

2012 Huntsville Hamfest Forum Listing

8-13-2012

ARRL / IARU

- **ARRL Update - "A Newbie Goes to Geneva: World Radiocommunication Conference, 2012"**

Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL President

Join Kay as she recounts her experiences at the WRC in Geneva, Switzerland.

- **ARRL Southeastern Division and Alabama Section Meeting**
Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, S.E., Division Director
David Drummond, W4MD, Alabama ARRL Section Manager

David and Greg will review ARRL, Division, and Section activities, and be available for a question and answer session. Greg will talk about the ARRL's upcoming 100th birthday, review the new ARRL Field Day setup rule, and introduce you to the new ARRL Southeastern Division Vice-Director, Jim Millsap, WB4NWS.

- **IARU Forum: "WHY DO HAMS GO TO DAYTON? IS IT TO SEE THE ALIEN BODIES FROM ROSWELL?"**

Dr. Larry Price, W4RA, IARU President Emeritus

Unfortunately, no; the REAL story is that several IARU amateur radio member societies from around the world send a delegation of their officials to meet and greet visiting fellow radioafficianados attending the Dayton HamVention, which for a variety of reasons is now the largest amateur radio convention in the entire world. The peak attendance was in 1997 when about 34,000 hams were there, this year, 2012, taking into account the high cost of travel and the status of the economy, it was still noteworthy that right at 25,000 made the trek including amateurs society exhibits from Canada, Germany, Japan, Qatar, and individual officials from Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Norway, Venezuela. This gave real meaning to the theme: 'Globally Interconnected'.

- **"Public Information for Amateur Radio Activities"**
Ed Tyler, N4EDT, Public information Coordinator, Alabama Section

This forum is designed to provide for the exchange of tips, trick and great ideas to obtain more publicity for amateur radio activities. Subjects that will be covered include publicity planning, writing an article, how to find the right picture, and how to tailor the publicity for your audience and the media. In this day of internet services the use of the web will be given major attention. The forum is for anyone with an interest in promoting amateur radio or amateur radio activities.

Operating

- **Contesting Multi-Forum [4 HOURS Saturday]**

Moderator: Tim Wininger, KY5R, President, Alabama Contest Group

“Contesting 101”, (Tim Wininger, KY5R (ACG)

An Introduction to Contesting

“CQ WPX SSB Contest 2012 from PJ4”, John Laney, K4BAI (ACG/SECC)

Hear all about the Multi-2 winning effort from Bonaire (PJ4)

“40 meter Vertical Array for DX and Contesting”, Steve Werner, AG4W (ACG)

A 40 meter Triangular Array from the ground up

“Contesting from 9A1A with a Redneck in Tow”, Charles Wooten, NF4A (ACG/FCG)

NF4A’s DX Contest experiences operating at 9A1A in Croatia

- **QRP Multi-Forum [4 HOURS Saturday – 3 HOURS Sunday]**

Moderator: Craig Behrens, NM4T

Saturday

“QRP ARCI’s Introduction to QRP”

“QRP Day Tripping—Portable QRP Operations with Style”, Greg Lane, N4KGL

**“New ARGO-VI QRP Transceiver and other new Products”, Jim Wharton,
NO4A/TenTec Vice President**

“All Things CW”, Dick Bentley—K2UFT

Sunday

“Adventures in QRP Contesting”, John Laney—K4BAI

“QRP DXing: Outperforming the Big Guns with 5-Watts”, Craig Behrens, NM4T

“DX from Antennas in a Mulberry Tree (in Iraq)”, Jerry Brown, N4EO/YI9EO

- **Alabama Repeater Council Forum**

David Drummond, W4MD

A forum for repeater owners and users alike: find out what’s happening with the coordination of new analog and digital repeater systems in Alabama!

- **“Central Alabama Simplex Net” [Sunday]**

Ronnie King, WX4RON

Everyone knows that you can communicate over great distances with HF but have you ever considered or wondered just how far you can talk on 2 meters? The Central Alabama Simplex Net, or CASN, has had great success since November of 2010 and we would like to teach you just how you can practice for times of emergency and know just

what to expect at that time as well. We should always know just what our capabilities are, both with our equipment and as Amateur Radio Operators.

Public Service/EmComm

- **Alabama ARES Forum**

Moderator: Mike Watkins, WX4AL, Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator

The Alabama ARES forum provides a networking opportunity for ARES-active hams and those interested in becoming active in EmComm. Topics of interest will include an open discussion with the Alabama ARES staff to review the current status of ARES in Alabama. If you are active in ARES or Skywarn you will want to participate in this forum. Please join us!

- **National Traffic System Forum [Sunday]**

Tom Hatter, K4AKC

Emergency communications with ham radio is more than reporting severe weather. When telephones and the internet are not working, you can use your ham radio to send messages anywhere in the country. Join us and learn how to use the NTS to send messages not only for yourself, but for others as well. No special equipment is needed.

Here's how.

- **SKYWARN Forum**

Dave Nadler, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS-Huntsville

Robert Boyd, KC5ZJO, Senior Meteorologist, NWS-Huntsville

Doug Hilton, WD0UG

Rex Free, KN4CI

The National Weather Service in Huntsville invites all qualified ham radio operators interested in learning how to report critical life-saving severe weather information, to participate in a local SKYWARN forum that will focus on maintaining the strong relationship between the NWS and the area Ham community. This will include a brief presentation on the latest NWS/HAM procedures during severe weather -- highlighting the importance of strong ham radio operator participation to enhance the NWS warning decision making process. Please stop by and find out how you can join the growing storm spotter team!

- **Tri-Service MARS meeting and Alabama state MARS meeting [TWO HOURS]**

Moderator: Wade Brock AAA4AL, Alabama State MARS Director

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Jim Hamilton, AAA4RD, Region 4 Director

Larry Vines, AAM4RDW, Asst. Region 4 Director

Bob Glasscock, AAM4AL Asst. Alabama State Director

Bill Adams AAM4EAL, Head of FAMC communications

This meeting will cover the current state of readiness for ALARMARS, as well as FAMC mission briefing and recruiting.

- **“An Introduction to Alabama’s Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)”**
Charles R. Murph, Jr., Assistant Director - Interoperable Communications
Alabama Department of Homeland Security

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency has developed a cache of emergency communications equipment that is pre-staged across Alabama to be in the event of natural or man-made disasters. The equipment includes 3 – 100’ Mobile Tower Trailers, 3 – 24’ Mobile Cache Trailers, various handheld radio caches, satellite communications, and many other emergency communications equipment.

Schools, Education

- **“EDUCOM - Education Through Communication”**
Joe Fairclough, WB2JKJ, President, The Radio Club of WB2JKJ, JHS 22, NYC

Amateur Radio: Vital to Public Service, the greatest hobby known to man but did you also know the most effective way of teaching young people today? Are you a: teacher, administrator, concerned parent or student? Come to Joe’s forum and discover how to integrate Ham Radio into any curriculum and not only make hams but more importantly educate children in an exciting, effective and productive way.

Technical

- **“Solar Cycle Update, with Implications for Hams”**
Dr. David Hathaway, Solar Physicist, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Many years of standing-room only forums make these Solar Cycle Updates a Huntsville Hamfest tradition. Dr. Hathaway has another great forum for us this year – but with a twist. This year’s update will expand on the discussion of current and predicted solar activity to include the effects of solar flux levels and geo-magnetic indices on radio propagation. Don’t miss it!

- **“Getting The Most From D-STAR”**
John Davis, WB4QDX
Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC

In this forum, John and Robin will discuss resources and tips available for D-STAR users of all levels. Learn about utilities, websites, hardware and training available to get the most from your D-STAR radio.

- **“Ham Radio Deluxe Resurrected” [SUNDAY]**
Rick Ruhl, W4PC, Owner, HRD Software, LLC
Erik Gawtry, KC0WWC, Principal Software Developer, HRD Software, LLC

Rick & Erik will describe the process of finding a home for the orphaned software suite, Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD), a suite of Windows programs providing computer control for commonly used transceivers and receivers. Here's your chance for a Q&A session with the new owners & developers of this popular logging, mapping, satellite tracking and digital mode program. Rick, for many years a North Alabama-based DXer, will run a realtime demo of the software with an open forum for questions.

- **“An Introduction to VHF/UHF/Microwave Weak Signal Operations”**
Ben Lowe, K4QF

Weak signal VHF/UHF/Microwave operation sounds counter to what most hams want. Most hams begin their ham careers working VHF FM and later move to HF operation, either settling in rag chewing or chasing DX where often the ultimate prize is considered to have a DXCC award or even on the honor roll. However, when operating these aspects of the hobby, you simply aren't going “where no man has gone before” because it's all been done most of the time by many, many people. If you're satisfied with a “plug and play” station and repeating what has already been accomplished many times, that's OK. However, if you want to do something in ham radio that hasn't been done, you need to take a serious look at weak signal work. This presentation discusses: what aspects of this phase of the hobby are available, what kind of equipment is needed for successful operation, what awards are available, and what the technical challenges for building and operating are. It also discusses what feats and challenges have *not* been done.

- **“Wayne and Eric's Excellent Adventure - Starting and Building a Successful Ham Radio Company”**
Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, Chief Operating Officer and Co-founder of Elecraft, Inc.

The inside story of Elecraft and how to create a successful Ham Radio company. How it started, its history, products, and its business, technology and product philosophy.

- **“Lightning Protection for the Radio Amateur”**
Dr. Monte Bateman, WB5RZX, Thunderstorm Physicist
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Protect your shack and your tower! While many anecdotal grounding discussions generate more heat than light, Dr. Bateman will present a solid approach to the best practices for protection and the theory behind how and why they work. Learn how a lightning flash occurs and how to convince it to go elsewhere! This is a highly requested repeat of the "Standing-Room-Only" forum from past years.

- **“Distortionless Mixers - or Bye Bye Birdies”**

Bob DePierre, K8KI
Dr. John Stensby, N5DF
Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

N5DF, KG4CUY, and K8KI team up to discuss how distortionless mixers can outperform that FET mixer in your new HF rig. A number of commercial rigs are now available with claims of more than 100dB of IMD dynamic range. Can such a claim really be true? Can they pull it off at close spacing as well? Stop by and join the discussion!

- **"Now Which Knob Do I Turn?"**

Bob Heil, K9EID, Founder, Heil Sound

The legendary sound guru, Bob Heil, K9EID, takes us through all of those various menus and controls on your favorite radio. Live demonstrations will help you produce better transmissions and improved receiver performance. This is one you won't want to miss!

- **"Operating Internet Remote: A Working Example"**

Carl Ferguson, W4UOA

Every one of us has been away from home and wished we could participate in our favorite early morning round-table, meet a sked with a friend, or just work a little early morning DX. Fellow hams are now doing just that! Traveling across country or around the world no longer means giving up staying in touch with your hobby back home; it just makes it more exciting. Whether new to remote operations or an experienced operator with your own remote station, there will be something here for you. Join us!

- **"It's Time to Start Thinking Outside the Shack" [Sunday]**

Emmet Hohensee, W0QH, Chief Engineer, Radiowavz

Emmet has a great list of things you can do "On the Outside" to make things "On the Inside" work much, much better! Join Emmet, and learn how to make your skywires happy!

- **AMSAT 2012 Forum**

Alan Biddle, WA4SCA, AMSAT Board of Directors

Alan will review the history of amateur satellites, how they work, and what equipment is required to use them. He will discuss the status of current satellites, and the popular ARISSat-1 deployment from the ISS. AMSAT is shifting its development efforts to CubeSats, and the education outreach they make possible. The practical need for this, and the opportunities of the new ham satellites will be reviewed. Initial design data on Fox-1, scheduled to be launched in late 2013, will be shown. Whether a seasoned satellite operator, or someone who is just interested, there will be something for all.

- **“Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) – The Situational Awareness Network”**

Tim Cunningham, N8DEU, HUNTSPAC Chairman, Alabama APRS Coordinator, and AMSAT Area Coordinator

Discover the real time reporting capabilities of APRS from just about anywhere. APRS is seamlessly integrated with multiple automated systems via RF and the Internet. Almost any 2 meter or HF radio can be easily equipped with APRS. Send text messages, send email, receive NWS bulletins, query callbook information, see IRLP and repeater directory information, and much more. NWS messages delivered via the APRS network contain immediate information relative to your location for instant situational awareness. Learn what radio equipment, hardware, and software are necessary to get started today. When you discover what you have been missing, you will not leave home without it.

- **“Ham Radio and the Internet” [Sunday]**

Dustin Williams, KK4HUS, *Ham Radio Review*

With today's ever changing technology and resources it's hard for a ham to keep track of it all. Dustin will discuss websites and tools you can use to enhance your shack and talk to more people in more places without a lot of work. Learn all this and how to use the internet to keep a log book you can access anywhere in the world.

YL

- **YL Forum: “Focus on Youth”**

Mary Moore, WX4MM

YLRL's youth will be presenting at the forum this year. Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P, will be showing pictures and telling about her experiences with the 2012 Youth DX Adventure on July 26-30 this summer. The Youth DX Adventure takes 6 youth hams, down to Costa Rica to operate from a contest station. The youth are skilled on how to "be the DX" and how to handle pile ups, working as a team with other youth. Kaitlyn was the 2011 Amateur Radio Newslite Young Ham of the Year and the youngest ever to win this honor.

We will be showing a video of Erin King's, AK4JG, MIT Project. (We hope to have Erin with us but cannot confirm at this time.)