

2009 Huntsville Hamfest Forum Listing

8-12-2009

ARRL

- **ARRL Alabama Section Meeting,**
Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, ARRL Alabama Section Manager

Jay wants to tell you about what's happening within our Section, and hear your comments and questions, and meet other members of the Alabama Section. Come and meet the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers (AAEM) 2009 Alabama Volunteer of the Year, ARES volunteer Tom Cash, KI4VJV Madison County, AL.

- **ARRL Headquarters and Southeast Division meeting**
Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Director, ARRL Southeast Div.

A lot has been happening at ARRL HQ and in Southeast Division. Greg will lead this forum, bringing us up to speed on that, and will give us a glimpse into what's in the works! Come and meet our new Division vice-director Jeff Beals, WA4AW ! Greg will review what the ARRL is working on concerning the ARRL emcomm committee, Narrowbanding, Strategic Planning, Emergency Liaison Station, and the Inappropriate Use of Amateur Radio committee.

- **Youth Forum**
Moderators: Rebekah Williams, WG4Y, SE Division Asst. Director for Youth Activities; Robby Lock, KG4PLK, AL Section Asst. Manager for Youth Activities

Are you young (or Young At Heart!) and want to learn more about Amateur Radio? Then the 2008 ARRL-AL Youth Forum is the Place to be! Come and learn about the different facets of amateur radio, meet other young hams (Including Alabama's Outstanding Youth Ham Award Recipient!), and have fun!

CONTESTING MULTI-FORUM (Hosted by the Alabama Contest Group)

Moderator: Tim Wininger, KY5R

- Tim, KY5R - Contesting 101: "How to get off on the right foot in the world of contesting"
- Jim, KC4HW - Alabama Contest Group and Alabama QSO Party: "A natural fit of two contest activities"
- Les, N1LF - "VHF operating and contesting from a deed restricted QTH: VHF operating from the closed gates of He..."
- Doug, KY4F - "Guess who's coming to operate: Guest operating experiences of a 'little pistol' in Multi-op Mega stations"

NOTE!!! Don't forget the Contesting Hospitality Suite (Hosts: ACG, SECC) in the Holiday Inn; Friday, 1900 - ??; AND a contestor's dinner at La Michoacana, 2700 University Drive, 1900 Saturday with live entertainment: "A morning in the life of a contestor at a multi-multi station" and presentation of the Southeast Contestor of the Year.

DX

- **“The 2008 Clipperton DXpedition”**
John Kennon, N7CQQ

John, a team member and veteran of many DXpeditions will present highlights of the successful TX5C DXpedition to Clipperton Island. If you worked TX5C (or even if you didn't!), you really will want to attend this forum!

- **“DX 101”**
Wes Lamboley, W3WL, SEDXC

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!

- **“Digital DXing from the other side: The K5D perspective”**
Tim Pearson, K5AC (ex- KU4J)

In this program Tim will share tips on how to bust a RTTY pileup that he learned while operating hours and hours from Desecheo-K5D (the other side of the pileup). These tips will include where to transmit in the pileup to maximize your chances, macros, equipment tips, etc.

- **“ARRL's Operating Awards Program”**
Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager

From DXCC to WAS, and everything in between, the League's award system seems to have something for everyone. Do you enjoy the lure of DX ? How about VHF/ UHF? Are you chasing the new “Triple Play” Award? Find out everything you've wanted to know about these and all the ARRL awards, including the ever-growing LOTW program, from Bill.

Public Service:

- **Alabama ARES Forum**
Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, ARRL Alabama Section Manager

A general ARES membership meeting for all Alabama ARES members and interested parties. Find out what's going on in the rest of the section and what ARES leadership is planning for the rest of the year.

- **ARES District 5 & 6 Round Table**
Thom Rigsby, K5JTR, ASEC, Region 6 DEC

Join the leadership in ARES Districts 5 and 6 as we discuss the messages just heard from the SEC and incorporate them into our plans for the rest of 2009 and 2010.

- **“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!

- **“Growing Your Club: Taking it from ordinary to extraordinary in a few simple steps”**
Thom Rigsby, K5JTR, ASEC, Region 6 DEC

Ever wondered why your club keeps about the same number of members year after year while nearby clubs grow? Are you concerned about the lack of "young blood" in the group? Or do you just want some tips on how to liven up a stagnant membership? Join Thom in this forum to find out strategies and tactics to breathe new life and excitement into your club over the coming year.

- **“Tri-Service MARS meeting and Alabama state MARS meeting” [2 hours]**

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

Dan Miller ALARMARS EEO AAM4EAL
Wade Brock ALARMARS SMS 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

- **“Alabama Nets”**

Jim Rogers, W4ATK, Net manager, ATNM

Meet and greet old and new friends at the Alabama Net Forum. The Alabama Traffic Net 'M', Day Net and CW Nets will meet and exchange news, plans and topics of interest.

- **SKYWARN Forum**

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

The National Weather Service in Huntsville will present a SKYWARN forum involving the latest NWS and Ham procedures during severe weather, Ham radio operator participation in NWS warning program and the local HUNWARN program. Most of our storm warnings and advisories are in part based on data input from local spotters, especially those using Amateur Radio as a means of communication. Find out how you can join the growing Storm Spotter team!

Repeaters:

- **“Alabama Repeater Council Forum”**

David Drummond, W4MD, President Alabama Repeater Council

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!

Schools, Education

- "The Radio Club of JHS 22 NYC *****{POSTPONED until 2010}*****
Joe Fairclough, WB2JKJ

{Joe was ordered to stay home by his doctor after a recent head-on entanglement with a drunk driver! He sends best wishes to all his pals at the Huntsville Hamfest, and says, "CU next year!"}

- "ARRL Wireless Institute Experiences"
Steve Conklin, AI4QR, Moderator

Steve will moderate a panel of several Huntsville-area teachers as they recount their experiences as participants in ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology earlier this year. Learn how you can help dedicated teachers in your own school system take advantage of this ever-growing opportunity.

Technical:

- **Solar Cycle Update; "The Solar Dynamo Saga: Chapter 11"**
Dr. David Hathaway, Solar Physicist, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

A lot of re-thinking has been happening since Dr. Hathaway last hosted a solar science session for us. Join him 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!

- **APRS Forum - "Automatic Packet Reporting System - A Powerful Tool on our Amateur Radio Belt"**
Tim Cunningham, N8DEU, HUNTSPAC Chairman and Alabama APRS Coordinator

Discover the unparalleled power of APRS through actual weather events that silently unfolded in North Alabama this year during SKYWARN / ARES operations. APRS can deliver instant critical path information via RF and the Internet through seamless integration.

This forum will discuss Homeland Security grants obtained in Morgan and Lawrence counties to install APRS weather stations across their counties. These weather stations transmit data on the APRS network for instant dissemination through the FINDU, MADIS, and MesoWest servers. The primary goal is to get the data to the local NWS office and NOAA for use in weather prediction models.

- **AMSAT Forum - "Working the Amateur Radio Satellites with a dual-band HT"**
Tim Cunningham, N8DEU, AMSAT Area Coordinator

Explore methods to work Amateur Radio Satellites using a simple dual band HT. That's right! A dual band walkie-talkie! Discover methods to track and predict when satellites are available, including the International Space Station.

- **"A PowerPole Workshop" [Sat. & Sun.]**
John Kalotai, N1OLO, West Mountain Radio

John will present "A PowerPole Workshop" at the Huntsville hamfest this year. A short Power Point presentation introduces participants to APPs and includes hints and kinks. Following the presentation there is a hands-on session: participants will have an opportunity to assemble PowerPoles using hand tools including the West Mountain Radio PWRcrimp tool.

- **"Building the K3; Initial Impressions"**
Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Kevin has recently completed construction of a new Elecraft K3, documented with in-process photographs and comments. Anyone interested in this new radio will enjoy seeing the step-by-step construction process and hearing Kevin's assessments of the finished rig.

- **D-STAR forum [Saturday]**
John Davis WB4QDX and Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH

This forum will review Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio, D-STAR Digitized Voice and Digital Data technologies. Learn about new technology and innovations of Digital D-STAR and operating concepts, ideas, activity, networks and growth in Alabama, Georgia and around the nation. We will review basic and advanced concepts utilizing real-time demonstrations. Meet other D-STAR operators and learn how entering a call sign will find an amateur operator on the D-STAR network anywhere in the world.

- **D- STAR Primer and Tips [Sunday]**
Ron Shaffer, W4VM

So you bit the bullet and bought a nice new D-STAR radio on Saturday and you're ready to jump in. This forum is for you ! Come hear about techniques and tips to get you off the ground and well on your way to a becoming a gateway power user. There will be something for users at all levels of experience including voice, chat, file transfer and GPS operations and especially radio programming. In coordination with the Saturday forum presenters, our goal is to minimize the overlap of topics so come to both forums if you can!

- **"Emergency Communications using HF digital modes" [2 hours]**
Dave Freese, W1HKJ

Dave will cover three NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Communications System) applications that enable EMCOMM in the HF environment: *Fldigi* - a digital modem program; *Flarg* - an Automated ReQuest program; and *Wrap* - a file transfer utility that transparently wraps binary and text files for HF transmission using fldigi or any other modem program. Wrap is interesting in that it allows broadcast type transfers with verification at the receiving end. It is being tested and considered for use by Navy MARS among others

Dave will demonstrate the applications running in three environments: XP, Puppy Linux and Vista. The demonstration will include back-to-back audio links as well as recorded live audio streams from an active band.

- **“Support Software for Public Service Messaging”**
Joe Ivey, W4JSI, EC, Limestone County, AL

Joe will share his experience constructing and using macros, specifically suited for emcomm, using three different implementations of PSK31, MixW2, and Digipan. Joe’s schemes allow the contact to be logged just like a QSO, automatically advancing to the next number for the next message and saving the transmitted and received text to a file for later viewing or printing.

- **QRP Forum: “WHY QRP?”**
Ken Evans, W4DU, President, QRP ARCI

Learn how you can jump into the fun of QRP. Whether operating at home or from a suitcase, commercial, kit or home brew, Ken 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.

- **“Front-End Mixers for Contesters”**
Bob DePierre, K8KI

What's the worst signal environment where only the best receivers survive? What is the first component in your rig that will feel the crunch when the going gets rough? Well, K8KI put the crunch on a few modern rigs. Did yours survive the tests?

- **“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.

YL:

- **“YL Forum - YLRL - Focus: Contesting”**
Moderator: Mary Moore, WX4MM

Meet and greet other YL's. Discover YLRL. Get acquainted with contesting and the YLRL/DX YL sponsored contests.

Note: "YL" is a term for any licensed female amateur radio operator, regardless of age. Come one and all, young and not so young. Member or non-member. All are welcome!