

# 2007

## Huntsville Hamfest – ARRL Convention Forum Listing

**Note:** Please refer to the Forum Schedule pages elsewhere in this Program Guide for times and room assignments.

Schedules often change for valid reasons after printing deadlines; any last minute changes will be posted prominently and announced from the podium.

### ARRL:

- **ARRL Membership Forum - Moderator: Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL President**  
Come and learn more about the issues shaping Amateur Radio today. Meet ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and other ARRL officials and staff. All are welcome!
  
- **ARRL Education Forum - Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, Education Services Manager**  
Part 1: What's going on in ARRL's new Education Services department? The new ARRL mission statement on education, new licensing materials, enrichment courses, an update on ARRL outreach activities through the Education & Technology Program and ARISS. Part 2: What do you need from us? More educational kits? A better website resource center? An on-line collaboration site for instructors? More on-line courses? Ideas in discussion and an opportunity to share your requests and suggestions. Instructors, teachers, on-line course mentors and others interested in ARRL's education programs, please join Debra for an update and discussion.
  
- **ARRL Headquarters Tour – Opportunities for Every Ham! - Katie Breen, W1KRB, ARRL Membership Manager**  
Amateur Radio entered a new era this year, and licensing changes have rekindled enthusiasm among many newcomers and inactive hams. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, will lead you through a tour of ARRL's national headquarters. Along the way, Katie will share stories of ARRL special event activities aimed at encouraging on-air activity among new and newly-active hams, including real-time web blogs and videos, Hello-Live!, and the W1AW HF Open House.
  
- **ARES® and the Media – How to get attention for our best stories - Moderator: Allen Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager**  
The media thrives on emergencies and troubles, and often these involve ARES activities. But just as often the story of what ARES people are doing does not make it into the news. The public never hears our best stories. This forum will discuss the problem and specific steps each section, group and area can take to make sure that John Q. hears about us.

## **Computers**

### **- Computer Q & A - Jim Offenbecher**

Jim has the answers to all your computer-related questions from networking to RAID configurations, and everything in between. You'll have three hours to try to stump him!

## **Contesting**

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

### **- Intro to Contesting -**

**- K1GU, Ned Swartz (TCG)**

**- Q&A Panel**

**K4XR, Craig Compton (ACG, SEVHFS) VHF to uWave**

**WX4TM, Tom Moore (ACG) RTTY**

**N4KG, Tom Russell (ACG, NADXC) Antennas/QRP**

**K4TD, Rick Walker (ACG) CW**

**KY5R, Tim Wininger (ACG, NADXC) SSB**

**- Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter Southern Style - NQ4I, Rick Dougherty (SECC)**

**- World Radio Team Championship 2006: View from the Top - VE7ZO, Jim Roberts (SECC)**

**- Contest Propagation - K9LA, Carl Luetzelschwab (NCJ Editor)**

## **D-STAR:**

### **- Introduction to D-STAR - Rick Seeders, KG4PNL, Alabama Assistant SM**

D-STAR is one of the fastest growing digital modes in amateur radio today. This forum will give an overview of D-STAR , Digital Voice and Digital Data for amateur radio. Learn about what the excitement is all about. We will cover the basics of how the system works, how it has grown over the past year, and we'll even go over some of the great things you just can't do without going digital with D-STAR . Your callsign is the key that opens the door to digitally communicating with amateurs from across town or across the globe, all in the 2M, 70cm, and 23cm bands!

### **- Alabama and National D-STAR project - Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Alabama SM**

Digital is becoming the future of communications. This forum will review the Alabama and National D-STAR Digitized Voice and Digital Data network. Learn about how users are utilizing innovations of Digital D-STAR applications. We will review D-STAR concepts, ideas, activity, networks and repeater growth around the nation.

### **- Advanced D-STAR topics - Ron Shaffer, WV4M**

Go beyond the basics and learn how you can become a D-STAR power user! This forum will focus on effective usage of the D-STAR gateway system both present and future. Also covered will be radio programming and set-up for data transfer using both DV and DD modes.

## **DX:**

### **- Peter 1 DVD -**

If you've missed this great DVD before, now's your chance to see it!

### **- DXCC and ARRL's Logbook of the World - Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL DXCC Manager and Jon Bloom, KE3Z, ARRL Web/Software Development Manager**

Do you enjoy the lure of DX (long-distance radio operating)? The pinnacle of DXing success is the ARRL DX Century Club, or DXCC award. Find out everything you've wanted to know about the DXCC program and ARRL's big web-based Logbook of the World (LoTW).

### **- DXing 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!

## **International:**

### **- International Aspects of Emergency Communications -**

#### **Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP / HB9AQS (IARU), GAREC President**

A major component of this week's activities is the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC). In this forum, GAREC's President, Hans Zimmermann will summarize the function of GAREC and its role in the forthcoming WRC-07 in Geneva. Hans will discuss telecommunications as a key element for maintaining and, where possible, enlarging the privileges of the amateur radio service.

### **- How Do New Ham Bands Come About? - Larry Price, W4RA, IARU President**

Hear the low-down on how new amateur bands are internationally allocated by World Radiocommunication Conferences. The next such Conference (called a WRC), will be held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2007. And only such a conference can result in new ham bands being put into the Radio Regulations. A popular TV show is called "Myth busters"; it tries to explain to the public how certain widely held beliefs (MYTHS) are really true or not. At this Forum you will learn the truth about the MYTH that the FCC is the source of all new ham bands.

## **MARS:**

- ***Joint MARS Meeting***, Sponsored by Army MARS - Moderator: Wayne Collins, KG4OAA/AAA4AL; Alabama Army MARS, State MARS Director

The Chief of Army MARS, plus the Regional Director and the Alabama State MARS staff will present an open forum on many aspects of the new MARS. MARS has transitioned from an organization that delivered health and welfare messages to service personnel, to a new, vital emergency communications group that can augment ARES and RACES. MARS is now solidly in the "digital age", and is forming associations with various Federal agencies, including TSA. There are 5,000 members of MARS who are rigorously trained to provide accurate, timely message services during emergencies. If you would like to be a part of this exciting communications group, plan to attend this session. The new Air Force MARS Chief, Allen Eiermann (K3LSR) will be at this session!

- ***Introduction of staff and dignitaries: Wayne Collins, KG4OAA/AAA4AL***

- ***The Future of Army MARS***

Stuart S. Carter AAA9A; and L. Grant Hays, AAA9O. WB6OTS

- ***Organizational Challenges Within Region 4; Supporting TSA with MARS Emergency Response Teams; interoperability Within Region***

James Hamilton AAA4RD, K4QDF

- ***Current State of the Tri-Service MARS Winlink 2000 Network***

Steve Waterman, K4CJX/AAA9AC

- ***Let's Get Moving! An Overview Of the New Alabama Army MARS Public Relations Program and Recently Developed Recruiting and Public Info. Tools***

David Dobbs KI4OOI/AAR4LX

- ***Digital Modes Currently Used in Alabama Army MARS. Emergency Response in Alabama***

Dan Miller KI4PMW/AAM4EAL

- ***Tennessee EMA and the MARS System***

David Wolfe, WA4VVX/AAR4CY

## **Public Service:**

- ***Partners in Public Service Response*** - Moderator: Doug Hilton, WD0UG, ARES DEC, Alabama District 6

The ARRL hosts the joint Emergency Communications forum with a panel of distinguished members from both the Amateur radio community, and the emergency response community. Please join this team of seasoned professionals as we discuss how Amateur Radio plays a critical role in establishing local and long-distance communications in the event of an emergency. Let's find out how to complete this sentence: "When all else fails...Amateur radio..."

- ***ARRL/ARES: Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager***

- ***Madison County, AL EMA: John "Rusty" Russell, KF4NTX, EMA Director***

- ***MARS: Stuart Carter, Chief, Army MARS, AAA9A***

- ***Southern Baptist Disaster Relief: Terry Jones, W4TL, Southern Baptist Communications Manager***

- ***American Red Cross: Craig Dieckman, KC9HWK, National ECRV Team***

- ***The Salvation Army: William H. Feist III, WB8BZH, The Salvation Army, Southern, Emergency Disaster Services Director***

- ***Tennessee EMA: David Wolfe, WA4VVX, AAR4CY, Chief, Communications***

- ***U.S. Congress: Pudge Forrester, W4LTX, Assistant to U.S. Congressional Representative Roscoe Bartlett***

## **Public Service (continued):**

- **Alabama Nets - Moderators: Ken Baker, K4QMH and Dave Robinson, WA4AVC**  
Meet and greet old and new friends at the Alabama Net Forum. The Alabama Emergency Net 'M', Day Net and CW Nets will meet. Follow the signs for great camaraderie!
  
- **Hams with Special Needs: Getting 'Radio-Active' - Mike Werner, KF4BOG**  
Mike will discuss why no one has to be left out of the fun and public service opportunities in our hobby. Find out how you or a friend can turn special needs into special advantages in this informative forum about having fun and volunteering!
  
- **SKYWARN Forum - Doug Hilton, WD0UG; Tim Troutman; NWS-Huntsville; and Robert Boyd, KC5ZJO, NWS-Huntsville**  
National Weather Service Huntsville Alabama Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Tim Troutman, will present a presentation at the SKYWARN forum involving the latest NWS and HAM procedures during severe weather, HAM radio operator participation in NWS warning program and local HUNWARN program, and using APRS to disseminate weather station data into citizens weather.
  
- **Salvation Army: SATERN...20 YEARS OLD AND LOOKING AHEAD – Bill Feist, WB8BZH; Emergency Disaster Services Director, Alabama - Louisiana - Mississippi Division; The Salvation Army, Southern Territory**  
The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network or SATERN is in its' twentieth year of operation. Like any 20 year old, SATERN is looking forward to the future and what it wants to be doing in the next five to ten years. There are exciting prospects on the horizon, but there are also challenges. Come hear about what The Salvation Army hopes and believes the future holds for the SATERN program and how you can be a part of that.

## **Repeaters:**

- **Alabama Repeater Council Meeting - Ron Shaffer, W4VM**  
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 and how we have accommodated the most D-STAR systems of any state in the nation!

## **School/Education:**

- **The Radio Club of JHS 22 NYC - Joe Fairclough, WB2JKJ**  
Take Ham Radio To School...How To Integrate Ham Radio With Your Subject. Joe has accumulated a string of awards for his work getting Ham Radio into the classroom; find out why, and how you can help or even start your own campaign.

## **Technical:**

**- Audio Reinforcement for the Modern Amateur Station - Chip Margelli, K7JA; VP, Sales & Marketing, Heil Sound**

Learn about the many ways that frequency response, bandwidth, phase, and impedance matching contribute to an outstanding-sounding signal. Heil Sound's VP for Sales and Marketing Chip Margelli, K7JA promises an entertaining and informative hour of teaching and demonstration of the latest audio techniques.

**- Solar Cycle Update - Dr. David Hathaway, NASA Solar Physicist**

For several years, Dr. Hathaway has been a fixture at the Huntsville Hamfest, providing not just predictions of solar behavior, but insights into the scientific models at the heart of those predictions. Dr. Hathaway's work as a member of the NASA's Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has recently gained worldwide attention. You'll understand why, if you attend this perennially popular forum.

**- AGC and Performance in Modern Receivers - Bob de Pierre, K8KI; Tom Duncan, KG4CUY**

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY, compares a variety of ham receivers and shows how signals are degraded by QRM in and near the passband. Bob DePierre, K8KI, then analyzes typical AGC designs found today and discusses the limits of their performance.

**- Lightning Protection for the Radio Amateur - Dr. Monte Bateman, WB5RZX, Thunderstorm Physicist, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center; Mike Stewart, KG4BDK**

Protect your shack and your tower! With a lot of anecdotal grounding discussions generating more heat than light, here's a solid approach to the best protection practices and the theory behind how and why they work. Learn how a lightning flash occurs and how to convince it to go elsewhere! This was a "Standing-Room-Only" forum last year.

**- The Physics of Electromagnetic Radiation - Dr. Hans Schantz, KC5VLD**

An internationally recognized expert on electromagnetism, and author of The Art and Science of UWB Antennas, Dr. Schantz will present an intuitive and equation-free way of looking at antennas by understanding fields and energy flow. Hans has accepted the challenge of making the physics of radiation clear to all of us who cringe at the thought of Maxwell's equations!

**- Winlink 2000 Forum - Tom Whiteside, N5TW; DEC for digital operations, S. Texas**

The Winlink 2000 infrastructure exists today, worldwide, and is available for use by the International Amateur radio community for emergency communications. Its end-user programs are readily available for all to use with more coming soon. This digital communications tool is proving to be an important and desired value-added service by the community agencies exposed to its benefits. However, in communities interested in digital radio e-mail, it is up to the Amateur radio leadership to organize and implement their own use of this robust system for the agencies they wish to serve.

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, will discuss how South Texas Counties united under the ARRL ARES have used the Winlink 2000 system to build a very effective inter-county Winlink 2000 radio e-mail system for South Texas emergency communications

## **Technical (continued):**

- **Small Low-Band Receiving Antennas** - Jerry Montgomery, K4SAV

Jerry will let us benefit from the work he's done evaluating several popular design concepts including Beverages, Flags, Pennants, K9AY, and EWEs; and will present some unique insights into the mysteries of required matching networks.

- **Wire and Cable Forum** - Press Jones, N8UG, The "Wireman"

This perennial forum always draws a fresh audience anxious to get the answers to questions about wire, cable, and connectors; how to choose them and how to use them.

- **The SMART Keyboard and Key-n-Log** - Joe Lunsford, N4YG

Be among the first to congratulate Joe on his July QST article by the same name! Don't miss this chance to quiz a QST author in person.

- **Amsat Forum - An Update on the P3E and Eagle Satellites** - Gould Smith, WA4SXM; AMSAT Director, Field Operations

The amateur satellite community anxiously awaits the return of an AMSAT High Earth Orbit (HEO) satellite to operational status. The AMSAT-DL Phase 3-E satellite is expected to fill this void in the next 18 months. Meanwhile the design and component build for the AMSAT-NA Eagle satellite continues. I will discuss their building progress, operating capabilities and launch opportunities.

- **APRS Forum - The Automatic Position Reporting System** - Tim Cunningham, N8DEU; HUNTSPAC Chairman

The Automatic Position Reporting System has evolved into a global tactical communication network by seamlessly integrating the power of Amateur Radio, the Internet, and Public Service. This Forum will cover the most basic introduction to APRS, the new APRS Paradigm changes, VoiceNet, National Weather Service bulletins, BalloonSat tracking, and much more on this effective digital communication network. There will be a brief demonstration of UI-View followed by a Q&A session. If you have dreamed about learning what APRS can provide or you are already an experienced APRS user, you will not want to miss this highly informative discussion.

- **Why QRP?** - Ken Evans, W4DU; Vice President, QRP ARCI

Why would anyone willingly turn down their power output to 5 watts or less? Ken Evans, W4DU and representatives from QRP ARCI will answer that question and provide incites into how to get started and experience the joy of QRP. QRP equipment will be available for inspection.

## **YL:**

- **YLRL Forum** - Moderator: Mary Moore, WX4MM; President, YLRL

Organized in 1939, YLRL (Young Ladies' Radio League) is a nonprofit organization of women Amateur Radio Licensees. With a membership of approximately 800, it is international in scope with about 100 of those members who are DX YLs. Ages 1-100 are all Young Ladies! YLRL Certificates will be the topic: WAS-YL, WAC-YL, DXCC-YL and others.