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SELMA RIDE 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 in Microsoft Word format or plain text. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome!



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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)

Selma to Montgomery Ride Report

We had a highly successful deployment to provide assistance and communications to the Montgomery Bicycle Club and the riders on the Selma to Montgomery Ride on Saturday, Feb 22, 2025. This was an excellent opportunity to practice message forwarding and traffic handling.



N4UZZ, Net Control East, stationed on a median crossover of US Hwy 80 in Lowndesboro. A drive-on base holds to 40-ft fiberglass mast with a Diamond X-30 antenna.

Net Control East (N4UZZ) positioned at a high point in Lowndesboro using a 40-ft mast. With this mast and the elevation of the location, there was good coverage over the entire course and well into East Montgomery. Net Control West (KV4AC) was positioned at a high point close to Selma at Rest Stop 1 on CR 67, using a 25-ft mast. KV4AC had a fair signal to N4UZZ and relayed reports from patrolling stations on the western part of the course. All stations operated on 146.56 MHz simplex. Mobile stations west of mile marker 102 contacted Net Control West and stations east of that point contacted Net Control East. KR4YK was stationed at mile marker 116 at Rest Stop 3, and K1AZE with the assistance of K4PDQ operated a station at Rest Stop 4 by the airport. WE4AU was stationed at Rest Stop 2, the Lowndes Interpretive Center in Whitehall near mile marker 106 and had good signal strength both to Net Control East and Net Control West.

K1AZE brought a beam antenna to assure a good signal between the airport and Lowndesboro but wound up needing relays by other mobile stations and KR4YK because his beam antenna was horizontally polarized while all other antennas were vertically polarized. We had a really interesting experience in Lowndesboro with that. With my antenna up on a 40-foot mast, I was unable to copy Lew. But when John, KJ6MTJ, drove up and parked next to me, he was able to copy Lew just fine on his mobile installation on his pickup truck. We guessed that the horizontally polarized signal bounced along the surface and did not rise into the air.

Events like these are valuable because they show us what works and what does not work. John KJ6MTJ had some lights on his pickup truck that created an S9+20dB noise on his radios. He had to shut these lights down and uninstalled them when he got home. He wound up using just one working light that created no radio interference.

We were worried about traffic on Hwy 80, but it turns out that things went a lot better than expected. Even when there were no state troopers around, car and truck traffic stuck to the left lane and slowed down to about 35 – 40 mph, showing a lot of respect for the riders and concern for everyone's safety. This was a real "share the road" event, and it was nice to see.

The Montgomery Bicycle Club wants me to express their deep appreciation and thanks to all who participated in helping to make this ride successful. KJ6MTJ, KE4ITL, W4CRS, and AK4KN did excellent patrolling duty and transported some stranded riders. They – along with the stationary operators – made this exercise successful.

The Truth and AI

We are now discovering that artificial intelligence chatbots that are being incorporated into all software tools, have profound flaws that are threatening to blow up what we consider our body of knowledge. The problem with large-language artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots is that they are swamping us with lies and disinformation. Look at this article from [Scholarly Kitchen](#) in which ChatGPT was asked about the connection between tweets and scientific citations.

Human: Do tweets increase citations to scientific articles?

ChatGPT: There is evidence to suggest that tweets can increase citations to scientific articles. Studies have shown that social media, specifically Twitter, can be an effective way to disseminate scientific research and increase its visibility among researchers and the general public. A study by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) found that articles that were tweeted about had an average of 9% more citations than articles that were not tweeted about.

In this case, the person asking the question happened to be an expert who had done research on exactly this area. He not only knew the answer was incorrect, he was able to use his contacts to establish that there was no such study. But how many people would have known this? How many would have accepted this at face value, given that ChatGPT didn't just make a claim but backed it with what it claimed was a study in perhaps the most reputable of peer-reviewed publications?

Examples like this have been repeated on topic after topic. In teaching these models from the internet, they've learned to make information appear authoritative, even when it's pulled out of thin air and completely made up.

Now, add this article from [The Verge](#), and you get a glimpse at how bad this is going to get.

Right now, if you ask Microsoft's Bing chatbot if Google's Bard chatbot has been shut down, it says yes, citing as evidence a news article that discusses a tweet in which a user asked Bard when it would be shut down and Bard said it already had, itself citing a comment from Hacker News in which someone joked about this happening, and someone else used ChatGPT to write fake news coverage about the event.

This is an AI, citing a lie created by another AI, which was citing an article from another AI, based on something that the last AI was instructed to write based on a joke. If you went onto the internet right now, asked a question, and got an answer that included a citation, that included a citation, that included a citation ... how far would you really try to unravel things to determine if you were being told the truth?

Finally consider that Google, Microsoft, and seemingly every other company on the planet is, at this moment, rushing to add these large language-model-based AIs to everything. Every search engine. Every word processor. Every email app. Every slide deck, spreadsheet, and note taker. Every one of them is going to offer to put things together, provide a summary, add some context, write a few paragraphs ... and at every level, they will wrap another layer of obfuscation, false authority, and just plain-vanilla lies.

The surge of these AIs isn't just a threat to anyone who works with images, words, or numbers—which is, essentially, everyone—it's a loaded bomb ready to blow away our last concept of a shared reality in which there are an agreed upon set of authoritative facts.

Kenwood Rumors

N4UZZ

Your intrepid ZeroBeat reporter keeps the ears to the ground to hear about industry trends long before they become reality.

Kenwood has lost market share in the amateur radio HF base station area. The TS-590G is an excellent radio but it is old and has no spectrum display or waterfall. It is amazing that a major manufacturer has a current model out there without those features.



They came out with the TS-890S which is a wonderful radio but with a price tag of \$ 4,329.99 it is a full one thousand dollars more expensive than the Yaesu FTDX101 and the Yaesu is the Number One receiver on the Sherwood Engineering list of best dynamic range receivers, and the

Kenwood is not. In fact, all the current Yaesu HF radios beat out the Kenwood TS-890, and the Yaesu FT-710 can be had for around a thousand bucks. In recent years top listing on the Sherwood Engineering receiver test report has become a marketing must for HF base radios.

Icom has also fallen behind somewhat but they just had a huge hit with the IC-7300, the first mass-marketed SDR-based radio with spectrum scope, waterfall, and a very decent receiver. For the last eight years, the 7300 reigned supreme in the amateur base station market. The IC-7610 is doing reasonably well. We will see how the new IC-7760 will be received.

Given this background, it is not surprising that there are rumors floating around that Kenwood is phasing out the amateur radio equipment part of their manufacturing. It would be a shame to see Kenwood go the way of Drake, Hallicrafters, National Radio, Collins, Heathkit, and Swan.

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 March 2025

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

Mar 5, 2025	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Mar 12, 2025	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Mar 19, 2025	Sommer's Place, 7972 Vaughn Road near Vaughn & Taylor
Mar 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

The MARC 2m Net	meets every Sunday at 8:00 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP
Skywarn Training Net	meets every Thursday 7:00 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP
MGM-ARES Net	meets every Thursday 7:30 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP

Club Breakfast Sat, Feb 15, 2025 starting at 7:00 AM
Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road,

Club Meeting **Mon, Feb 17, 2025, 7:00 PM**
Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery AL 36106

CAVEC Testing Mon, Feb 10, 2025, 6:30 pm
Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland,
9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117

ARRL-VE Testing Sat, Feb 22, 2025, 9:00 AM, Renfroe Food Market Chantilly Corner
Pre-registration required Lewin.nyman@gmail.com

For details on all events: go to w4ap.org
Scroll down to the club calendar, click on any event for details

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

Club Officers:

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