

## The President's Corner



K4BFT DE N4SEI

Before I start my first President Corner QSO, I want to convey my appreciation to the outgoing HARC Officers, Lisa Shier N3WQL (President), Rick Copeland KE4IOH (Vice President), and Bill Yell K4IBY (Treasurer) for the great job they have performed over the last year. I also want to congratulate David Oakley KQ4OAO (Vice President Elect), Daniel Sherfey KQ4HWN (Treasurer Elect), Jonathan O'Rear KD4MPW (Officer-at-large Elect), Willy Sandifer KO4VYQ (Officer-at-large Elect) and the returning Officers, Don Carter K4DJC (Secretary) and Mark Brown N4BCD (Officer-at-large). I look forward to working with this team to provide the club with the best service possible.

Thank you to all the members of this club for participating and casting your vote for the new leadership for HARC. As the newly elected HARC Officers, we will strive to continue to provide fair and quality leadership to the club. Remember, this is a club of amateur radio members, and the club only thrives when everyone shares their knowledge and contributes to the good of the club. My commitment to the club is that I will strive to communicate and inform the membership of all topics that impact the club in a timely fashion. My goal is to fully engage the decades of vast knowledge and experiences of the members of HARC. The amount of resources we have in this club is "mind-blowing".

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be at the helm of HARC and I am looking forward to a productive, educational, exciting and fun year.

Very important topics that are currently facing us revolve around 2026 ARRL Field Day. We are less than a month away from Field Day and we have numerous discussion items that we need to have a game plan in place so we can have a productive Field Day and minimize any challenges that we have experienced in the past.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings and the upcoming Field Day event.

73, Don N4SEI

## Table of Contents

Email Reflector Sign-up	2
Events Calendar	3
Meeting Minutes	4-6
HARC and HAYLARC at Cotton Row Run	6
Tuning an 80m Base Fed Tower	7-9
For Sale	10
HAYLARC Happenings	11
ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes	12
General Announcements	13
Program & Project Managers	14
Exam Info	15

## 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](http://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<sup>®</sup>

Club Officers & Info			
Don Bertram	N4SEI	President	president@harc.net
David Oakley	NA4CG	Vice President	vicepresident@harc.net
Don Carter	K4DJC	Secretary	secretary@harc.net
Daniel Sherfey	KQ4HWN	Treasurer	treasurer@harc.net
Jonathan O'Rear	KD4MPW	Officer at-large	jonkd4mpw (at) yahoo( dot) com
Willie Sandifer	K04ALY	Officer at-large	wsndifer (at) gmail( dot) com
Mark Brown	N4BCD	Officer at-large	mark.n4bcd (at) yahoo( dot) com

Meeting location: Signals Museum, **1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35801**  
For Zoom link, sign up to HARC reflector for weekly link.

Meeting time: **Every Monday, 7:00 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

## Events Calendar

EVENT	WHEN - WEEKLY	NOTES
HARC meeting	every Monday, 7 PM	visit HARC.NET for details
Amateur Radio Learn & Social at Gigaparts	every Tuesday, 4 - 6 PM	details via HARC email reflector
Lunch gathering	every Wednesday, 11 AM	China Buffet on Jordan Ln.
ARES practice net (FM)	every Thursday, 7:30 PM	147.220+ pl 136.5, backup 146.94- 100.0
SKYWARN (FM) net	every Thursday, 8 PM	147.24+ 82.5, 442.775+ 107.2
HARC net (FM) net	every Friday, 8 PM	145.33- pl 100
EVENT	WHEN - MONTHLY	NOTES
ARES monthly meeting	1st Thursday of Month	EOC, Hsv City Hall, 305 Fountain Cir. time: 5:30 for pizza, 6pm mtg starts price: \$3 for 2 slices
HAYLARC monthly meeting	2nd Thursday of Month, lunchtime	1st timers, send email to: haylarc (at) harc (dot) net for location and to get on mail list.
NADXC meeting	2nd Tuesday of Month, 6:30 PM	visit NADXC.ORG for details
ARES Digital Voice Net	2nd Thursday of Month, 7 PM	Mode - Varies, Frequency - Varies Details will be announced via ARES email

*Note: some of these functions may be pre-empted by holidays or other special occasions.*



*ARES Club banner designed by Wayne K4TTZ (SK)*

## Meeting Minutes—by Don K4DJC

**May 04, 2026**

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Lisa Adjourned:8:12 PM

Attendance: In Person 39 Zoom 4 Visitors 2 Total 50

### Announcements:

Leigh indicated the Field Day Event was still in need of an RV or Trailer for a station. Contact Leigh if you can help.

The Huntsville Hamfest Volunteer Portal is open on the website. Sign up and volunteer for your choice of duties.

Cotton Row Run – May 25<sup>th</sup> 2026. Kelley will send detail and assignments to the volunteers soon.

Volunteers are needed for the YOTA Camp – June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

John Equi request 4 or 5 Volunteer to help separate towers in preparation for Field Day.



### Business

Election of Club Officers was held tonight. The Club Officers for 2026-2027 are as follows:

President- Don Bertram N4SEI  
 Vice-president- David Oakley KQ4OAO  
 Secretary – Don Carter K4DJC  
 Treasurer – Daniel Sherfey KQ4HWN  
 Officer at Large – Jonathan O’Rear KD4MPW  
 Officer at Large – Willy Sandifer K04ALY  
 Officer at Large - Mark Brown N4BCD

Look for contact information on HARC.NET in the coming weeks.

### Presentation:

Tonight:NADXC by Fred Kepner K3FRK and Steve Smith KM4CJ

Next Meeting: Fast Track to your HAM Radio License, Michael Burnett, AF7KB

**New Members-** This week at the HARC meeting the Club unanimously voted to accept one new member’s applications.

Peter Hilger -KR4LUK – the 26<sup>th</sup> new member this year.

## Meeting Minutes—continued

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**May 11, 2026**

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Rick Adjourned:7:08 PM  
Attendance: In Person 27 Zoom 5 Visitors 0 Total 32

### Announcements:

Leigh indicated the Field Day Event was still in need of an RV or Trailer for a station. Contact Leigh if you can help. 6 weeks away!

The Huntsville Hamfest Volunteer Portal is open on the website. Sign up and volunteer for your choice of duties.

Cotton Row Run – May 25<sup>th</sup> 2026. Kelley will send detail and assignments to the volunteers soon.

Volunteers are needed for the YOTA Camp – June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

John Equi request 4 or 5 Volunteer to help separate towers in preparation for Field Day.

NO HARC MEETING on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026.

Year End Club fiscal reports will be presented May 18<sup>th</sup> along with the Monthly Reports.

### Presentation:

Tonight's Presentation: Fast Track to your HAM Radio License, Michael Burnett, AF7KB

Next Week's Presentation: DAYTON HAMFEST 2026 REVIEW

**New Members-** This week at the HARC meeting the Club unanimously voted to accept one application as a new HARC member.

Clifford Nichols – N4ZWO – Our 27<sup>th</sup> new HARC Member this year.

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**May 18, 2026**

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Lisa Adjourned: 7:15 PM  
Attendance: In Person 34 Zoom 9 Visitors 0 Total 43

### Announcements:

The Huntsville Hamfest Volunteer Portal is open on the website. Sign up and volunteer for your choice of duties.

Cotton Row Run – May 25<sup>th</sup> 2026. Kelley will send detail and assignments to the volunteers soon.

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## Meeting Minutes—continued

No HARC Meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Holiday

Volunteers are needed for the YOTA Camp - June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - HAYLARC - Special Event Station @ the Space and Rocket Center.

### Business

Year End Club fiscal reports presented May 18<sup>th</sup> along with the Monthly Reports. Motion to accept Treasurer's report, seconded, and carried.

### Presentation:

Tonight's Presentation: DAYTON HAMFEST 2026 REVIEW- Reports and comments by several attending members.

June 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: Officer Installation, Field Day Review

**New Members-** No new member applications received this week.

## HARC and HAYLARC at Cotton Row Run

HARC and HAYLARC supported the annual Cotton Row Run 10K and 5 K on Memorial Day with communications. Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, and Stephanie Clark, KN4MEW handled net control with operators at mile markers across the course. Congratulations to HARC member Chris Arthur, NV4B, for completing the 10K race!



Lisa Shier, N3WQL, and Susan Newman, KD4RVV, at Mile Marker 1 of the 5 K.

Below: Some of the participating operators gather at Net Control. Seated: Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, and Stephanie Clark, KN4MEW. Standing: Philip Staite, W7RHX, Dick Christensen, W1TV, Steve and Jessica Molo, KI4KWR and KN4JJA.



## Tuning an 80m Base Fed Tower—by Mark N4BCD



In the March VOX issue I described the process of installing 64 mostly full size radials around the base of the tower. Working a few hours each day around other springtime & family commitments I had the all the radials in place about a month later. Now it was time to tune the tower system with the existing top loading and radials.

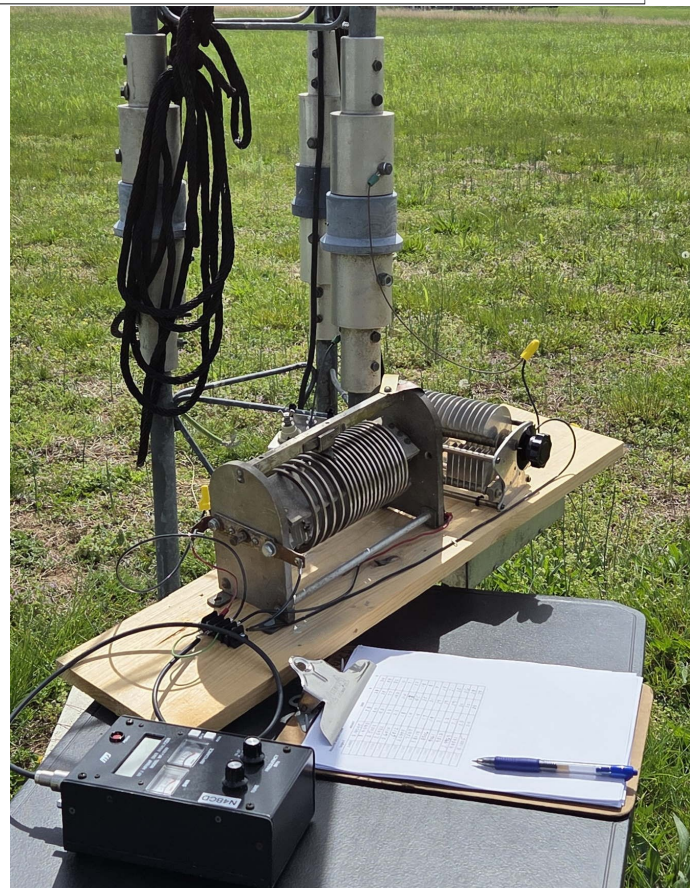
I used my MFJ-259B to sweep the HF spectrum and found wild swings of resistance, reactance, and SWR. So much so, that it was difficult to discern exactly where the system was resonant. The fact that the MFJ analyzer does not

Left: Radials - 59 installed - 5 to go

Below: LC Breadboarding

display negative reactance made for some guesstimation.

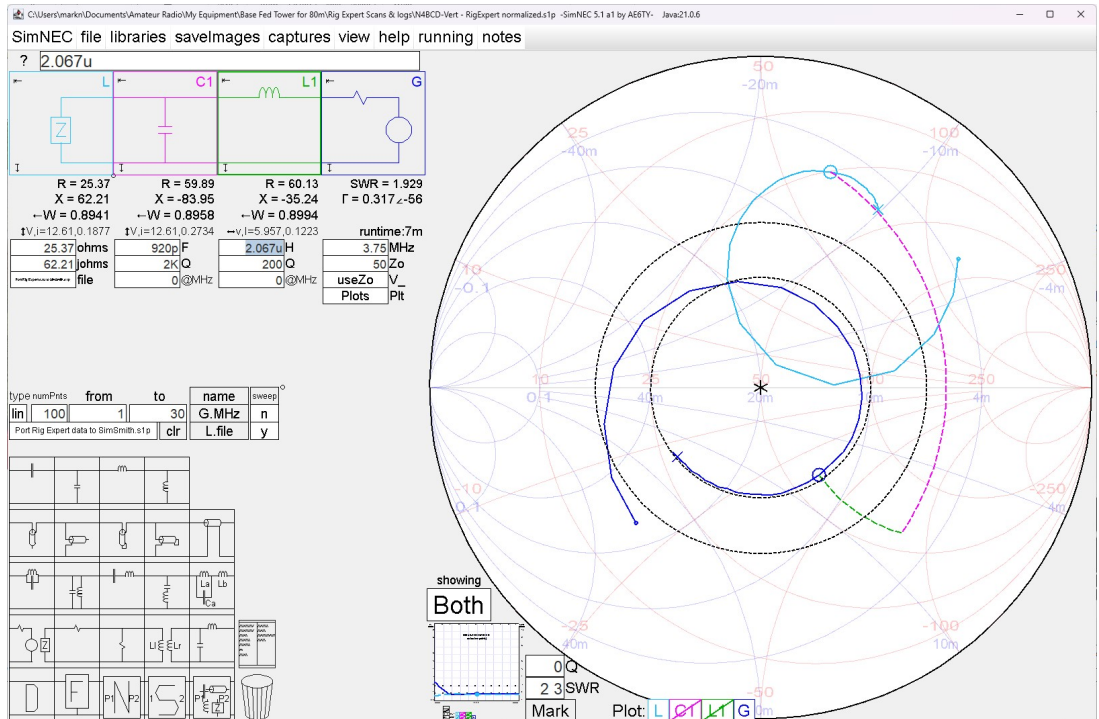
There are some excellent online tools for impedance matching using various LC circuits in either high or lowpass topology and those tools gave me starting values to work with. I used some junk box components and breadboarded a circuit for more measurements. Was able to find a perfect match using a physically large variable inductor and variable capacitor. Trouble was, that solution only had an SWR bandwidth of 200 KHz. My goal was a 3:1 SWR bandwidth across the entire band. That's



## Tuning an 80m Base Fed Tower—continued

a tall order for an 80m antenna as 3.5MHz to 4MHz represents a 13% change in frequency.

Enter SimSmith – a simulation program that allows one to visualize the effect of component changes across the entire band. A range of measurements can be imported and then by adding adjustable LC components, a visualization of the resulting SWR across the band as a graph or Smith chart can be seen.



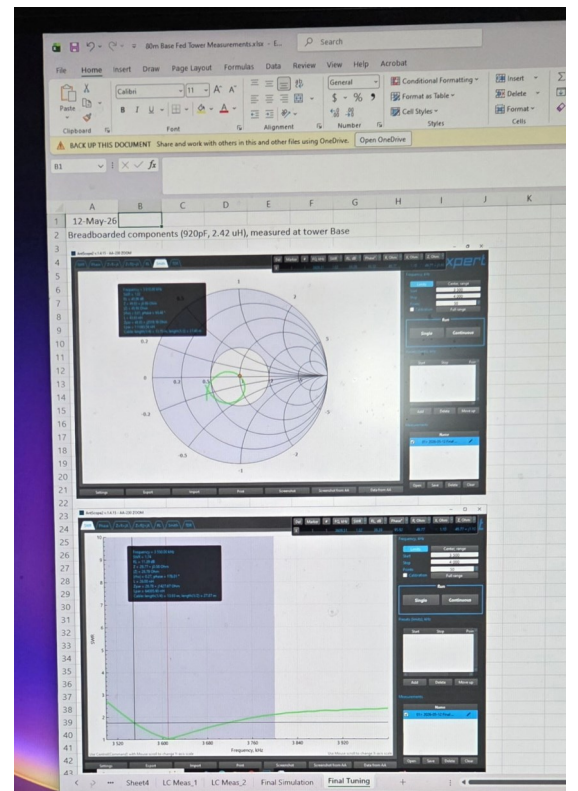
SimSmith Simulation of LC matching circuit.

Below: Rig Expert sweep with LC Match

A truism in any simulation is the adage of 'garbage in, garbage out'. The accuracy and precision of R & X values from the MFJ resulted in numerous false attempts at getting the desired outcome.

The enabler was a Rig Expert analyzer borrowed from Barry WA4HR which provided sweep data with enough accuracy & granularity to input into the SimSmith program. The result of a few hours of playing with component values showed that a set of fixed value components could achieve a suitable match across the entire 80m band.

During development I used some silver mica capacitors and a hand wound inductor to verify I was on the right track. Had to return the Rig Expert before project completion but knew at that point what I needed: a series L wound with



## Tuning an 80m Base Fed Tower—continued

14ga wire on a 3/8" piece of PVC for 2.1uH (or 2.4uH depending on what tool was used to measure it), and a shunt C of 920pF. I used doorknob caps with >10KV breakdown. Probably overkill but I wanted robust.

The table below are final measurements at the tower base and at the rig. I'm very happy with the result. I'll be even happier when the Alpha 91B is repaired and I'm loud on 80m.

Frequency (MHz)	SWR at Tower Base MFJ-259B	SWR at Rig FTdx101D
3.50	2.9	2.2
3.55	2.9	1.6
3.60	1.9	1.0
3.65	1.6	1.4
3.70	1.5	1.5
3.75	1.6	1.8
3.80	1.8	1.8
3.85	1.9	1.9
3.90	2.0	1.9
3.95	2.2	1.9
4.00	2.2	1.9



Final LC Circuit. The doorknob caps appear in series but are actually wired parallel. A DXE Vertical Feedline Choke was available and used to provide a DC short to ground.



New doorknob caps are ridiculously expensive (~\$100 ea) but the Flea Market at Dayton Hamvention turned up a government surplus antenna tuning unit with 11 doorknobs from 10pF through 500pF for \$80. The included a roller inductor and vacuum relay were a bonus.

## For Sale

### Butternut HF6V 6-Band Vertical Antenna

Used but still work very well. You will need to order a new sleeve and a new and matching coil both available at DX engineering.  
\$350 OBO.

Billy Gold km4bgf (at) gmail (dot) com two five six - 679-7689

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### Yaesu FTM-200D, \$300, Again!

You may remember that I had a Yaesu FTM 200D for sale last year about this time. Well, I have it for sale again. I thought I had sold it, but I recently went in my closet and pulled out my Yaesu FTM-300D box and found my FTM-200D in it instead of the FTM-300D. There is a lucky HARC member that got a FTM-300D from me thinking it was a FTM-200D. Their gain, my loss but I am not worried about it - I would like to swap the original box and manual from the HARC member that I sold it to.

The radio works great, lightly used and has Bluetooth capability.

73, Jim Perillat, KV4E

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### Antennas for Sale

- InnovAntennas 50MHz 6-Element LFA-MAX Low Noise Yagi) with coax \$350
- M2 18xxx with coax \$400
- 440 MHz 179b with coax \$250.

Dave KN4OK

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# HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL



The May lunch meeting of HAYLARC was held on May 14 at Creekwood Park. Plans for summer activities were discussed.

On May 23, HAYLARC had a special event station, K4R, at the US Space and Rocket Center in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Viking 1 and Viking 2 missions. These missions were the first successful landings on Mars. Contacts were made with voice, JT8, and CW.

The June meeting will be June 11 at 11:30 AM at Metro Diner, 975 Airport Rd. SW Suite 20-22, Huntsville, AL 35802.

The June activity for HAYLARC will be Field Day with HARC at Sharon Johnston Park in New Market. Setup will start on June 26. The operating period is 1 PM June 27 - 1 PM June 28. HAYLARC's Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, and Stephanie Clark, KN4MEW, will be the station managers for the 80/20 phone station. We encourage YLs to come and operate the station for a shift. Elmers are available. New hams can

also help by getting on the air at the GOTA (Get on the Air) station, where no experience is required. Assistance is also needed with set up, take down, and many other tasks.

The April soldering class was so popular that we are going to do it again in July. Time and date are still TBD. The August activity is the Huntsville Hamfest. HAYLARC has traditionally provided most of the ticket sellers, but HAYLARC's are also involved in other parts of the operation.

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HAYLARC's enjoy a picnic at Creekwood Park. Attendees included Susan Newman, KD4RVV, Glenda Trowbridge, WB4NFZ, Andrea Weathington, KR4CKG, Jan Sturbois, WB4RIV, Stephanie Clark, KN4MEW, Mardi, Laura Morgan, K4CNY, and Lynda Barlow, WB4TJE. (not pictured: Leigh Bartlow, WD4CPF, and Lisa Shier, N3WQL) Photo Credit: N3WQL



Right: Lauara Morgan, K4CNY, and Stephanie Clark, KN4MEW, operate at the US Space and Rocket Center for the Viking 1 & 2 Special Event Station, K4R. At the Space & Rocket Center --

Left: Willie Sandifer, KO4ALY



## ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes - by Steve KM4CJ

Madison County, Alabama ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2026

The meeting was conducted at the Madison County EMA EOC.

There were 16 in attendance.

The meeting started at 18:00 central time.

Tim, KK5H –If you have any photos from this year’s ARES activities, send them to Tim, KK5H, as he is updating our poster board for Hamfest. Next month we will be looking for a ARES Hamfest Table coordinator. Our next month’s program will be Field Day related.

CERT – Tom, WS4M, announced the next CERT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at City Hall.

Steve, KM4CJ, gave a budget report of \$2,525.



Program:

Steve, KM4CJ, gave a presentation on repeaters, how they work and a demonstration.

Meeting adjourned 19:45 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](https://groupme.com/join_group/70112276/7m2J4Tpk)

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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](mailto:robert.ehresman@gmail.com)

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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.

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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/>

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## Contributions Welcome

Send articles & photos to  
 mark.n4bcd (at) yahoo (dot) com  
 Deadline is the end of the calendar month for  
 the next issue.

### Program and Project Managers

Madison Co Emergency Coordinator	Tim Holland KK5H
Field Day Chairman	Leigh Bartlow WD4CPF
Public Information Officer	<b>Open</b>
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](mailto: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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