

The President's Corner

Fall is upon us. The 42nd Annual All You Can Eat (AYCE) Century 2026 Cycling Event went off without any major issues. Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted with this event. September was a good month for the club. We have had 52 new members join us this calendar year. That is impressive and welcome to all the new members.

We also had two impressive monetary donations to the club. Special "Thank you" to Graham Gallimore K4FTY for his \$556.00 cash donation to the club and to Judi Rollings N4GFW and Tom Cash WS4M for their \$1000.00 cash donation. These donations go directly into the club's account and support major events like Field Day where club members practice and participate in amateur radio tasks with other operators around the country and world. This event gives us an opportunity to practice and refine our radio skills that could be utilized during emergency operations when requested.

News from ARRL: ARRL has submitted a new re-districting proposal which would move the State of Alabama out of the South Eastern Division and put our club in the Delta Division. This action will go into effect starting February 1, 2027 unless there are substantiated reasons as to why it should not occur. This re-districting is primarily occurring to equalize the members within the divisions.

The Huntsville/Madison County Simulated Emergency Test is coming up in October. AR-EAS/RACES welcomes check ins from all licensed hams in the area.

73, Don Bertram (N4SEI)
HARC President



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From your Publisher

HARC needs a NEW VOX PUBLISHER. Between Dec-2010 and Jan-2011, I took over this newsletter from Tom Duncan KG4CUY (SK). This publication marks the 190th issue since my start. It's time to hand over the reins.

The VOX newsletter, except for a few lost issues, has been published continuously since 1961. Those issues are essentially the heartbeat of the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club, recording names, dates, happenings, and plans. Help is needed to continue this important tradition.

The format isn't as relevant as the content. Microsoft Publisher, used by Tom and I for decades is probably not the best choice since that software is going to a paid subscription extra to the core suite of MS Office products. A new person can start using any format he or she is comfortable with, such as MS Word or an Open Office application.

What is essential is the continuation of the VOX. **My last issue will be Dec-2026.** Please contact a club officer for transition planning to make the Jan-2027 issue a reality. 73, Mark N4BCD. Huntsville Hamfest-Chairman, HARC Officer-at-large, Lincoln County Amateur Radio Association-Secretary.

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

September 7, 2026 Labor Day, no meeting

September 14, 2026 Hamfest Workers Party, Mark N4BCD's notes

Thanks to Kelley and Derek Johns for the great meal tonight.

Thanks to Jim Cape & John Equi for the drinks coordination.

Hamfest 2026 is in the books and I would say MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Volunteers, we couldn't do this without you!

Special thanks to:

Photographers – Dick W1TV and Lisa N3WQL

John K4JCH for enduring the heat.

Laura K4CNY for running the W1AW/4 Special Event Station.

Todd N7KDT for running the Youth GOTA Station.

Thanks Jessica KN4JJA our new Hamfest Hostess at the Mayor's Hospitality Suite?

Daniel Sherfey KQ4HWN for keg of Mad Malts pilsner.

Bill WB8ELK - Saturday balloon launch - completed 1st pass around the world.

EVERYONE from Door Checkers to Sandwich servers to MoveOut people..

You all played a big part in this year's success.

Some stats:

Attendance: 6558 up 18% from last year's 5531

145 Volunteers and 20 Committee chairs.

Vendors: 74, last year 64

Badge count of Vendors, Volunteers, Forums, Youth Lounge, Media was 465

Add the 55 ARRL badges and we were over 500.

Sandwich count 980

30 Clubs & Organizations, same as last year

Forums - 1638 people attended Forums. We're going to stay with 6 rooms on Saturday.

Flea Market - 455 sold out tables.

38 Media personalities. Tried to cap at 30 but..

Bubba of Rick & Bubba

Alex Hall WLRH-FM.

She did segments with Monte YLounge and Rob NN4NT on meteor scatter.

Monte Sano again taken over by Four Days in August.

DX Banquet hosted what, 120 guests?

Meeting Minutes—continued

Monte does 2 Forums and asked for a show of hands at each one...

Lightning Science was $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ full. He asked how many are 1st time visitors - maybe $\frac{1}{3}$. Second question: how many there because it was the National Convention - very few.

His Lightning Protection Forum was standing room only. Same result.

Exams de-Ben AE4FQ

Total Applicants Tested: 83

Total Exams Given: 105

Total New Licenses: 25

Total Upgrades: 39

Volunteers - Thank you! We couldn't do this without your help.

To show our appreciation, some checks to clubs whose members provide their time & effort. Total this year \$9500. (last year \$7200)

HARC	\$3000
NARA	\$1000
NADXC	\$1000
HAYLARC	\$1000
Signals Museum	\$1000
NN4SA	\$1000
Browncoats	\$1000
Monte Sano SP	\$500

Door Prizes (all volunteers are eligible)

Value	Mfg'r	Model	Won by...
\$140	Luiton	LT-310SDR 15W PTT Mini SSB Radio	WB4NFZ (via Kelley)
\$189	VERO	VR-N76 7W 144/430MHz Dual Band Handheld Transceiver	KM4CJ (delivered)
\$210	Yaesu	FT-70DR 5W C4FM/144/430MHz Dual Band Digital Handheld Transceiver	AA2MA (delivered)
\$250	Alinco	DR-06TA 6 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver	USPS mailed to Chris Swader KE4GOI
\$338	VGC	VR-N7600 50W Dual Band Mobile Radio	W4RXXR (delivered)

Plus 40-odd smaller door prizes unclaimed at Hamfest going to volunteers attending to-night.

Meeting Minutes—continued

September 21, 2026

Call to Order at 7:00 PM By: Don B-N4SEI Business Adjourned: 7:24 PM

Attendance: In Person 34 Zoom 5 Visitors 1 Total: 40

Announcements:

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.

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to create new presentations. We look forward to the experience that is forthcoming.

There will not be a HARC Meeting on October 12, 2026, Columbus Day.

Business:

Treasure Report – Daniel KQ4HWN reported on the July Treasurer's report which was accepted by vote after a motion and second. Follow up on the Bradley invoices for Trademark and Logos continues.

Property Manager Update – Personnel will meet @ 5:00 PM Thursday to get equipment for the All You Can Eat Bike Ride.

Huntsville HamFest Donation – The Huntsville Hamfest has generously presented a check to the Club for \$3000 because of the Club's volunteer assistance.

K4FTY Graham Gallemore donation of \$556.00.

Tom W4SM and Judi N4GFW have graciously donated \$1000 to the Club.

Update on Alabama Department of Revenue Letter -Don N4SEI received a reply from the ADOR which simply repeated the statute in a brief non-answer. More to come with a follow-up.

Update on letter to Senators and Representatives on Tax exemption status. No response to date.

Presentation:

Tonight's: Malawi Youth Outreach Expedition by Steve Werner (AG4W)

New Members:

HARC unanimously voted to accept Ryan Birn KR40TK, Technician, into the Club this week.

Meeting Minutes—continued

September 28, 2026

Call to Order at PM By: Don B-N4SEI Business Adjourned: 7:40 PM

Attendance: In Person 31 Zoom 13 Visitors 3 **Total:** 47

Announcements:

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

There will not be a HARC Meeting on October 12, 2026, Columbus Day.

Club Spotlight Huntsville ARC Article Update ARC (Chuck Lewis N4NM)- A draft of the article was shown to members and commented on by Chuck. There were a few things that needed to be corrected for the record. Overall, a favorable presentation of the Club.

AYCE Bike Ride – The ride was a success with minimal equipment problems. The ride chairman expressed the committee's thanks to the Ham volunteers to Tim-KM4ESU for their help and participation saying the event would be impossible without the Club communications and SAG assistance. The addition of a temporary repeater near Rest Stop 4 made communication of the entire course possible.

Thank you to everyone that contributed last week to the Malawi Youth Outreach that Steve Werner (AG4W) is in process of attending and supporting.

ARRL Field Day 2027 will take place from Saturday, June 26, to Sunday, June 27, 2027

The official ARRL Field Day Results will be published in the December 2026 issue of QST magazine and online at the ARRL Field Day Results Page. URL: field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php

New Members:

HARC unanimously voted to accept 2 new members this week into the Club. This brings the total of new members this year to 50.

Laurie Dyson – K06CCL, General, Huntsville

Bryan Dyson – K06CDD, General, Huntsville

HAYLARC Happenings—by Lisa N3WQL

HAYLARC supported the All You Can Eat Century Bike Ride on September 26. This ride goes into Southern Middle Tennessee, through a lot of areas with no cell phone coverage. Ham radio provides safety and logistical communications support. HAYLARC ran communications at Rest Stop 4 in McBurg, Tennessee. We all learned a lot about cross band repeat. Rest Stop 4 is in a hole, so getting signal out required reaching through a repeater set up just for the event and then through the Park City repeater. Lisa Shier, N3WQL ran the course as a photographer.

Our next business meeting/social luncheon will be held on October 8th at 11:30 at Sushime Asian Bistro, 6290 University Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806.

HAYLARC will be doing POTA at Monte Sano State Park on October 10. Laura will be participating in this event and has invited us all to join. She will provide equipment, but feel free to bring your own. Bring a lunch, snacks, water, or chairs as needed. Contact Laura if you have any questions. This is a great way to get outside and enjoy the fall weather and operate your radio, too.

(left) The crew at Rest Stop 4: Stephanie Clark, KN4MEW, Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, and Kathie Taber, KF0OLK.

(below) Spenser Callicott, KQ4VYY, and Kelley Johns, W4VPZ discuss cross band repeat settings.

Photo Credit: N3WQL



ARES Monthly Meeting Minutes - by Steve KM4CJ

September 3, 2026

The meeting was conducted at the Madison County EMA EOC.

There were 11 in attendance.

The meeting started at 18:00 central time.

Tim, KK5H – Thanked everyone for their help and support of the Hamfest. The ARES booth was very busy and WINLINK was a success. We sent 43 emails.

CERT - James, KQ4VYQ, announced the next CERT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00 PM at the EOC. The next CERT classes will begin in January.

Steve, KM4CJ, gave a budget balance report of \$3406.50.

James, KQ4YVQ, announced he has made contact with the Monrovia Vol Fire Dept personnel and is reestablishing our activities with them as we prepare for the SET.

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 the SET.

Meeting adjourned 18:30 central time.

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Smith

Assistant Emergency Coordinator

ARES Madison County



HARC to be Featured in QST—by Chuck N4NM

{Editor: The ARRL Year of the Club is a year-long initiative beginning January 1, 2026, officially recognized by the ARRL Board of Directors to honor the essential contributions of radio clubs to amateur radio.

The Q&A below represent Chuck N4NM's responses to follow-up questions from ARRL for an upcoming Dec-2026 QST article about the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club. While the QST article will be limited in length, Chuck's explanations & clarifications are intended to provide background info to the author for how to frame HARC's position within the community of Huntsville radio clubs.}

(QST author's questions in Red, Chuck's responses in Black)

1. During YOTA camp, what did the kids do at the Space and Rocket Center (the website says they have four STEM education programs) and the Signals Museum?

We're not sure about the Space & Rocket Center except that there is plenty to see, and that it's a very popular venue. At the Signals Museum (<https://www.signals-museum.org/>) they had access to the entire museum and were given a tour by three Museum volunteers who are also HARC members (one is the incoming president). They were given access to the Museum's hamshack, K4MIE, which has a display of antique and classic ham equipment supplemented by modern gear funded by a grant from ARDC (obtained by HARC members). Many of the kids got on the air from K4MIE and made a bunch of contacts, even triggering a QSL card received by the museum from one of their QSO partners. During the day, the volunteers made formal presentations on techniques for measuring performance of common-mode and bandpass filters. Then, at stations set up in the museum commons area, the kids practiced what they had learned. These filters were chosen as a tech topic because ARRL field day was fast approaching and the HARC Club's Field Day filters were being built and tested in the Museum's restoration lab (it was perfect timing). Five or six HARC volunteers were part of this effort.

The thing to remember here is that, even though this visit was at the invitation of the Signals Museum, and officially provided by museum volunteers, there were additional folks from HARC; and the official Museum staffers were also HARC members. The initial idea of a museum visit was coordinated during weekly HARC meetings. With this kind of collaboration, the volunteers wear many hats, representing more than one organization, but all pulling in the same direction.

2. Did HARC volunteers participate in the YOTA Camp field trips at all, or were they just involved with scheduling?

Oh, yes; there was lots of participation, especially for the ARISS session, where a half-dozen or so HARC members helped during set-up and tear-down of the satellite station. One of the principal Huntsville coordinators for the YOTA

HARC to be Featured in QST—continued

camp is an ex-HARC president, who was part of nearly every YOTA function. [and see answer #1, above]

3. What is meant by an ARISS "session"? Was a contact made?

Yes. Successful contact was made with the Space Station, and quite a few campers were able to chat with an astronaut. (Being Huntsville, we kinda know how to do that!)

4. Does HARC do anything else throughout the year with youth?

We're active supporters of the Youth Lounge at the Huntsville Hamfest. The individuals who officially sponsor that activity are also HARC members, and rely on many other HARC folks to help teach soldering classes, organize radio events for the kids and serve as 'Elmers', helping kids operate the HF station that's set up for the Youth Lounge attendees. At our annual HARC Field Day (K4BFT) we provide a "Get On The Air" station that is keyed toward young people who might be interested in Ham Radio. We have recently begun testing a HARC-sponsored online "Elmering" app that will support online questions with responses from experienced hams. When this goes online, it will benefit not only young hams, but new and old ones as well.

5. Can you briefly explain what the Huntsville Hamfest Association is? I can't find anything about it online.

Here's a link: <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/630936797> .

The Huntsville Hamfest Association is the entity that promotes the hamfest. When, for example, ARRL agreed that the Huntsville show will be the 2026 National Convention, it was the HH Association that signed the formal agreements. The Association is responsible for everything from renting the event space and show materials at the Von Braun Center, to recruiting a large group of volunteers...mostly from HARC...who make it the "World's Friendliest Hamfest".

Years ago, the original organizers of the Huntsville Hamfest anticipated the potential conflicts of interest that would exist if local club(s) grew dependent on a Hamfest for their financial support. So, they intentionally established an independent and autonomous entity, The Huntsville Hamfest Association, that would promote the hamfests. The Association is a small group who, although also members of HARC and other local groups, can make independent and objective decisions affecting the Hamfest.

HARC to be Featured in QST—continued

The Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Hamfest's financial plan is adjusted annually to maintain a reserve large enough to withstand a disastrous year while still supporting the investments required for the next Hamfest. The modest revenue beyond that safety buffer is distributed to local clubs and organizations in recognition of their members' volunteer support. This mutually beneficial approach has worked extremely well: the Huntsville Hamfest has thrived while many others have succumbed to infighting and power struggles. Supporting organizations such as HARC remain fiscally independent, yet they maintain an operationally intense—but administratively informal—relationship with the Hamfest.

Leanna, you would be correct in noting that I have emphasized how HARC serves as the glue binding Huntsville's many amateur radio organizations together. Perhaps the best example is in the answer to question #1: HARC members were working at the Signals Museum in their capacity as official Signals Museum volunteers, building filters for HARC's Field Day in the Signals lab, and preparing for a YOTA-sponsored youth camp that a local High School, HARC, ARISS, the Signals Museum, and the Space & Rocket Center, among others, were supporting with volunteer help. It was a lovely "Ham Radio Stew".

Your request for information nudged us into the realization that we couldn't brag on HARC without including all those other groups as well! It then became obvious that HARC has been serving as the integrating entity in North Alabama ham culture for all these years. We knew it all along; we just had not articulated it! Thank You for that!

73,
Chuck Lewis, N4NM

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/>

Just Learned About a new Mode- by Mark N4BCD

JTTY is a new WSJT-X digital mode introduced in WSJT-X 3.2.0-rc1 (September 2026), designed to mimic RTTY's keyboard-to-keyboard operation while offering far better weak-signal performance, lower error rates, and asynchronous (non-timed) transmissions.

What JTTY Is

- A 4-tone GFSK digital mode with ~125-127 Hz bandwidth.
- Works asynchronously – transmissions can start at any time (unlike FT8/FT4).
- Designed for RTTY-style contesting and keyboard-to-keyboard chats.
- Provides about 30 WPM for free text and up to 60 WPM for structured contest exchanges.
- Uses function-key macros for contesting (calls, reports, serials).

Your author hasn't tried this yet but it's intriguing!

Learn more here...

<https://youtu.be/U01AktAezqk?si=0Yp9uTUrlI8SX1TZ>

By the time you read this, there will probably be more press coverage of what will likely become a very popular mode.

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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