



## **North Alabama Repeater Association Annual Newsletter for 2008**

### **NARA: Who are we?**

NARA stands for North Alabama Repeater Association. We are a separate but sister entity to the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club with a long-standing heritage of providing top-notch VHF and UHF repeater facilities to support Huntsville area. This support includes club functions, public service events, ARES and Red Cross activities as well as everyday communications enjoyment. We draw our support from faithful dues paying memberships just like you. Dues are just \$16 per year per family and can be prorated quarterly to a nice even \$4 per quarter. You will receive an expanded version of this newsletter with additional information as well as a members only command sheet showing you how to use dozens of repeater features such as the auto patch, remote base, IRLP node, and more. To find out more, see the NARA web site at [www.qsl.net/nara](http://www.qsl.net/nara) or call Ralph Hogan W4XE at 881-0606.

Dues can be mailed to: ***NARA, P.O. Box 18941, Huntsville AL 35804.***

### **NARA's Flagship Machine: 146.94 N4HSV Repeater**

The repeater is located at Channel 31 TV studio on top of Monte-sano Mtn. It has one of the largest coverage pattern footprints in Huntsville. We have an automatic battery backup. In the event of AC power failure we will automatically switch to battery backup. The site already has emergency generator backup, so we will be doubly backed up in case of an emergency! The repeater supports a frequency agile uhf remote base link radio. The system has a GE Voter system. It will automatically select for the best signal between the main receiver and the Green Mountain south site. Another remote is on the bench in the works to fill in coverage of North and East of town. We've used our UHF link radio to tie into 147.18 for special marathon events. This allowed the hams supporting the event to utilize the coverage footprint of both machines simultaneously. Check out the '94 machine for Club announcements. It supports auto patch and lots of handy user functions. See the expanded edition for more details! The '94 machine requires a 100 Hz PL tone.

### **Nets on '94**

The ARES local group holds training net each Thursday evening at 7:30 PM on the 146.94 machine. This is to support storm-spotting activities in the area. Everyone is welcome to check in.

### **The 147.18 WD4CPF Repeater with IRLP**

From it's 210 ft perch high on Brindlee mountain south of Huntsville, this machine not only provides great coverage of south Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal but offers wide coverage access to the W4VM IRLP Node for world wide QSOs using your 2M HT or mobile rig! To find out more, see the expanded edition of the NARA news. The system also supports automatic emergency battery power. As mentioned above this system can be linked to 146.94 for special events. See Ron [W4VM@Comcast.net](mailto:W4VM@Comcast.net) for the NEW ILRP Access code details.

### **Talking to the next town down the road: The NARA remote base system on 443.500**

Ever heard all those DTMF touch tones that ultimately result in a voice from Nashville or Birmingham of Muscle Shoals or Chattanooga? You can be a part of it with NARA's multi-band remote base system on the 443.500 repeater atop Monte Sano. This repeater was entirely rebuilt in the spring of 2004 and antenna work at the site will soon bring several of the exciting bands back to life in this system. Included are 10 meter, 2 meter, 220 MHz, 440 MHz and 1.2 Gig bands. With the 10-meter band remote restored, it will be more than just the next town down the road – it becomes worldwide!

### **Talking around the state: The statewide Alabama-Intercity Linked Network - AICN**

The 145.23 (186.2 Hz PL) repeater is Huntsville's local node into the full time AICN state wide linked RF system. Just punch in a 186.2 PL tone, key down & talk around the state. Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery and Mobile are linked full time with more cities in the works. A new tri-port repeater controller was installed along with two frequency agile remote base radios. This will allow linking up into the MTEARS Tennessee UHF emergency link system. Thus 145.23 could act as a link hub between Alabama and Tennessee. Talking from Nashville to Mobile is the goal.

## **DSTAR: The NEW Digital voice VHF/UHF communications mode**

Alabama continues to be a hot-bed of activity with the goal of a state wide DSTAR internet linked emergency communications system to supplement the existing AICN system. Currently there are two operational digital D-star privately owned systems in Huntsville. They have the system tied into the internet. Some members of NARA are at the fore-front of implementing this new digital voice technology.

## **The Road less traveled: 50 and 220 MHz from NARA**

Sometimes the road less traveled provides greater opportunities for ham radio enjoyment: The propagation on 6 meters can get real interesting at times! Try the W4XE/NARA 53.21 6 Meter repeater with a 100 Hz tone. It is operation from atop Monte-Sano. This is a single site system using 6 meter home brew duplexers and a GE 6 mtr repeater. It supports a remote UHF link for tying to other local repeaters.

The 220 MHz band has been called the “private band” but the propagation can be better then 2 meters at times. It has been totally reworked and is working fantastic! Find out on NARA’s 224.94 repeater with a 100 Hz tone.

## **Still performing: NARA’s 145.33 and 443.800**

The 145.33 repeater has long supported ATV activities and will be upgraded with new equipment to continue to offer an alternative to busy machines. 443.800 is in southeast Huntsville on Mathis Mountain and offers a quiet system for users in the south end of town.

## **Command sheets updates:**

As the array of controller’s change & new features come on line, we try to make them consistent between machines and easy to remember. Be sure to join NARA this year to stay current on changing command codes for repeater features. As a NARA member, you’ll receive the expanded newsletter & new command sheet via e-mail or snail mail. We also send out periodic updates via e-mail during the year.

## **2008 NARA officers and contributors**

President: Ralph Hogan: W4XE –	rhogan3@comcast.net 881-0606
Vice President: John Zeiler – K4AN –	k4an@arrl.net 828-9302
Treasurer: Todd Freestone: KD4ALP –	tkfree@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Bruce McIntire AE4M	AE4M@arrl.net
Technical Advisor: Mark Bond W4FMX	bondnet@mindspring.com
HARC Liaison: Don Tunstil – W4NO –	dontunstill@comcast.net

## **NARA REPEATERS**

<b>53.210</b>	<b>- 1.0 MHz</b>	<b>100.0 Hz</b>
<b>145.330</b>	<b>- 600 KHz</b>	<b>Carrier Squelch</b>
<b>146.940</b>	<b>- 600 KHz</b>	<b>100.0 Hz</b>
<b>147.180</b>	<b>+ 600 KHz</b>	<b>100.0 Hz</b>
<b>224.940</b>	<b>- 1.0 MHz</b>	<b>100.0 Hz</b>
<b>443.500</b>	<b>+ 5.0 MHz</b>	<b>110.9 Hz</b>
<b>443.800</b>	<b>+ 5.0 MHz</b>	<b>110.9 Hz</b>

Contact NARA at: **NARA, P.O. Box 18941, Huntsville AL 35804** [www.qsl.net/nara](http://www.qsl.net/nara)