

The President's Corner



Hamfest 2026 is rapidly approaching in Huntsville Alabama. "The World's Friendliest Hamfest" will host the ARRL National Convention at the 2026 Huntsville Hamfest. The League will have an increased presence with several representatives from HQ. The Hamfest is scheduled for Friday August 22, 2026 & Saturday August 23, 2026 at the Von Braun Center South Hall. Hamfest doors open at 9:00 AM on both days.

Many amateur radio related forums, dinners and banquets are scheduled to be conducted. Amateur Radio license testing will be provided at the event. Additional Ham Radio activities will be going on starting on August 17 with POTA (Parks-On-The-Air), QRP, VHF/UHF and YouTuber activities being conducted in the Huntsville area. For a full list of forums, events and activities see <https://hamfest.org/>.

Over 75 vendors will be present displaying amateur radio related products and services. The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club (HARC) is heavily involved with this event by providing a large number of volunteers to support many areas of this annual event. Participation is expected to be very high this year and the forums, events and vendors are filling up fast if not already full. It is the efforts of all the volunteers that make this event so successful and highly praised. Be safe and a big "Thank You" to all the HARC members that make this such a special and memorable event.

73, Don Bertram (N4SEI)
HARC President

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HARC Field Day Score for 2026

Thanks Laura K4CNY for laboriously compiling and entering the ARRL Field Day submission. Her full report was presented at the HARC meeting on July 20, 2026. For details of these point totals, see her presentation excerpts in the meeting minutes.

HARC Field Day 2026, in category 5A

(from 2007 to 2025, category was 4A)

QSO Score Total	16526	QSO's x MODE multiplier x POWER multiplier
Bonus Point Total	1935	Bonus Points + GOTA Points
Submitted Score	18461	All Time HARC high score!

The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club®

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**

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 annouced 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

July 06, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Don-N4SEI Business Adjourned: 7:25 PM

Attendance: In Person 43 Zoom 10 Visitors 2 Total 55

Announcements:

Treasurer transition update: Transition complete.

Chuck Lewis updated the club regarding the QST magazine “Year of the Club.” The article has been submitted to the magazine, and he is waiting on response from QST.

Estate Sale- Ham Radio Equipment July 19th Contact Don N4SEI for info.

K4FTY (SK) family is donating radio equipment to HARC. A motion to accept the donation was made, seconded and passed. Equipment will be inventoried, and a decision will be made concerning disposition or storage.

Business:

HARC Property Update:

HARC Tower trailer repaired and towers disassembled at Sharon Johnston Park

Still a few Rohn 25 sections at Gary’s (some bent/damaged) and some guy wires and miscellaneous antenna radials. 7-8’ (50’) Sections off brand tower.(hardware location unknown). Will need a few members to assist loading to relocate to N4SEI QTH in July. Contact Don N4SEI if you can help.

Field Day Trailer Recap: Re-imbusement to Rick Copeland KE4IOH for cost. Final amount to be determined.

Finalizing Field Day log and submittal process: Laura

Reservations for Sharon Johnston Park next year are completed.

New Members:

HARC had no new member applications this week. The new members this year total 37 to date.

Presentation

Tonight- GigaParts – Blake Burns

July 13, 2026 – An Overview of the National Hurricane Conference and the “Hurricane Ham” program (Rob Macedo – KD1CY)

Meeting Minutes—continued

July 13, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Don-N4ESI Business Adjourned: 7:57 PM

Attendance: In Person 39 Zoom 8 Visitors 2 Total 49

Announcements:

HAMFEST update: Mark Brown – 5 Weeks until the HAMFEST. Volunteers are still needed. Sign up at HAMFEST.ORG.

QST “Year of the Club” article update Chuck Lewis- The article has been submitted and waiting for feedback from QST.

Rick Copeland KE4IOH -Volunteer Slots are still available. Sign up on line

Business:

Treasurer Update – Daniel KQ4HWN

Don B was reimbursed \$660.58 for the 8 band pass filters that was purchased for club utilization. Motion, Second and approved by membership.

Field Day Trailer Recap: Re-imbursement to Rick Copeland KE4IOH for \$\$\$ cost. Final invoice needed before payment can be made.

HARC Property Update: Still a few Rohn 25 sections at Gary’s (some bent/damaged) and some guy wires and miscellaneous antenna radials. 7-8’ (50’) Sections off brand tower.(hardware location unknown). We will be going to Gary’s on Thursday evening at 6PM to load remaining items.

Finalizing Field Day log and submittal process: Laura Tabulation should be completed this week.

ARRL NFL Section Sponsored Town Hall Meeting last FRIDAY, July 10th at 7:00 PM Eastern by Scott Roberts. David and Don B. attended. Meeting lasted about 2 hours. The meeting was constructive. The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club was mentioned with praise for their assistance with this year’s YOTA Camp, with many attendees saying this year was the best in recent memory.

Estate sale this Saturday. 1-3 PM Saturday July 19. Contact Don B.at president@harc.net for the address

Board of Directors Meeting on 7/7/2026.

Discussion on Acquisition and Disposition of HARC Property. Currently there is no governing document to address procedures of acquisition or disposition of property in the HARC Constitution or By-Laws. As a 501 (C) (3) organization, we need to have documented procedures as to how we deal with Acquisition and Disposition of HARC Property. A committee will be formed to determine if any improvements can be made to

Meeting Minutes—continued

our current system and develop process for the donated equipment including disposition or short-term lending to qualified members in need. The committee will bring their findings back to membership for further discussion.

Questions/comments?

Closing comments: What's next: HAMFEST

New Members:

HARC is pleased to have two new member applications this week. The new members unanimously approved bring the total new members for the year to 39.

Casey Wiseman KR4LXC

Thomas White KR4LXK

Presentation

The planned presentation for tonight was - An Overview of the National Hurricane Conference and the "Hurricane Ham" program (Rob Macedo - KD1CY). The program was canceled due to a family emergency by the presenter and will be rescheduled. In its place, a You Tube program on crystal usage in early radio was presented.

July 20, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Don-N4ESI Business Adjourned: 7:16 PM

Attendance: In Person 31 Zoom 8 Visitors 0 Total 39

Announcements:

HAMFEST update: Mark Brown - 4 Weeks until the HAMFEST. Mark presented preliminary HAMFEST floor layout and discussed changes from last year. The HAMFEST Workers party will be on September 14th.

QST "Year of the Club" article update Chuck Lewis- The article has been submitted and waiting for feedback from QST.

Business:

Field Day Trailer Recap: Re-imbursement to Rick Copeland KE4IOH for \$\$\$ cost. Final invoice needed before payment can be made.

HARC Property Update: The remaining antenna Rohn 25 sections at Gary's were picked up along with the guy wires and miscellaneous antenna radials, 7-8' (50') Sections off brand tower (hardware location unknown). The antenna parts will be stored at Don-N4SEI property along with additional antenna parts donated by Mr. Sam Henderson.

Meeting Minutes—continued

Finalizing Field Day log and submittal process: Laura Tabulation should be submitted to ARRL this coming week.

There will be no HARC Meeting on September 7th as Labor Day is a National Holiday.

The scheduled HARC meeting for the 14th of September has been canceled. On the 14th there is the HAMFEST Workers Party which will be held at the Signals Museum in lieu of the meeting.

Presentation

Tonight's presentation by Laura K4CNY, Results of Field Day 2026. Several categories broke Club records. Congratulations to those participating in Field Day.

1. Field Day Call Used <u>K4BFT</u>	GOTA Station Call <u>KC4VEC</u>
2. Club or Group name <u>Huntsville Amateur Radio Club</u>	
3. Number of Participants _____	4. Number of Transmitters in <u>Simultaneous</u> Operation <u>5</u>
5. Entry Class: Check only one.	
☒ A. Club or non-club group portable	☐ C. Mobile
☐ B. 1- or 2-person non-club Group portable	☐ D. Home station commercial power (100W max)
List call of 2 nd operator: _____	☐ E. Home station emergency power (100W max)
	☐ F. EOC Station

6. Power Source: Check all that apply	
☒ Generator	☐ Commercial mains
☒ Battery	☒ Solar
Other (list) : _____	

7. ARRL / RAC Section <u>AL</u> (see http://www.arrl.org/contest-sections-list for a sections list)	
8. Total CW QSOs <u>2732</u> x 2 =	Total CW QSO points <u>5464</u>
9. Total Digital QSOs <u>556</u> x 2 =	Total Digital QSO points <u>1112</u>
10. Total Phone QSOs <u>1687</u> x 1 =	Total Phone QSO points <u>1687</u>

11. Power Multiplier (select only one)	
☐ 5 watts or less and Battery powered = 5	
☒ 6 – 100 watts = 2	
☐ 101 – 500 watts = 1 (class A, B, or C only)	
(Transfer number selected {1, 2, or 5} to line 13)	

12. Total QSO points <u>8263</u>
13. Power Multiplier <u>2</u>
14. Claimed QSO Score <u>16,526</u> (Line 12 x line 13 excluding bonus points)

July 27, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Don-N4ESI Business Adjourned: 7:50 PM

Attendance: In Person 28 Zoom 9 Visitors 2 Total 39

Announcements:

QST "Year of the Club" article update Chuck Lewis- QST has asked some follow up questions and should be finished this week.

N4SEI will be out of town for next meeting, Vice President David Oakley will preside over meeting.

Mark KR4DRJ presented an idea to the Club toward developing a means of connection Hams

15. Bonus points claimed: Check each block as appropriate and include required proof of points with your submission. All bonus points will be verified at ARRL HQ and added to your score.

500 100% Emergency power (Max. 20 transmitters)
100 Media Publicity
100 Set-up in Public Location
100 Information Booth
100 Message to ARRL SM/SEC
100 W1AW Field Day Message
100 NTS/ICS-213 messages handled (# 10)
100 Satellite QSO completed
100 Natural power QSOs completed
— Site Visit by invited elected official
100 Site Visit by invited served agency official
— Educational Activity Bonus
80 Youth Element achieved
205 GOTA Bonus (total GOTA bonus points: 105 + 100)
50 Submitted using the web app field-day.arrl.org
100 Safety Officer Bonus (Class A Only)
— Site Responsibilities Bonus (Class B,C,D,E,F Only)
100 Social Media Bonus

Total Bonus Points Claimed: 1,935

Meeting Minutes—continued

with questions to Elmers via the computer. Several members volunteered to assist by testing the program access via the internet.

Business:

Treasurer update: Field Day Trailers invoice has been paid. Daniel has received an invoice from the law firm representing the Club in our trademark renewal. He will contact last year's treasurer to confirm payment status.

Finalizing Field Day log and submittal process: No update.

There will be no HARC Meeting on September 7th as Labor Day is a National Holiday.

The scheduled HARC meeting for the 14th of September has been canceled. On the 14th there is the HAMFEST Workers Party which will be held at the Signals Museum in lieu of the meeting.

Acquisition and Disposition of Property Discussion. Following a brief discussion regarding how to handle the acquisition, maintenance, and disposal of Club radio equipment, a motion that the board take up the matter of developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was made and passed by voice vote. John Equi, equipment manager, will also be a part of the SOP development. Procedures for checking out equipment will be a part of the plan.

New Members:

There were no new member applications for membership this week.

Presentation

Tonight's Presentation - Band Pass Filters and Common Mode Chokes Demonstration using Nano VNA (Vector Network Analyzer) by Bob Dupree and Don Bertram

HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL



HAYLARC held our monthly meeting on July at Ted's BBQ. Our July activity was a soldering class at Lisa Shier's house.

Our next business meeting/social luncheon will be held on August 13th at 11:30 at PaPpo's Pizzeria and Pub, 7540 Memorial Pkwy SW Suite E, Huntsville, AL 25802.

Our August activity is the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22-23 at the VBC. HAYLARC is sponsoring the YL Breakfast at Cracker Barrel on Drake Ave at 7 AM on Sunday. All YLs and their OM's are welcome. HAYLARC members will be helping out with ticket sales, food, and license testing. Lisa Shier, N3WQL, will be giving a talk about HAYLARC at 1 PM on Sunday.



Photos: Lisa Shier, N3WQL, serving as Elmer to new member, Katie. Credit: K4CNY
Laura Morgan, K4CNY, participating in the soldering class. Credit: N3WQL

ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes - by Steve KM4CJ

Madison County, Alabama ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2026

The meeting was conducted at the Madison County EMA EOC.
There were 13 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. Byron, KQ4NPA, is still looking for volunteers to work a shift at the ARES Hamfest table.

EMA - Chris, AI4U, announced the multi-agency exercise conducted on June 17th involving a hazardous train derailment was a success. Chris thanked for our support of the Madison County Emergency Planning Committee Meeting held June 23rd.

Steve, KM4CJ, reminded the group that the Digital Net is the 2nd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM. We will be using the HSV DMR repeater 442.275 +, cc1, slot 1, TG 31014 – BrandMeister Server,

Program:

The officers hosted a Game trivia question game with prizes furnished by GigaParts. A good time was had by all.

Meeting adjourned 19:05 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://madisoncountyaalema.gov/amateur-radio/>

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

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

Submit your Hamfest photos

For the next newsletter and to add to the database memorializing the 2026 National Convention, please send your photos to mark.n4bcd (at) yahoo (dot) com

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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