

2024 Huntsville Hamfest Forum List

As of 6/10/2024

ARRL

Alabama Section and ARES – Denis Littleton, K4DL

Vendors

Elecraft Update with Q&A - Including the K4 and its Latest Features and Updates

Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, is Elecraft's Chief Operating Officer, a co-designer of Elecraft's K4, K3S, K2, and other Elecraft products. He co-founded Elecraft in 1998 with Wayne Burdick, N6KR. Licensed for over 51 years, his early interest in Amateur Radio led him to a career in electronic design and management. In his forum Eric will provide an update on the K4, including the K4/0 and the remote system. There will be a Q and A at the end!

The Connections of WiRES-X- John Kruk, N9UPC, Yaesu National Sales Manager

Join Yaesu as they discuss the connections you need for WiRES-X between your HRI-200 or for PDN/HRI operation. This class will help educate people on what is needed to experience the full aspects of WiRES-X.

The WiRES-X Software - John Kruk, N9UPC, Yaesu National Sales Manager

Join Yaesu as they discuss the usage of WiRES-X software for the beginning user. This class will help educate people on how to select rooms, nodes, and provide some simple operations.

Organizations

Alabama Repeater Council - Grady Evans, W4GLE

Technical Forums

YouTubers Group

Come and meet some of your favorite YouTube ham radio celebrities. Many of the people you watch every week will be present at this meet and greet panel forum to talk about their channels and answer your questions.

Lighting Research in Huntsville – Monte Bateman, PhD, WB5RZX

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) are home to one of the top lightning research groups in the world. We study basic physics of the lightning process, its relationship to storm severity, and help with lightning protection for our nation's space program. In addition to basic and applied science, we

also design and build cutting-edge instrumentation that allows us to make unique measurements to study thunderstorms. We now have 2 Geostationary Lightning Mappers (GLMs) in orbit, on both GOES-16 (East) and GOES-17 (West). This gives us lightning mapper coverage over nearly half the Earth. The mapper on GOES-16 has achieved “fully validated” status; the other should be validated this November. The GLMs were developed here in Huntsville; they add lightning information to the GOES satellite photo loop images and are becoming important in weather forecasting and warning. We also have the Lightning Imaging Sensor (LIS) aboard the ISS, and it has been working well now for over 3 years. Come see the state-of-the-art in lightning measurements and how much of it comes from Huntsville!

Lighting Protection for Hams – Monte Bateman, PhD, WB5RZX

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!

Kit Building Techniques for Success – Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB

A look at the best tools and techniques to help beginners through experienced builders have the best chance at success when building a kit. Joe will go over low-cost tools and the correct type of solder to use, how to sort and identify your parts, and will touch on things he has found available at the hamfest.

Operating 10 GHz Microwave – Ben Lowe, K4QF

Interested in getting your feet wet operating the microwave bands? This forum will cover how to effectively operate in the 10 GHz band. This forum will also show how 10 GHz stations are built.

Beyond 10 GHz - Ben Lowe, K4QF

This forum will cover how to get involved with 24, 47, and 78 GHz. Many microwave operators stop at 10 GHz, but there is way more room to operate on the higher bands. Test equipment will be on site for those wanting to do station checks.

Close Encounters of the Microcontroller Kind – Glen Popiel, KW5GP

Join ARRL author Glen Popiel, KW5GP, in an all-new presentation as he demonstrates advanced projects and design concepts with the Arduino and other microcontrollers. Learn just how much fun you can have creating your own microcontroller-based projects for your ham shack, family, and friends.

BalloonSats – Bill Brown, WB8ELK

Bill is one of the knowledgeable experts in balloon launched ham radio. This forum will discuss how Bill accomplishes taking amateur radio to new heights on high altitude balloons. Weather permitting there will be a live balloon launch following this forum.

Radio Astronomy from the Moon - Dr. Heidi Haviland, KK6SZW

This forum will discuss using radio waves for astronomy and how to do radio astronomy on the surface of the Moon. It will also cover recent and planned Moon missions,

including commercial missions.

Adult Soldering 101 – Matthew Sager, KI4AJZ, and Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Want to get into kit building but don't know where to start? Then this class is for you. This class will cover more than which end of the soldering iron to hold and give you tips on how to be successful assembling kits. During the class the students will build a kit to take home with them. Two sessions of the same class will be offered. The first will be hosted by Joe K0NEB, and the second by Matthew and Kevin. If interested please sign up at the Hamfest Info booth near the entry door. This is a first come, first serve event with limited space.

Calibrate Your Bird Model 43 Wattmeter - John Stensby, Ph.D, N5DF

Want to get the most accurate measurements possible from your Bird Wattmeter? Join John, N5DF, as he explains how to calibrate your wattmeter.

Winter Field Day Forum- Marvin Turner, WØMET, Winter Field Day President

This forum will cover Winter Field Day and how to get involved with this great operating activity. Learn how you and your club can participate in this yearly event to hone your operating skills and get radioactive.

Additional Forums are being planned. Check back here for updates and schedule in early August.