already paid for 2026.



Photo Credit: N3WQL

For Sale

I have 3 items for sale.



Ameritron RCS-10 - Remote Coax Switch Box, 8 Position, 5000 W Peak, 0-100 MHz, 120 Vac, SO-239. \$75



MFJ-849, HF/VHF Digital SWR/Wattmeter. Wattmeter, Digital, HF/VHF/UHF, 200W, 3.5 in. LCD Display. \$60



HWI-1315, 450 Ohm Ladder line - 34 ft. \$10

73,
Duane Forester

N4KCF (at) 2pmail (dot) net

ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes - by Steve KM4CJ

December 11, 2025

We held our end of the year dinner at Kacey's Home Cooking. A good time was had by all as we reflected on this year's accomplishments. Door prizes and the 'Ham of the Year" plaque were provided by GigaParts. This year's ARES Ham of the Year recipient was Byron Hamby, KQ4NPA. Byron participated in the SET and performed Net Control duties on multiple occasions during our training nets. Congratulations to Byron!



Tim, KK5H, Madison County Emergency Coordinator, presenting the "2025 ARES Ham of the Year" award to Byron Hamby, KQ4NPA.
(Photo courtesy of John, K4JCH)



Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Smith
Assistant Emergency Coordinator
ARES Madison County

HARC Programs on YouTube — by David KQ4AO

Programs presented at HARC meetings are typically recorded and uploaded to YouTube, allowing members to view them at their convenience.

During the month of December, one new video was added to the channel: *An Overview of the RT Systems Software Suite*. Karin Thompson (KD4DXX) guided the club through the software's core functions, demonstrated recommended operating procedures, and shared several tips and best practices to ensure optimal performance. The recording is available on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/KQhDWrVePh4>.

In addition, there are 62 archived videos available on the *(New) HARC YouTube channel*. These recordings can be accessed via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/4rcrhkmt>, or by scanning the QR code shown to the right, both will take you directly to the playlist. Additional archived videos will be added over time, so make sure to check back to see what's new.

The channel also features a HARC Tech Class playlist containing eleven instructional videos. These sessions are particularly valuable for amateur radio operators seeking a refresher on foundational concepts that may not have been revisited in some time.



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://madisoncountyalema.gov/amateur-radio/>

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

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

From Your Publisher

With your help, this newsletter can be more interesting to more people.

Please consider contributing articles & photos.

Deadline for contributions is always the ending day of the month for the next issue.

Almost any format for photos is usable and text is best in Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format. Try to avoid PDF's—they're sometimes impossible to work with.

Thanks,
Mark N4BCD

Program and Project Managers

Madison Co Emergency Coordinator	Tim Holland KK5H
Field Day Chairman	Leigh Bartlow WD4CPF
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
Property Manager	John Equi KM4VSY
Video Manager	Billy Gold KM4BGF
Webmaster	Steve Molo KI4KWR
Club Historian	Jonathan O'Rear KD4MPW
Repeater Program Announcer	Kelley Johns W4VPZ

Important Exam Info (updated September 2025)

Schedule:

- 1st Saturday each month (holidays → 2nd Saturday)
Madison Co. Fire Training Academy, 300 Shields Rd, Huntsville, AL
Time: 9:00 AM (arrive 8:30-9:00)

- 2nd Wednesday each month
GigaParts, 6123 University Dr, Huntsville, AL
Time: 5:30 PM

Registration: Please register ahead of time

- Details and sign-up: <https://cavec.us/testsched/>
- You need an FRN to register
- FCC FRN info: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/knowledge-base/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration>

Contact:

- Email: vec@cavec.us

What to bring:

- Legal photo ID (driver's license, passport, student ID, etc.)
- If no photo ID: bring 2 forms (SS card, birth certificate, utility bill, etc.)
- Any CSCEs not yet in FCC database
- Exam fee: \$5 cash (exact change)
- FCC Registration Number (FRN) - see FCC site for details

Calculators:

- Non-programmable calculators are allowed.
- Programmable calculators are not allowed unless the testing team can clear or reset the memory on site before the exam. The Session Manager has final say.
- Calculator apps on phones or tablets are not allowed.

Online Exams:

- Remote sessions are available. See the Get Licensed page at <http://cavec.us> for details.

Additional Services from CAVEC:

- Full-Service License Renewals: CAVEC offers complete support with renewals and administrative updates. More information: <https://cavec.us/renewals>
- Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA): CAVEC is authorized to process Club Station Call Sign requests. More information: <https://cavec.us/cscsa>



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