

## Announcements

**M**ake sure you mark your calendars for June 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be two big events held on this date. **First:** The 2011 AL QSO Party will begin at 11AM on June 4<sup>th</sup> and end at 11PM; that's 12 hours to contact as many stations outside of Alabama as you can.

It appears we have a few counties that might not be represented without your help. If you live in Calhoun, Cherokee, Escambia, Etowah, Mason or Marshall, please get on the air to represent those counties. Contact [kc4hw@alabamagsoparty.org](mailto:kc4hw@alabamagsoparty.org) to let Jim Johnson know if you plan to be operating. You can also go to the web page: <http://www.alabamagsoparty.org> for rules and more information. BARC's club station will be active for this contest, so come and join us!

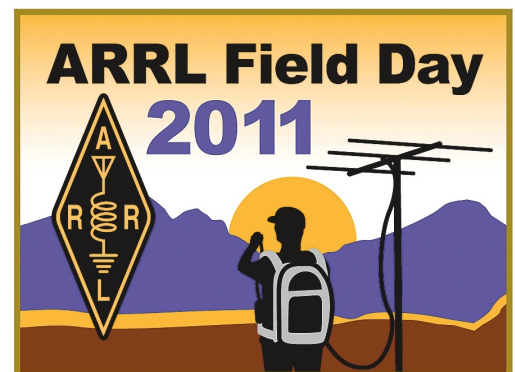
**Second:** The ARA Group will be sponsoring a one day Tech License class. It begins at 8AM and should conclude around 3 PM with a VE testing session. It will be held at the Hoover Community Education Center in Bluff Park, 571 Park Ave, Hoover. For more info, contact Jim Rogers, [w4atk@arrl.net](mailto:w4atk@arrl.net).

## Social Media and Ham Radio?

**B**ack in March, 2011, BARC launched a Facebook page. To view, key [www.facebook.com/w4cue](http://www.facebook.com/w4cue). It has many interesting posts/links AND you don't have to be a Facebook member to view them!

## 2011 Field Day around the corner

**J**une 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> are the dates. Our club will participate from the club station this year. This is an excellent opportunity for you to practice your emergency response capabilities. Please come and support your club. Co-chairmen Jeff Drew, N4JDU, and Paul Nash, W4JY, will be looking for you.



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## Silent Key

**C**urtis W Jennings, KI4FUS, passed away on Fri, April 1<sup>st</sup> at the VA hospital in Montgomery. He was an Army veteran and had lived in Auburn for the past 19 years. He was Assistant Head Master with the Boys Scouts of Troup 7 and an avid Ham Radio operator. He was buried at the Ft Mitchell National Cemetery in Ft Mitchell, AL.

## Prez Sez “The Club Station”

We have been blessed with a change in attitude by our host that now allows the Club more access to the facility, including unrestricted use of the Club’s radio shack. This means that now we can schedule work parties to maintain the radio equipment and antennas as well as general cleanup of our space. A lot of work has already been accomplished in this area but there is a need for a lot more. The antennas have been declared operational except for some minor work needed on the 80M dipole and a possible cross-arm replacement. The radio equipment has not been completely checked out, but at least two of the HF stations seem to be working. A lot of junk has been carted away and we are now at the general clean-up phase. A couple more work parties should finish up the work and have our shack looking spick and span. It will be a place that we will be proud to show the world!



Bill, KW4J

But what’s next? How do we plan to use the facility? Is there interest in the Club for it to become an emergency operation center? Do we want to do contesting? I have no answers, as this is something that needs to be decided by the entire membership. There are plans to man the station for the upcoming Alabama QSO Party on June 4 and also for Field Day on June 25-26. This is a good start and maybe we can get a feel for the member’s desire for other activities. Perhaps even someone may become motivated to take on the yet-to-be created role of ‘Station Activities Manager’ and plan other fun-filled events such as contests.

We may want to expand the duties of the Emergency Communications Committee to include establishing an emergency operation center within the Jeffco ARES framework. These things would tend to optimize the use of the Club’s equipment which has been dormant for many months. Personal use of the Club’s assets is also encouraged. I am confident that we can work out an arrangement with the Bluff Park Community Center personnel to allow access to the shack during regular business hours. Any member should be able to gain access to the radio shack and operate without going through a Club officer or any other red tape.

Once the clean-up is done, it is intended that the equipment will be available for member use at least an hour before each regular meeting. Of course, the usual conditions apply, such as operation is confined to the limits of the operator’s license class and no interference with other activities at the Community Center. It is expected that any mess made by an operator will be cleaned up by that same person. We want to always remain a good neighbor and a good tenant.

Think about the shack and let me know your ideas.

## Officers for 2011-2012

The nominating committee’s slate of officers contained only one nominee for each position and there were no nominations from the floor, so the officers and board were elected by “acclamation”. The by law changes passed. The newly elected officers are:

President: Bill Davidson, KW4J

Vice Pres: Ken Adkisson, WB4FAY

Treasurer: Rosalind Fazel, KD4ZGO

Secretary: Barbara McLester, W5YXU

Board: Paul Nash, W4JY; Jeff Drew, N4JDU; Steven Moss, KB4FKN;

Jim Rogers, W4ATK; Bob Thomas, KC4AF

Long range planning Committee: Mack White, KF4JLI

## Heath Airplane (submitted by Dave Cisco, W4AXL)

I came across this beautifully restored Heath HL-1 Longster at the Air & Auto Museum in Hood River, OR. This museum has over 50 restored airplanes and lots of cars. The Heath was of special interest to me since I have built many Heathkits in the past.

Edward Heath started the company in Chicago in the early 1900's making airplane kits. Heath was killed in one of his experimental airplanes on Feb. 1, 1931.

Howard Anthony bought the company and moved it to Benton Harbor, MI. Anthony purchased several train car loads of electronics at the end of WWII and started selling the electronic kits we are all familiar with. Many of today's hams got their first operating experience with Heathkit equipment.



## Basic Kindle Review (submitted by Bill Davidson, KW4J)

I read Jim Henson's (KG4KCM) excellent article on the Kindle 2 in the December 2010 issue of the Club's newsletter and it prompted me to write some comments on the basic Kindle, which is not much of a step-down.

Instead of giving me another DVD or shirt for Christmas, my three kids pooled their money and bought me the basic unit. It has the same features that its big brother sports, save the larger screen. One of the more awesome features; it can read PDF files either through the WiFi network or through the USB port. Email capability is available using Amazon's free (for Kindle users) site. The PDF files sent there will be directly transferred to each personal Kindle using a process called 'Whispernet'.

Text controls are impressive. The fonts and size can be set to match personal requirements. Additionally, the screen rotation can be adjusted as desired much the same way as the 'smart' cellular telephones do.

Texting, social networking and many other of today's computing capabilities are available in one small package that is unbelievably easy to navigate. Crossword puzzle enthusiasts will really be impressed with the two comprehensive dictionaries.

I opted to buy a cover that has a built-in reading lamp which runs off the Kindle battery. The lamp fits snugly into the cover so that there is nothing to snag or look like a wart. It passed the dark closet test with flying colors. By the way, the battery seems to last for long periods, as I have yet to recharge it since Christmas. Charging is done through the USB (Firewire) port using the supplied cable. The Kindle package also includes a mini wall wart that allows charging from a regular 120V house outlet and, yes, the Kindle can be used while charging.

I have been doing a substantial amount of traveling over the past few years, and I wish that I had taken a Kindle with me. A lighter travel bag and the internet capability alone make it a traveler's companion. I see this little device at airports everywhere and it is well worth the \$139.00 price tag.

