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ALABAMA QSO PARTY!

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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 are welcome!



Your club needs you!

Help keep our repeaters on the air!

Support our mission!

Now with easy on-line renewal!

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Mobiles click top left menu button ☰



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



ALABAMA QSO PARTY!

We are planning a dxpedition to Lowndes County for the Alabama QSO Party July 26, 2025. We will set up starting at 8:00 AM CDT and start operating at 10:00 AM CDT until 2:00 PM CDT. The location is the parking area of the Midstate Stockyards at 8415 AL-97, Letohatchee, AL 36047. It is just east of the I-65 Letohatchee exit 151 on the NE side of the road which is AL-97. Across the road is a Marathon gas station with food, drinks, and restrooms.

Stations from all over the US will be trying to work Alabama counties!



Lowndes County will be a sought-after county by QSO party participants. This is a chance for operators to manage pile-ups as stations from all over the United States want to put Lowndes County into their logs.

KV4AC, Randy, and N4UZZ, Otto, will operate CW. There is one voice station available.

You must reserve the slot! You can bring your own radio (powerpole connectors or raw wire) or operate the Yaesu FT-950 which will be set up. For the QSO party we will have three 40-10m antennas and band filters. We will have a canopy and tables. Please bring your own chair. For event rules, see <https://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/rules/>

This is a fair-weather event only. An email confirming or canceling the event will be sent to the w4ap group on groups.io Friday 25 JUL 25 at 1800 CDT.

**Reserve your slot to operate!
Email me at
CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM**

New Sherwood Engineering Receiver Test Data

N4UZZ

Sherwood Engineering has a well-known website showing the test data on amateur radio receivers. The radios are Sorted by Third-Order Dynamic Range Narrow Spaced - or- ARRL RMDR (Reciprocal Mixing Dynamic Range) if Phase Noise Limited. One way to express RMDR is how well you can hear a weak station right next to a strong station.

For the last couple of years, the new line of Yaesu transceivers have occupied the top spots. The FTdx-101D, FTdx10, and FT-710 are coming in first, second, and third. The Elecraft K3S comes fifth, sixth, and seventh, which is not surprising. At position nine is the Kenwood TS-890, followed by another Elecraft, the KX3, at position eleven. Going from position one to eleven, the RMDR declines from 110dB to 105dB, not much of a difference. As far as performance for the money, the Yaesu FT-710 comes out as a real winner.



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The Flex radios are in positions 17, 18, and 19, with RMDRs at 100dB or below. Given their price, that seems disappointing. Also disappointing is the ranking of the new Icom flagship, the IC-7760, at position 22. It has the same RMDR as the IC-7610 which is at position 23. They are closely followed by the ubiquitous IC-7300 which clocks in at position 30 and an RMDR of 94.

There were a lot of high expectations for the new Yaesu FTX-1 Optima but it arrived on the list at an unremarkable position 34 with an RMDR of 91. Its closest competitor in size and purpose, the Elecraft KX3 clearly



outshines the Optima at position 11 with an RMDR of 104 and much better 100kHz blocking. The main difference between the two radios might be the appeal of the Yaesu color screen, spectrum display and waterfall. For POTA and SOTA operations, those features may have limited utility. On the other hand, the Optima significantly outperforms the Icom IC-705 that ranks 39th with an RMDR of 88. Of course, many people consider the control layout and the user interface as well as speaker sound quality as important factors in their selection of these radios.



Interestingly, the other portable offering by Elecraft, the KX2, comes in at position 44 with an RMDR of 86, quite a bit lower than its big brother, the KX3.

RMDR is not everything, and many people select their radios on other criteria. For instance, the Xiegu G90 is a very popular radio that consistently gets high marks on reviews and has a loyal following, in part because of its excellent wide-

range internal tuner. The fact that it lands at position 73 (behind such radios as the Atlas 210) has not deterred its loyal following despite an RMDR of 76. Many operators say that with the G90 at 20 watts, they can work any station they hear.



A Great New Weather App!

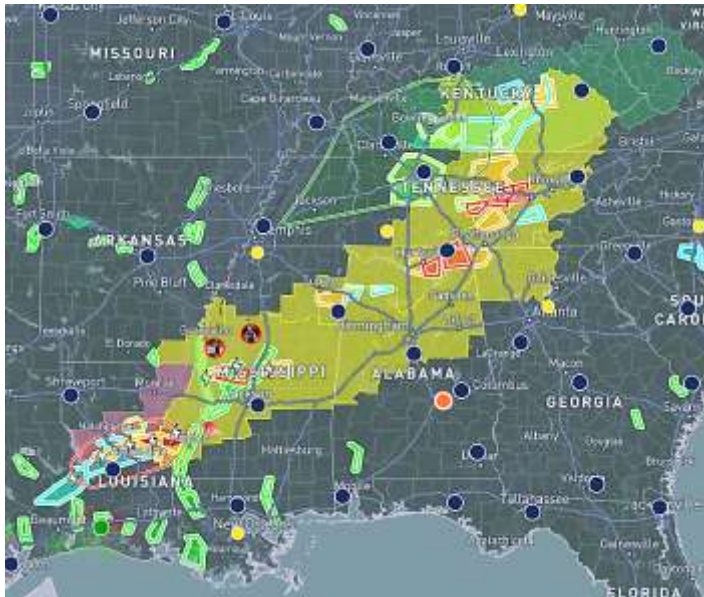
We have found a great new weather app. It is called *weather wise* and it is available as an app for your mobile device as well as your PC. It is free. Most importantly, it gives access to reflectivity and to velocity, so you can see rotations and how intense they are.

Navigating on the *weather wise* map is a breeze. You can zoom in and out as far as you want. When you zoom in tightly you are seeing the weather overlaid on a highly detailed map, right down to street level. Switching from reflectivity to velocity maps is instant. Polygons are drawn on the map as are warnings. Click on a warning box and you see what kind of warning it is. Click again and you can read the full warning text from the National Weather Service.



We learned about this app watching Ryan Hall, the YouTube weather guy, who switched to this app yesterday while closely following tornadoes in the Huntsville area. On the left you see a very distinct tornado pattern approaching Owens Cross Roads just south of Huntsville. The orange-colored boxes are severe thunderstorm warnings. The red-colored boxes are tornado warnings. The map is shown clearly with Huntsville just to the northwest. A small red arrow depicts the movement of the system, which is due east.

(Weather app cont.)



You can zoom out or in quickly as far as you want. Here is the big picture of the front extending from Louisiana to Tennessee. The red boxes are tornado warnings. The yellow area shows tornado watches. The big blue dots are NWS radar sites. The big red dot is my location. The large red oval shape in Louisiana depicts a mesoscale discussion from the National Weather Service. Click on any of the big blue dots to select that radar site for reflectivity or velocity.

To the right, velocity data show a large tornado just to the southeast of Redstone Arsenal near the Laceys Spring area, crossing Highway 231 and moving east-northeast.

The color scheme of this app is excellent as rotation really jumps out. You can quickly select velocity data from different radar sites. The app also gives access to correlation coefficients, differential reflectivity, spectrum width, specific differential phase, enhanced echo tops, storm relative velocity, and vertical integrated liquid (VIL). The VIL map is often extremely helpful in pinpointing severe cells.



The functionality of the maps is identical for desktop computers and mobile devices. There is a paid version that allows extensive customization, but for me (and for Ryan Hall, apparently) the free version does everything you need to observe weather cells and see developing rotations.

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), rag chew after the Cradle of the Confederacy Net on 28.350 MHz upper side band.
- Monday nights at 8:00 PM CT the UHF Net: ragchew and to answer equipment questions. New hams and old hams invited. 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 7:00 pm the Hams for the Lamb Net practices Christian fellowship and mutual support on the 146.84 W4AP repeater. All amateur radio operators are invited.
- Sunday night at 8:00 PM local time the Central Alabama 2m Net meets on the 146.84 W4AP repeater to exchange news, announcements, and for ragchew.
- MGM-ARES runs a digital net on 146.475 MHz using FSQ (with Fldigi). Operation guide is here: <https://rb.gy/1bqeuk> Join us for emcomm practice.
- 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 July 2025

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

July 2, 2025	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
July 9, 2025	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
July 16, 2025	Sommer's Place, 7972 Vaughn Road near Vaughn & Taylor
July 23, 2025	Full Moon BBQ, 7660 Eastchase Pkwy, Montgomery, AL 36117
July 30, 2025	Chinese Buffet at 1704 E. Main St. PRATTVILLE, AL 36066.

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
The Hams for Lambs Net	Christian fellowship meets every Sunday at 7:00 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, July 19, 2025 starting at 7:00 AM
Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road,

Club Meeting **Mon, July 21, 2025, 7:00 PM**
Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery AL 36106

CAVEC Testing Mon, July 14, 2025, 6:30 pm
Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland,
9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117

ARRL-VE Testing Sat, July 26, 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)