

2011 Huntsville Hamfest Forum Listing

8-17-2011

ARRL / IARU

- **ARRL Update**

Harold Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL Chief Operating Officer

Join Harold as he brings us the latest news and views from ARRL Headquarters!

- **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 acknowledge Dr. Larry Price, W4RA, named President Emeritus at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting and will introduce the concept of an ARRL Future Forum. The Future Forum part of the meeting is to receive and discuss ideas and thoughts for the future of ARRL and amateur radio.

- **“Radio Conference 2012: Best Chance for New Ham Bands”**

Larry Price, W4RA, IARU President Emeritus

IARU Forum presentation about WRC12: – January 2012 (just 5 months from now): An *OPPORTUNITY* for a new ham band at 500 kHz. ARRL & IARU delegates have been working on this since 2007. Help us make this five years of behind the scenes preparation pay off!

- **“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 [5 1/2 HOURS]**

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

“Contesting 101”

Kirk Pickering, K4RO, “Contesting 101” editor, National Contest Journal

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

"Multiple Receiving antenna system for the 80 and 160 meters"

Dick Jaeger, K4IQJ

If you thought one low band receiving antenna was good, think again!

"Caribbean experiences in DX contesting from a single operator's viewpoint"

Mark Speck, K0EJ

Trials and tribulations of a Single Op Contest effort during ARRL DX CW contests

"NAQP RTTY experiences from the Bad Lands of North Dakota"

Cheryl Whitlock, AA4YL; Bob Schafer, KA4PKB; and Darrell Penrod, K9MUG

North American QSO Party Mini-DXpedition to the rare North Dakota Section

"World Radiosport Team Championship: WRTC-2014"

Dan Street, K1TO, Qualifying Manager WRTC 2014; President, Florida Contest Group

USA takes up the challenge of this prestigious event. Learn what it's all about.

"Alabama QSO Party Status"

Jim Johnson, KC4HW

Overview of the 2011 Alabama QSO Party

NOTE – DON'T FORGET!!!

"Sunny South Contesting Hospitality Suite":

Friday; 7 - 11 PM; Holiday Inn Downtown; Von Braun Room

AND

Annual Contest Dinner

**Saturday evening August 20, 7 - 9 PM; Lone Star Steak House
Informal**

DX

- **"Pitfalls of DX QSLing" or "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Post Office"**

Wes Lambole, W3WL (DXpeditioner and Raconteur)

Bill Barr, N4NX (Highly Decorated Ham and Card Checker Par Excellence)

Chaz Cone, W4GKF (Web Master/Designer and Creative Genius)

Gary McConville, WB4SQ Yeoman DXer (Oozing Talent and Enthusiasm)

If you've ever sent, received or otherwise handled a QSL card (that means almost all of us), you'll appreciate this fast moving, interesting program full of forgettable information that will serve for the ages! While you might forget the information, we guarantee you won't forget the presentation!

Public Service/EMCOMM

- Alabama ARES discussion session

Moderator: Greg Gross, K4GR, Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator

Please join us for the ARES forum! We will be discussing the Tornado Outbreak in April as well the current status of ARES in Alabama. This will also allow for an open discussion with the 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.

- "Emergency Response Communication" Net Meeting

Bart Bartholemew, KK4AI

All Amateur Radio Operators interested in the Annual Repeater Meeting of the KK4AI, KC4HRX, and W4TCL Repeaters are invited to attend. These linked repeaters are used by the *Emergency Response Communication Training Net* that meets each week on Sunday at 8:45 pm. The agenda includes: the report of last year's activities, the proposed next year's projects, and the proposed next year's budget.

- National traffic System Forum

Greg Gross, K4GR, Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator

Please join us at the NTS and ATN"M" forum! We will be discussing the importance of the NTS system and how we incorporate NTS with ARES. Learn the importance of NCS operations and how this will improve your individual operating skill in times of emergencies.

- SKYWARN Forum

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

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]

Dan Miller ALARMARS EOO
Wade Brock ALARMARS SMD
Jim Hamilton ARMARS RGN 4 Director
Larry Vines ARMARS RGN 4 Director west
COL Elizabeth Johnson
SGM Cynthia Austin
Mr. Daniel Morgan
COL Timothy Talbot
MAJ Colleen Reichenberg

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**

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!

Schools, Education

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

This forum will share the experiences of the Education & Technology Program (ETP). 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. The past year has yielded out of this world excitement. Join us to learn about the impact of amateur radio balloonsat activity.

Technical

- **"A Comparison of a Few Contest Grade Transceivers"**
Bob DePierre, K8KI, ARRL Technical Adviser

This year Bob has chosen four of the top HF rigs for head-to-head receiver comparison: the Orion, K3, TS590, and Flex 5000. Why would you care if your rig uses roofing filters? How much dynamic range do you really need, or when is yours not enough? Would you like to hear what 3rd order IMD sounds like? Are you interested in the most bang for the buck, or just the max bang? How does a direct conversion rig like the Flex compare with the big superhets?

- **"AMSAT 2011"**

Alan Biddle - WA4SCA (AMSAT Corporate Secretary and member of the 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 current status of popular satellites such as AO-51, SO-67, HO-68, and ISS operations, as well as an overview of the proposed AMSAT Fox Project CubeSats. The initial results from the deployment of ARISSat-1 from the International Space Station should be available. Whether a seasoned satellite operator, or someone who is just interested, there will be something for all.

- **"Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) Basics"**

Tim Cunningham, N8DEU, HUNTSPAC Chairman and AMSAT Area Coordinator

Discover the power of the Automatic Packet Reporting System. You will learn the basics of APRS and how this tool can help you avoid danger during severe weather. Catch up on how the APRS Weather Network in North Alabama has expanded and facilitated APRS network expansion. This forum will expand your knowledge on some of the most useful real time tactical capabilities for SKYWARN, NWS bulletins, and much more... We will focus on the basics and discuss what is new in APRS hardware and software.

- **"High Performance Ham Radio - Inside the KPA500 and The Elecraft 'K-Line'"**

Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, Elecraft, Inc.

Eric's talk includes a technical description of the new KPA500 solid-state 500W amplifier, including internal pictures and a description of the key RX and TX performance specifications of the K3 - P3 - KPA500 K-Line. Eric will explain why these specs are important to users, and will provide a technical discussion of how Elecraft was able to achieve such a high performance level. Included is a short discussion of the upcoming KX3 transceiver, with slides showing the internal construction of the KX3.

- **"Introduction to D-STAR"**

Ron Shaffer, W4VM, Mentone Ed. D-STAR Administrator
Doug Mathes, N4CZ, Madison County AEC

This introduction to D-STAR is oriented toward seasoned D-STAR users and newcomers alike. Ron & Doug will cover radio setup, repeater linking and more for both voice and data modes. They will also cover specifics of the Alabama Network and EMCOMM support.

- **“Junk Box Wars”**
Tom Duncan, KG4CUY, ARRL Technical Adviser

Tom, an inveterate homebrewer, wanted to find out what his junk box would support, with the target project being a 1950's DX-35-style Transmitter. There's nothing special about the transmitter, but the junk box angle and Tom's gifts as a fast, funny, and entertaining speaker makes this a Must!

- **“Solar Cycle Update: The sky is NOT falling”**
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! Join Dr. Hathaway this year as he shows how rumors in the press of the death of the sunspot cycle are greatly exaggerated. Dr. Hathaway's highly popular forums have always been “standing-room-only”, and we're excited to bring him back again this year!

- **“The Alpha 8406 6m Amplifier”**
Gordon Hardman, W0RUN, RF Concepts (Alpha)

Alpha has been known for its line of HF amplifiers going back to 1970. The new Alpha 8406 extends the concept of legal-limit key-down operation that Alpha is renowned for to the 6m band. The amplifier has been in production for less than a year, and is rapidly gaining a loyal base of users. This talk will delve into the design and construction of this amplifier and note the differences between building for VHF and HF. Additionally the talk will give some examples of the performance of this amplifier.

YL

- **YL Forum: “What Does Amateur Radio Offer for the YL?”**
Betty Jo Byrd, KB5CSQ, YLRL District 5 Chairman

The YLRL has successfully encouraged and supported YLs in Ham Radio for many years. Find out how, what, and why at this perennial Huntsville Hamfest forum. All YLs are invited to meet and greet!