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# ***WINTER FIELD DAY REPORT***

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The new ZeroBeat Newsletter, the official publication of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club published on the first day of each month. Contents: Articles about new products - antennas - techniques and ideas – items for sale – humor - announcements and upcoming events – letters to the editor – articles about old products – profiles of club members – event pictures. The ZeroBeat wants your contributions! Email articles to me at [CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM) in Microsoft Word format or plain text. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome!



## **Your club needs you!**

**Help keep our repeaters on the air!**

**Support our mission!**

**Now with easy on-line renewal!**

**Go to [w4ap.org](http://w4ap.org) click on JOIN/RENEW**

**Mobiles click top left menu button ☰**



**Help keep amateur radio flourishing in Central Alabama for education, discovery, public service, and great fellowship!**



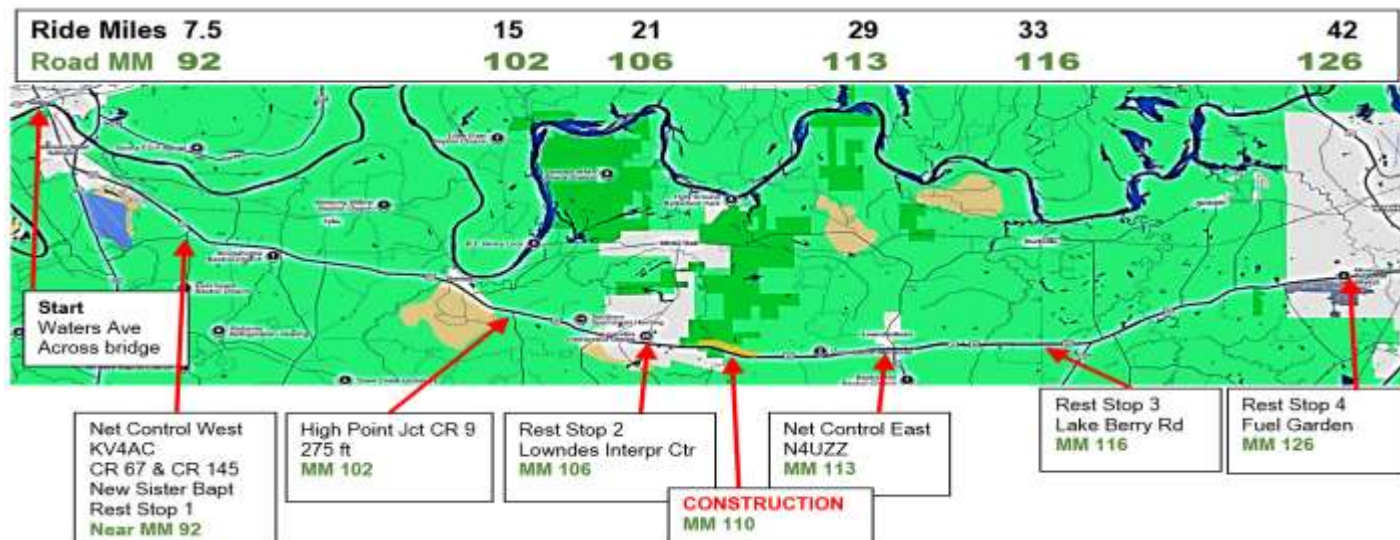
60th Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Bicycle Ride (February 22, 2025)

## Call for Volunteers!

This is an excellent opportunity to practice message forwarding and traffic handling. The Selma to Montgomery Bicycle Ride needs volunteers to patrol sections of Highway 80 from Montgomery Airport west to Selma and to position at the Interpretive Center.

Net Control East (N4UZZ) at a high point in Lowndesboro using a 40-ft mast. Net Control West (KV4AC) at a high point close to Selma at Rest Stop 1 on CR 67, using a 30-ft mast. We will use 146.56 MHz simplex.

Riders will be bussed to Selma to start the ride at 9:00 AM CST from the Edmund Pettus Bridge, ending at the Alabama Capitol building. We expect all riders to have finished in our area of coverage by Noon. Email me at [CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM).







## Winter Field Day Report

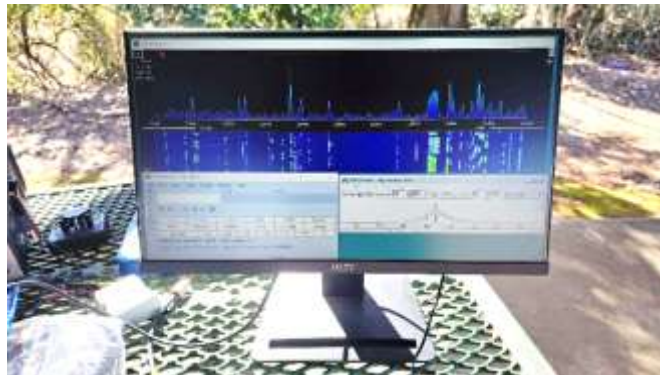
MARC organized a Winter Field Day event at Cooter's Pond Park in Prattville on Saturday, Jan 25, 2025. We operated from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM CST. Hot coffee, donuts, and (later) pizza kept the members fueled to make it through the cold.

We set up a 20m dipole and a 40m dipole, both on 40-ft fiberglass masts. We also set up a 40-10m endfed up 65 feet in a near-vertical configuration, and a random-wire 35.5ft vertical to work 80-10m. Tony N6IK brought a satellite station with steerable co-phased beam antennas and a Chameleon Delta Loop that was mounted on a 30-ft mast fixed on a trailer hitch. It covered 40-10m. Tony also demonstrated his new GigaParts Explorer mast and Packtenna endfed wire antenna and worked 20m with it. We had bandpass filters so stations on different bands would not interfere with each other. It was a real antenna farm.

Yes, it was cold when we started, in the mid-twenties. Fortunately, the winds were calm. Some people arrived early and helped with the setup of the antennas.



N4UZZ brought an Icom IC-7300 with a laptop and demonstrated the beautiful spectrum display that can be put on a computer screen using the freeware N1MM logging program. Jimmy KN4UXO brought his brand new Yaesu FT-991A. Scott tried out his Kenwood TS-570. Jerome W4IJG worked his Yaesu FT-891. Lew brought his G90 and worked 10m. Otto N4UZZ worked cw on 15m with his Icom IC-7300 and a big monitor showing a gorgeous spectrum display and waterfall. He also brought a big Yaesu FT-990 that was tuned to SouthCars on 40m in the early hours. Tony N6IK brought an Icom IC-705 to work the satellites. All radios were powered by batteries.



Otto N4UZZ operating cw on 15m. To the right is the Yaesu FT-990 tuned to SouthCars 40m phone. On the table is a rather substantial battery of batteries (pun intended). Top left you can see the black vertical mast above the Skywarn Tahoe. That mast served as support for the 35 1/2 - ft random wire vertical to work 80-10m. On the top right in the distance you see the pickup truck with Tony's mast system

for the Chameleon Delta Loop. Also on the top right are Jimmy KN4UXO and Rob KK4RSD (formerly KQ4EFX).

Jimmy KN4UXO and his FT-991A started on 20m voice. The radio was new to Jimmy so Jerome W4IJG and Rob KK4RSD were helping him out. KN4UXO started logging. Then Rob KK4RSD came over and sat down at the radio.



KN4UXO and KK4RSD listened to a station work a pile-up. Then the station decided that they had worked long enough and vacated the frequency. KN4UXO urged Rob to jump in there and take over the frequency. Rob did. The rest is history.

Rob KK4RSD threw out the “CQ W4AP” and very quickly gathered a huge pile-up that persisted for 90 minutes. In those 90 minutes Rob worked 100 stations “on the nose.” It was a real amazing thing to watch and witness. It was a personal best for Rob and a best for the club.



Tony brought his satellite station, consisting of an Icom IC-705 and a pair of steerable 3-element beams.

Tony had also invited a friend to stop by who is not a ham but interested in amateur radio. He explained his setup to him and many others who wanted to see how a satellite station operates. Winter Field Day was a great opportunity to be an ambassador for amateur radio and to

reach out to motivate others to get active or to get their license.



Satellite activity was a big attraction. Here is a picture (right) of the crowd gathering around the satellite station as a pass was expected soon. On the right is the 40-ft mast with the 40m dipole. (Note that the mast is not actually bent – this is an artifact of the camera lens.)



Tony's hitch mounted Chameleon delta loop setup (left). The two 17-ft arms reach right to the top of the picture.



Here are the highlights of Winter Field Day:

### **Winter Field Day 2025 highlights**

- **Five HF antennas, two on 40ft masts, ended up 65 feet**
- **KK4RDS made 100 contacts in 90 minutes! Best ever!**  
**It was a huge pile-up for an hour and a half!**
- **Lots of radios! Icom IC-7300, IC-705, G-90, Yaesu FT-990, FT-991A, FT-891, Kenwood TS-570**
- **Satellite comms demonstration**
- **A ham licensed for 4 years made first HF contact ever!**
- **And great coffee, donuts, and pizza!**

**This brings us to the next big event, the Summer 2025 Field Day, June 28-29, 2025.** We will hold a joint Central Alabama Field Day with the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club, the Elmore County Amateur Radio Club, and the Autauga Amateur Radio Club. The event will be at the Smith Center in Prattville in a large, air-conditioned room that has an adjacent kitchen for lots of delicious food. All the antennas deployed on Winter Field Day will be there but the 40m dipole will be hung at 75 feet, giving it excellent nationwide coverage.

Mark your calendars! Plan on operating, bringing radios, or just stopping by to sample the food and chew the rag in person!

**EVENT:** ARRL Field Day  
**LOCATION:** The Smith Center  
298 Jay St, Prattville, AL 36066 (West Entrance)  
**DATE & TIME:** June 28 and 29, 2025 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
**OPERATING:** 6/28/25 1200 CDT – 6/29/25 1300 CDT  
**BANDS:** 40, 20m, 15m, 10m, 80m (overnight)  
**MODES:** Phone, CW, FT8

## A Good Cause

### Central Alabama Disaster Relief

A CENTRAL ALABAMA ALL VOLUNTEER 501C3  
NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

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



## Join Us

Prompted by the violent tornado activity in central Alabama over the last several years, we formed Central Alabama Disaster Relief. We decided to use a broad approach in our mission, so we developed our three-phase approach.

**Response:** CADR teams with other organizations in Central Alabama in an effort to be used where we can make the most impact, immediately following a disaster. Our mission is to arrive on scene with equipment, people and supplies to fill immediate needs (warmth, food, water, shelter, etc.)

**Relief:** We make ourselves available to those that need immediate shelter and warmth, when able, supplying both until the affected can find shelter and other assistance. We do this by using partnerships with churches, hotels and private citizens who wish to help with lodging for victims.

**Recovery:** Everyone has special needs the weeks following a disaster. They can range from short term transportation to help finding a new home to navigating numerous long term relief systems. It is our mission to assist where we can, when we can. It is as simple as that.

### People in Need

There are many people in need that did not experience a natural disaster. We wish to help them as well. To them, their house fire or the passing of the sole provider for a family is also a disaster. It is to us as well. With resources, and volunteers, there is no end to the good that we can do.

**However..... we need volunteers and funds. Please help us, help others.**

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

CADR, P.O. Box 791, Wetumpka, AL 36093

[www.info@cadrelief.org](mailto:www.info@cadrelief.org)

## More about CADR

### What does CADR need?

Because victim's needs cost funds, this is one of our most crucial necessities. Donations will go to purchasing temporary housing, clothes, food, and other necessities caused by the disaster. We simply cannot operate efficiently without funds. NO member of our organization is paid. All funds go directly to accomplishing the mission of disaster relief.

Just as important as funds, if not more so, is our need for volunteers. People make the organization work. Without them, we cannot help those in need. As we continue to serve, our need for volunteers will grow. Please join our team.

### What can I do as a volunteer?

Everyone has a place at CADR. One doesn't have to be able to run a chainsaw to be helping others. We have three phases of assistance, remember? Here are just a few of the positions open to volunteers of all ages, capabilities and amounts of free time.

Victim Advocates  
Social Media/Web Maintenance  
Site Clearing (chainsaw, tractor etc.)  
Home Based Coordinator (Command Post)  
Disaster Site Command Post Staffing/Setup  
Equipment/Supplies Acquisition  
Logistics  
Equipment Maintenance  
Support Roles  
and much more.

In short, everyone can help.

### What is my commitment?

There is no commitment. Help how you can when you can.

Please email us at [info@cadrelief.org](mailto:info@cadrelief.org) if you want to know more!



## Local Nets Are Inviting Your Participation!

Otto N4UZZ

**NOTE: Technicians can participate in the nets on 10m.**

- The Cradle of the Confederacy Net and 10-10 International Chapter meet weekly on 28.350 MHz on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM CT on upper side band.
- The QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) meets for a rag chew following the Cradle of the Confederacy Net on 28.350 MHz upper side band. Any amateur radio operator who has been licensed 25 years or longer is invited to join the QCWA by going to QCWA.org. We are Chapter 40.
- Monday nights at 8:00 PM CT the UHF Net meets for ragchew and to answer questions about antennas, coax cables, and various other equipment. New hams and experienced hams are invited. The net meets on the 444.500 W4AP Bald Knob repeater.
- Central Alabama Skywarn Net, 7:00 PM CT on the 146.84 repeater.
- Montgomery County ARES Net 7:30 PM CT on the 146.84 repeater.
- Sunday night at 8:00 PM local time the Central Alabama 2m Net meets on the 146.84 W4AP repeater. This is a get-together that should not be missed.
- The Alabama Emergency Net Mike meets daily at 6:00 PM on 3.965 MHz LSB for statewide traffic handling. (This net requires General Class privileges.)

**Do you want to look up events or nets?  
The club calendar on the front page of our website  
<https://w4ap.org>  
is always up-to-date with the latest details.  
Just click on an event to get everything you need to know.**

## MARC Happenings for February 2025

### The Lunchbunch meeting schedule: all meetings at 11:00 AM

Feb 5, 2025	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Feb 12, 2025	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Feb 19, 2025	Sommer's Place, 7972 Vaughn Road near Vaughn & Taylor
Feb 26, 2025	Full Moon BBQ, 7660 Eastchase Pkwy, Montgomery, AL 36117

To join the club or Lunchbunch email list, send request to [CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM)

<b>The MARC 2m Net</b>	meets every Sunday at 8:00 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP
<b>Skywarn Training Net</b>	meets every Thursday 7:00 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP
<b>MGM-ARES Net</b>	meets every Thursday 7:30 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP
<b>Club Breakfast</b>	Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road, 7:00 AM Feb 15, 2025
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Mon, Feb 17, 2025, 7:00 PM</b> <b>Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery AL 36106</b>
<b>CAVEC Testing</b>	Mon, Feb 10, 2025, 6:30 pm Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland, 9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117
<b>ARRL-VE Testing</b>	Sat, Feb 22, 2025, 9:00 AM, Renfroe Food Market Chantilly Corner Pre-registration required <a href="mailto:Lewin.nyman@gmail.com">Lewin.nyman@gmail.com</a>
<b>Selma to Montgomery Ride</b>	<b>Sat, Feb 22, 2025, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (ride starts at 9:00 AM)</b>

<b>Field Day</b>	<b>June 28-29, 2025</b> <b>Smith Center, 298 Jay St, Prattville, AL 36066</b> <b>Air-conditioned, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m antennas, food, drinks</b>
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For details on all events: go to [w4ap.org](http://w4ap.org)  
Scroll down to the club calendar

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1412939275643917/>

### Club Officers:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Otto Arnoscht N4UZZ</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Ken Brittin AK4KN</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Fidel Cintron KK4KGO</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dennis Egbert K4PDQ</b>
<b>Public Information Officer:</b>	<b>Jim Norris K4JLN</b>
<b>Director 1:</b>	<b>Philip Salley K4PO (2022 - 2026)</b>
<b>Director 2:</b>	<b>Fred Springall KR4YK (2023 - 2027)</b>
<b>Director 3:</b>	<b>Mac McWhorter KO4UWY (2025 – 2029)</b>
<b>Director 4:</b>	<b>Jerome Goddard II W4IJG (2025 – 2026)</b>