

2010 Huntsville Hamfest Forum Listing

PROVISIONAL LISTING

8-03-2010

ARRL / IARU

- ARRL President's Forum
Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL President

"Advocacy" is a \$5 word -- what does it really mean and why is it important? What does the ARRL do to advocate for Amateur Radio? How can members get involved?

- ARRL Southeastern Division and Alabama Section Meeting
Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, S.E., Division Director
Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, ARRL Alabama Section Manager

We are proud that Huntsville Hamfest will host the 2010 Southeastern Division Convention. Jay and Greg will review ARRL, Division, and Section activities, and be available for a question and answer session.

- "ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Program"
Mike Corey, W5MPC, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager

At this forum, meet the new ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, Mike Corey, W5MPC. Mike will discuss the 75th anniversary of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® and the challenges it faces today and in the years to come. New ARES 75th anniversary merchandise will be presented. He will also present some of the issues facing Amateur Radio emcomm today. A question and answer session will follow.

Mike Corey, W5MPC is the co-author of the new book, Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio. If you purchased Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio, Mike will be available to autograph your copy.

- IARU Forum: "Two W4's visit Europe's Largest Hamfest"
Larry Price, W4RA, IARU President Emeritus

The Largest Hamfest in Europe is held in June each year in Friedrichshafen, Germany and attracts about 18,000 visitors. This presentation discusses how to get there, what to see, and includes information on ITU Headquarters in Genève, Switzerland which is only a few hundred miles away. Both ARRL and the IARU Secretariat provide booths at the hamfest.

- "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.

Contesting

- Contesting Multi-Forum [THREE HOURS]

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

“Contesting 101”

Tim Wininger, KY5R

What you always wanted to know about getting started in the contest world

“VHF Extreme Contesting”

Craig Compton, K4XR

The cutting edge of extreme VHF/UHF and microwave operating in VHF Contests

“Mini Contest DXpedition, V31 style”

Robin Gist, K4VU:

A painless way to be DX in major DX contests

“Alabama Contest Group Meeting”

Tim Wininger, KY5R:

For all attending ACG members and persons interested in the ACG.

“World Radio Team Championships – 2010 Moscow Recap”

Jim Roberts, VE7ZO:

“Experiences in QSO Party Mobile operations”

Tom Hardison, K4ZGB:

What it takes to be successful as a Mobile Op in QSO parties.

NOTE!!! *Don't forget the “Sunny South Contesting Hospitality Suite”:
Friday; 7 - 11 PM; Holiday Inn Downtown; Milltown Room*

DX

- “5J0BV – again to San Andres”

Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV

Details pending

- “DX 101”

Wes Lamboley, W3WL

For the folks just getting started in HF, here's a session on how to “work the world” offered by a world-class DXer who is a supremely entertaining speaker. You WON'T find a better Elmer, and you WILL be entertained. It doesn't get much better than this!

- “DX 102”

Gary McConville, WB4SQ, SEDXC

For graduates of DX-101 or DXers already trying their wings. This forum will build on the previous session, deepening theoretical knowledge and practical application, with discussion of antennas, techniques and tips - all aimed at providing useful tools for increasing your country totals.

General

- “Early History of Amateur Radio” Wes Lamboley, W3WL

Have you ever heard old-timers lovingly talk about the days of “Spark”? Now’s your chance to see the real thing! Wes’s “Early History of Ham Radio” can be described as a look at the significant events leading up to the invention of radio, and especially the beginnings of ham radio. It is best pictured as a “look into our roots” and “the significance of luck and the ARRL - without which we would not be here today”. Wes will be demonstrating a Tesla Coil and a small spark rig as part of the program. This program, in an earlier version presented in the Atlanta area and in Dayton, received rave reviews.

Public Service

- SKYWARN Forum Dave Nadler, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS-Huntsville Robert Boyd, KC5ZJO, NWS-Huntsville

The National Weather Service in Huntsville invites all qualified HAM radio operators to participate in a local SKYWARN forum that will focus on rebuilding and strengthening the NWS/HAM partnership. 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] Dan Miller ALARMARS EEO AAM4EAL Wade Brock ALARMARS SMD AAA4AL COL Mark H. Smith Commanding Officer FAMC MAJ Jon Lasell X.O. FAMC Mr. Daniel Morgan EOO FAMC Larry Vines MARS RGN 4 West Director AAM4RDW Jim Hamelton MARS RGN 4 director AAA4RD

Current state of readiness for ALARMARS; FAMC mission briefing and recruiting

QCWA

- QCWA Forum Ken Simpson, W8EK, QCWA National Director Gary Harrison, K0BC, QCWA National Director Carolyn Harrison, WB0OUM, QCWA National Director Sue Simpson, N8AJU

Were you first licensed prior to 1986? Are you a member of QCWA -- the Quarter Century Wireless Association? If not, you should be! Come to the forum and learn what QCWA is all about. If you are presently a QCWA member, please come and find out what is going on in your organization. Several national directors will be present to answer your questions.

Repeaters

- **Alabama Repeater Council Forum**
David Drummond, W4MD
Details pending

Schools, Education

- **“Education & Technology Program (ETP)”**
Ed Tyler, N4EDT

This forum will share the experiences of the Education & Technology Program (ETP) activities at Bob Jones High School at Madison, AL and the Pell City High School at Pell City, AL. These two schools are at slightly different stages of progress but have encountered similar problems and successes. Join this group and discover the rewards available to you, your club and local school if you're up to the challenge. The forum is appropriate for anyone with an interest in amateur radio activity in schools.

Technical

- **“Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) in the real world where Knowledge is Power”**

Tim Cunningham, N8DEU, (HUNTSPAC Chairman and AMSAT Area Coordinator)

Dive into the technology of knowledge and discover the power of the Automatic Packet Reporting System using real time information. You will learn the basics of APRS and learn how this invaluable tool may one day be the tool that helps you avoid danger, especially during severe weather. Learn how Homeland Security Grants have funded the APRS Weather Network in North Alabama and facilitated APRS network expansion. If you thought APRS was a simple position reporting system, this forum will expand your knowledge in some of the most useful tactical capabilities for SKYWARN, NWS bulletins, Balloon Chasing, Marathon Races, Search and Rescue, remote data monitoring, Satellite Communications, and much more...

- **AMSAT Forum:**
Alan Biddle - WA4SCA (AMSAT - NA Corporate Secretary)
Details pending

- D-STAR forum [THREE HOURS]

Hour 1: Part 1: “DVAP / DV Dongle / D-PLUS / software packages”, Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC

This presentation will review the new DV Access Point Dongle (DVAP) and show DV Dongle improvements, capabilities and use. In addition, Robin will cover D-PLUS updates, new hardware, software and advanced capabilities.

Part 2: “D-STAR basics and DV Dongle/DVAP”, John Davis WB4QDX, Georgia D-STAR

John will take attendees through an introduction of D-STAR and cover practices, current happenings, nets, using the internet gateway network and more.

Hour 2: “D-RATS, D-STAR digital data software”, Scott Hartlage KF4PWI and John Davis WB4QDX

This presentation will review D-RATS software for data communications using D-STAR radios. D-RATS use within amateur radio especially in emergency communications is expanding. Scott and John will provide an explanation of use and features including file transfers, practical scenarios, messaging, mapping, e-mail support and show a live demo.

Hour 3: “D-STAR Administrator and advanced topics”, Ken Adkisson, WB4FA

This presentation will enable D-STAR server system administrators to discuss features, maintenance and practices of the D-STAR system. The speaker will also answer advanced questions and moderate discussion of advanced topics concerning D-STAR systems set up, use and operation.

**- “Locating Power Line Noise Sources, Pressure Leaks, and Listening to Bats & Insects with a 35-45 kHz Ultrasound Receiver”
Phil Anderson, W0XI**

Imagine building an ultrasonic receiver, mounting its piezo transducer at the focal point of a parabolic dish with attached pistol grip, and driving down the highway to find noisy power poles, hiking at night by the lake to listen to Big Brown bats chatting and hunting, or simply checking out your house or workshop with its many sources of ultrasound! Keep in mind that your dog and/or cat can already hear this stuff! Phil will demonstrate his Ultra-RX1 receiver with dish, outline how to hunt for noisy poles, play some audio recording of bats in flight, and briefly describe piezo transducers and circuits used for ultrasound reception and transmission. Ultrasound sources (above human hearing - from 20 kHz to about 2 MHz) can be man-made, biological, or physical. Bats, insects, some fish, and man-made noise can be found in the 20 kHz to 180 kHz band while medical scanners and fault detection equipment run at MHz rates. A detailed handout will be available. Join Phil to listen to these alien sounds! You will not be ghost-busting; that's infrasound, below human hearing! The forum will conclude with your first ever ultrasound CW QSO!

- **“Software Defined Radios”**

Gerald Youngblood - K5SDR, CEO, FlexRadio

Here's an opportunity to learn about software defined radios – how they work and how they've evolved. Gerald Youngblood's passion for electronics began as a teenager when he tore apart a WWII era transceiver someone gave him. That passion led to a ham license in 1967 and later to a degree in Electrical Engineering. Eventually, he found himself on the business side of technology, starting and funding companies for most of his career. In 1999, while playing with PSK31, he realized that it would be possible to build a radio around a PC and sound card. Four years, lots of study, and four QEX articles later, that idea turned into reality. This is the story of how a hobby project turned into an "accidental company": FlexRadio Systems. Gerald's forums have been hugely popular at other hamfests. Don't miss it!

- **“Solar Cycle Update”**

Dr. David Hathaway, Solar Physicist, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Dr. Hathaway's forums have become a tradition at the Huntsville Hamfest, and deservedly so! Last year we were honored to be given a sneak peek at newly analyzed data that subsequently appeared in SCIENCE. Join Dr. Hathaway this year as he shares the latest prognostications (and uncertainties) for cycle 24 from the international solar scientific community. Dr. Hathaway's highly popular forums have always been “standing-room-only”, and we're excited to bring him back this year!

- **QRP Forum: “WHY QRP?”**

Jim Stafford, W4QO

Learn how you can jump into the fun of QRP. Whether operating at home or from a suitcase, commercial, kit or home brew, this forum will show you how to get started, and provide info on operating events, clubs and equipment. A number of QRP rigs will be available for your inspection. W4QO, a member of the QRP Hall of Fame and the 2010 Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year, has sparked interest in QRP for many years by speaking about QRP at numerous clubs and hamfests. During his ham career he operated almost every mode in ham radio and through his leadership has contributed significantly to our hobby. Untold numbers of hams have been introduced to the "joys of QRP" through Jim's many activities.

- **“Receiver Phase Noise Measurements”**

Bob DePierre, K8KI

Is phase noise important enough for hams to be concerned about it? What harm can it cause? Can you recognize it? When is it acceptable, and when not? Who should be concerned? If high performance is important to you, or if you like to operate under circumstances stressful to your rig (like contests), you might want to listen to this one. A number of popular rigs are measured and compared. Which one was the champ? How does your rig compare to the big boys? There really are winners and losers here!

YL

- **YL Forum: “The History of YLRL”**

Mary Moore, WX4MM

All YLs are invited to meet and greet at Huntsville Hamfest. This forum will go back through the years to the pioneering YLs who started the Young Ladies Radio League.