

The President's Corner

Hamfest 2026, WHAT A SHOW!!! "The World's Friendliest Hamfest" for 2026 is now behind us but what an outstanding event. The Huntsville Hamfest Association did an outstanding job and I know that they are very proud of their efforts. A huge increase in attendees in all areas.

The excitement and smiles flooded the Von Braun Center. Knowledge and good will was abundant. Having access to the ARRL programs and officials proved to be very beneficial. The VE's we busy performing license exams to many new amateur radio operators.

Forums provided knowledge and experiences that were actively received by many participants. The swap meet was very busy as attendees raced through to get the best deal. Attendees made multiple round through the entire event gathering knowledge, literatures, and hardware to enjoy in the coming months. The HARC Test Bench volunteers assisted with testing numerous radio-related items.

Everywhere you looked you could see HARC volunteers (inside, outside, parking, loading) just being friendly and assisting when needed. I attended the ARRL Annual Convention banquet where the Huntsville Hamfest Association received a very nice award for their outstanding performance in managing and creating the Huntsville "The World's Friendliest Hamfest" for 2026. "Thank You" to all the HARC members that volunteered and made this such a special and memorable event.

Then to put a small ribbon on the Hamfest, HARC had its 5th Monday auction night which was a big success. Many members brought in items (hmm, wonder how many items came from Hamfest?) Special thank you to Graham Galle-



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The President's Corner—continued

more K4FTY for bringing in numerous items for auction and generating \$556 which has been donated back to the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club.

What's next, 42nd Annual All You Can Eat (AYCE) Century 2026 Cycling Event, Sept 26th 2026. This event is growing and we are seeking additional volunteers to assist with the event.

73, Don Bertram (N4SEI)
HARC President

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)

Huntsville Hamfest Photos & Stats—by Mark N4BCD

As Don mentioned a huge increase in attendance in all areas of Hamfest 2026 and the ARRL National Convention, I'll quantify those numbers. We'll have more photos & stories at the Workers Party on September 14, but here a few statistics and images. Of the 400+ photos received from many contributors, to me these 9 seem to capture the weekend succinctly. These were also shared in public posts on social media.

Announced Attendance: 6558

Forum Attendance over both days: 1638

Total Sandwiches: 980



Mark N4BCD (center) accepting a recognition plaque to the Huntsville Hamfest Association from ARRL Marketing Director Bob Inderbitzen NQ4I (left) and President Rick Roderick K5UR at Friday night's National Convention Dinner at the US Space & Rocket Center.



Left: The ARRL had 55 representatives from HQ and around the country.

Below: An always vibrant flea market featured 455 sold-out tables.



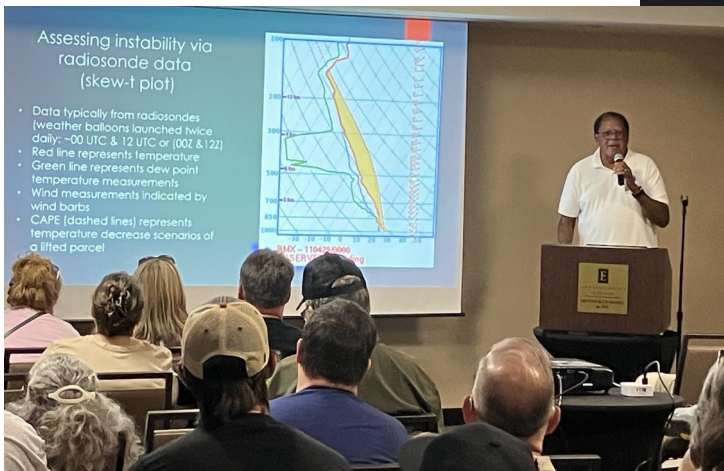
Huntsville Hamfest Photos & Stats—continued



Clubs were well represented.



A record number of commercial vendors.



Probably because we're the Rocket City, Forums are best in class.

CAVEC Exam Session



K4BFT rises to 1st place in the 2026 AMSAT Field Day competition—by Tim N8DEU

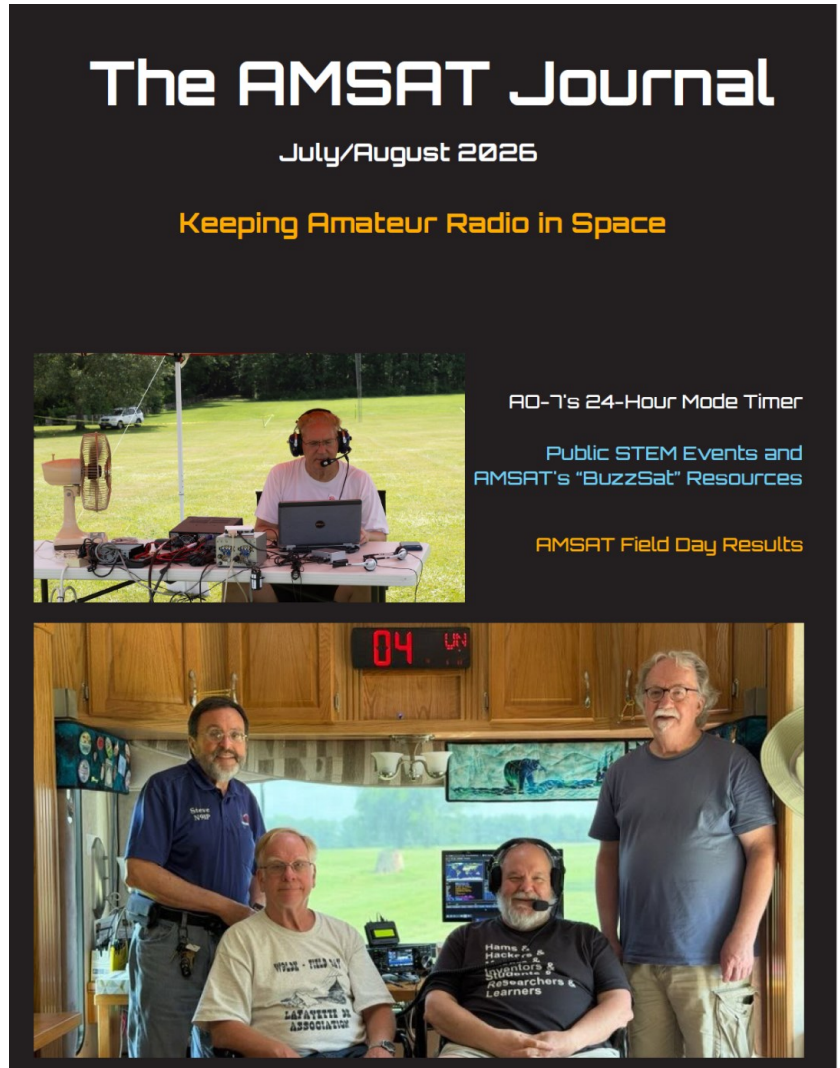
The AMSAT Field Day competition is an exciting event held every year in conjunction with the ARRL Field Day exercise. AMSAT calls it a competition for what it is. It demonstrates our readiness in emergency communications in the event of a significant event.

After being out of Field Day and not doing any radio operating for the past 2 years, I had to brush off a lot of rust. The 1st struggle was setting up the antennas on the rooftop at the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering (ASCTE) a week prior to Field Day. As I was headed out to ASCTE one morning and I passed Dick, W1TV, going down Monte Sano while he was volunteering his time to mow the grass for Burritt Museum. I honked "HI" in Morse Code with my car horn as I passed. Then, I stopped for a quick chat on the road. Dick asked if I was headed to ASCTE. A few minutes later, I received a text from Dick inquiring if I needed help. Great question! The answer is always yes, if you have time. Dick quickly joined us at ASCTE to help raise and install the antennas on the school rooftop. He stayed to work overtime. That is a great volunteer spirit after mowing in the heat earlier that morning... Thank you Dick.

We had a successful ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) event at the ASCTE and the focus quickly turned to getting the antennas off the roof along with all the cables and equipment. The staff at the school was awesome and the YOTA (Youth on the Air) staff were all helpful to breakdown the equipment to transport to the Field Day site.

Setup at Field Day went smoothly on Friday evening. I almost got locked inside the park as I exited when the gate was being locked. That was a close call.

Dick, W1TV, appeared once again at the end of the Field Day to help with teardown. Great timing! This was the greatest time of need after 4 hours of sleep. There were more points available to be had overnight, but fatigue and bugs prodded me to go home for rest.



K4BFT rises to 1st place... continued

All of the hard work and preparation paid off this year.

The top 2 spots were separated by 5 points this year to provide an idea of how close it really was. The 3rd spot was 34 points below our score. We had enough points to take 1st place and earn a spot on the front page of the AMSAT Journal.

Many thanks to photographer, Lisa Shier, N3WQL for capturing the photo that landed on the front page of the July/August 2026 AMSAT Journal.

73,
Tim Cunning'ham' - N8DEU
AMSAT Ambassador

Meeting Minutes—by Don K4DJC

August 3, 2026

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

Attendance: In Person 32 Zoom 14 Visitors 2 Total 48

Announcements:

Hamfest update: Mark N4BCD shared the highlights of the Hamfest preparations to date.

Pre-Hamfest ticket sales are running 54% ahead of last year.

75 major vendors are signed to be there.

Flee Market tables are sold out - 455 tables!

29 Clubs and Organizations will have tables.

A fourth Forum room has been added in the hotel.

ARRL will have 50 people present to represent them at their EXPO.

This year the Hamfest Organization implemented a one badge one ticket for the door prize drawings.

The new ticket barrel is now motorized!

There will be a Special Event Station this year. The Hamfest will host W1AW/4 for the weekend in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. See Laura Morgan to sign up to be a net controller.

Business:

Since August has 5 Mondays in the month, the Club Auction night will be held on the 31st. Bring your wallets and the equipment you'd like to sell.

Meeting Minutes—continued

Field Day log has been submitted. We will see how the Club did this year.

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.

New Members:

HARC unanimously voted to accept three new member into the Club this week, bringing our total for the year to 42 new members.

Brandon Holland KR4NUO (Extra Class), Huntsville AL

Arron Stewart KD5SFF (General), Owens Cross Roads AL

Michael Hoefer KR4MWF (General), Huntsville AL

Presentation

Tonight's Presentation - "An Introduction to Message Passing" by Scott Morse (KC6SKM)

August 10, 2026

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

Attendance:	In Person	Zoom	Visitors	Total
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Announcements:

Thank you to David for conducting the meeting last week, He did an excellent job!!!

Any announcements from the members

Hamfest update: Mark N4BCD updated what is currently going on in preparation for the Hamfest. The Volunteer Page on the Hamfest website is now closed. Sign up for the W1AW/4 net sponsored by Alabama Contest Group is on-going. The committee's attention is focused on the final preparations. Four hundred and eighty-four badges and packets for credentials are being readied. The Hamfest has long call itself as America's Friendliest Hamfest and Mark remind us that "We are Hosting a Party!"

QST "Year of the Club" article update-Chuck Lewis reported the writer of the article continues to ask questions as QST is amazed at the depth and degree of involvement of the Club in ARES/RACES, Emergency Communications, community activity support, supporting neighboring communities in the Greater Huntsville area and of course the volunteer support of the Huntsville Hamfest.

Update on ARRL NFL Section Town Hall - Post July Board Meeting Aug 8, 2026 18:00 CT - The proposal to move the state of Alabama from the Southeastern District to the Delta District has tentatively been approved pending a final survey of ARRL Members. Also discussed was a more "political" issue dealing with the recall of the Southeastern Section leader. The Club was told to expect petition

Meeting Minutes—continued

signature gatherers at the Huntsville Hamfest in favor of the recall.

John Morgan announced a new Technicians Class would begin on September 8th at GigaParts.

Madison County ARES/RACES will conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Training event on October 31, 2026.

Presentation

Tonight's Presentation - Forward Scatter Meteor Radar: the Science Behind the Pings - Ron Suggs Ph.D., NN4NT

Next Week's Presentation - SWR, What is Acceptable? Robert De Pierre, K8KI.

August 17, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By:Don B-N4SEI Business Adjourned: 7:36 PM

Attendance: In Person 43 Zoom 11 Visitors Total 54

Announcements:

John Morgan announced a new Technicians Class would begin on September 8th at GigaParts.

Madison County ARES/RACES will conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Training event on October 31, 2026.

Hamfest is next weekend!

If you have a program you would like to present at a Club meeting, contact David Oakley - NA4CG

Sam Henderson AG4XF has a FTDX 9000 Contest Transceiver in excellent condition for sale. His asking price is \$3700. Contact Sam directly if interested.

Business:

Treasurer update: Daniel- KQ4HWN presented the history of the legal cost for the Club Copyright and the Trademark renewal that was recently received. It seems the previously paid invoice as reported at the April 27, 2026 Club meeting was applied first to portions of the unpaid illegal balance from the 2021 renewals. A motion was made from the floor for the Club to pay its bills. The motion received a second and passed unanimously. Planning for the future bills a pro-rated charge of \$ 500 dollars a year will be accrued towards this account.

President Bertram-N4SEI update the Club on Board actions asking the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) for clarification of Amateur Radio Clubs status when it comes to 5010(3) Corporations and the Alabama Sales and Use Tax. He also presented a proposed

Meeting Minutes—continued

letter to local Alabama legislators requesting due to our primary focus as Amateur Radio Operators is as emergency communicators, Amateur Radio Clubs be placed on the exempt organizations list.

New Members: HARC unanimously voted to accept two new members into the Club this week, bringing our total for the year to 44 new members. Welcome them to the organization.

Carl Herring W2VET (General Class) Hazel Green, AL

Mark Vander Bloomen K04YDO (Technician Class) Huntsville, AL

Presentation

Tonight's Presentation - "SWR, What is Acceptable?" Robert De Pierre, K8KI.

August 24, 2026

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

Attendance: In Person 31 Zoom 11 Visitors 1 Total: 43

Announcements:

New Technicians Class beginning on September 8th at GigaParts.

Madison County ARES/RACES will conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Training event on October 31, 2026.

42nd Annual All You Can Eat (AYCE) Century 2026 Cycling Event, Sept 26th.

Don B.-N4SEI provided an update of the ARRL move to relocate the State of Alabama from the Southeast Division to the Delta Division and some of the benefits that could be forthcoming from that move, such as hosting the Annual Regional Conference each year. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Southeastern Division Director and some ARRL members' unhappiness with that individual. Mark Brown accepted an award on behalf of the Huntsville Hamfest Association at the ARRL Dinner.

Business:

Treasure Report -Dan S. KQ4HWN presented the July financial report which was income light and expense heavy from Field Day and Attorney expenses. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved. Dan also discussed the on-going question about the invoices from the attorney regarding the cost of the Club's trademarks and copyrights. The invoices provided are not detailed as to support when or what the work was for. The invoices also show none of the previous payments made to the attorneys.

Due to the length of the discussion of the ARRL and the attorney invoices, and several members leaving during the discussions and with the consent of the planned program presenter, a motion was made and seconded to reschedule the Elmer Forum Prototype

Meeting Minutes—continued

presentation at a later date. The motion was approved.

New Members:

HARC unanimously voted to accept Joshua Brooks- W3JKB into the Club this week. This brings the total of new members this year to 45.

August 31, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Don B-N4SEI Business Adjourned: 7:38 PM

Attendance: In Person 38 Zoom 4 Visitors 5 Total: 47

Announcements:

New Technicians Class beginning on September 8th at GigaParts.

Madison County ARES/RACES will conduct their annual Simulated Emergency Training event on October 31, 2026. Planning meeting on September 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Madison County Management Agency.

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.

42nd Annual All You Can Eat (AYCE) Century 2026 Cycling Event, Sept 26th.Volunteers needed. Contact Tim-KM4ESU

Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is scheduled for 17th of October

HARC is looking for volunteers for presentations on the following subjects in the future. Several members volunteered or voluntold:

Introduction to Satellite Operations- Steve

Introduction to Digital Operations- Winlink -Tim

Introduction to VHF/UHF modes/operation-James

Introduction to POTA/SOTA Operations- Willie

Introduction to QRP-Willie/Tom

Introduction to Remote Operations- Steve

Introduction to Station controls/automation-Steve

Introduction to Antennas- Geoffry/Steve

Introduction to Meshtastic operations- Mike/James

Introduction to Contesting- Jim

Logging and ARRL Awards-Steve/Bob

Meeting Minutes—continued

Business:

Treasure Report – Daniel – no report

Property Manager Update – John Equi gave a brief update on content of the storage locker regarding disposition of small items and antennas.

The Trademarks for the two HARC logos have been approved by the government for 10 years. Renewable in 2036.

GigaParts did a brief presentation to inform any interested Amateur Radio Operator of their Ambassador Program and their benefits. Interested Operator should sign up on their website, GigaParts.com

New Members:

HARC unanimously voted to accept 4 new members this week into the Club. This brings the total of new members this year to 49.

Glen Wagner-KR40QJ, Tech 2026, Huntsville

Bryce Johnston-KR4NTB, Tech 2026, Owens Cross Rds.

Glenn Yarbrough-KC4SIU, General 2026, Arab

Michael Wagner-KR400M, Tech 2026, Huntsville

Presentation:

Tonight's Presentation is – 5th Monday Auction Night



HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL



HAYLARC's August activity was the Huntsville Hamfest. HAYLARC traditionally handles most of the ticket sales under Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, the Hamfest Finance Director. Many members assisted with ticket sales and will call tickets. Laura Morgan, N4CNY, managed the W1AW/4 Special Event Station. Each state gets one week of W1AW this year and Alabama's week was chosen to coincide with the Huntsville Hamfest. Lisa Shier, N3WQL, gave two talks related to clubs, one by invitation of ARRL and one about HAYLARC. Stephanie Clark, KR4FCO, was spotted helping at the information booth.

The September lunch meeting will be on September 10 at 11:30 AM at Big Ed's Pizza (255 Pratt Ave NE, Huntsville, AL 35801). The September activity will be the All You Can Eat Century Ride on September 26. HAYLARC will be manning Rest Stop 4 in Southern Tennessee.

Photos:

Jan Sturbois, WB4RIV, and Glenda Towbridge, WB4NFZ, sell tickets at the Hamfest.

Laura Morgan, K4CNY, makes contacts at the W1AW/4 special event station.

Photo Credit N3WQL



ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes - by Steve KM4CJ

Madison County, Alabama ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2026

The meeting was conducted at the Madison County EMA EOC.
There were 12 in attendance.
The meeting started at 18:00 central time.

Tim, KK5H – Our poster board for Hamfest table is complete. All of the slots have been filled for the ARES Hamfest table.
Thank you to all who volunteered.

CERT - James, KQ4VYQ, announced the next CERT class is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00 PM.

Steve, KM4CJ, gave a budget balance report of \$2712.50.

Our ARES net on Thursday August 20th will be held at 7:00PM on the 94 repeater.

Next month's program will be on Simulated Emergency Test (SET) preparation. The SET is scheduled for the morning of October 31st.

Program:

Steve, KM4CJ, gave a presentation of getting ready for Hamfest.

Meeting adjourned 18:30
central time.

Respectfully Submitted
Steve Smith
Assistant Emergency
Coordinator
ARES Madison County

*ARES Club Table in the
Hamfest Pre-Function
hallway gave visitors the
opportunity to send a
WinLink message.*

Photo by Dick WITV



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/>

Out of sight but essential to Hamfest



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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