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GETTING READY FOR HAMFEST!

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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!

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Now with easy on-line renewal!

Go to 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!



ALABAMA QSO PARTY REPORT

N4UZZ

We went to Lowndes County to operate in the parking lot of the Mid-State Stock Yards near Exit 151 of I-65. Lowndes County does not have a lot of hams, and it is a valued and sought-after county for QSO Party operators out of state. It all took place Saturday, July 26, 2025.

**Stations from
all over the US
worked Alabama counties!**



It was hot with temperatures mostly in the mid-90s all morning. We added tarps to the canopy to give us more shade. The sun was strong.

Operators were Jimmy KN4UXO, who racked them up and ran one pile-up after another on 20m SSB, while Randy KV4AC had real trouble trying to get his Omni-VII to work. In the back is Lew, K1AZE, taking a break from contacts all over the country on SSB on

20m even before the QSO Party got started.

We had four antennas, two 40-10 endfeds, one hamstick ipole, and one 31-foot random wire vertical. The endfeds and the random wire vertical were supported by telescoping fiberglass masts and tripods. The buddypole dipole was on a 10-foot mast. We started setting up around 8:00 AM CT and started operating when the QSO Party started at 10:00 AM. Some of us did not start operating seriously until 11:00 AM.

Lew K1AZE kicked things off with contacts all over the country with his secret weapon, an Atlas 210 transceiver that pulled in signals from all over with all of them giving Lew great signal reports. He did this using his hamstick dipole mounted on a mast at the dizzying height of 10 feet! The secret appears to be in the tilt of the dipole which makes it as powerful as a 5-element beam.

The rest of us got going great guns around 11:00 AM CT when Jimmy started his run on 20m SSB, working pile-ups and having a great time.



Otto N4UZZ worked 40m cw off the random wire vertical and had one pileup after another with his trusty Icom IC-7300 coupled with a laptop and the N1MM logger and contest keyer.

Otto tried a new passband setting for cw on his 7300 that resulted in very smooth cw tones and practically no band noise, making it comfortable and pleasant to operate. He set the passband tune controls all the way counter-clockwise, then used a wide notch filter to take out the noise at the other end. With this it became possible to operate at 500 Hz bandwidth (which allows you to catch stations even if they are not closely tuned in to you) without dealing with noise.

Randy KV4AC had a struggle with his Omni-VII. The radio seemed to overheat, showed a very high current draw, and would not put out more than 30 – 35 watts on cw. He spent most of the time trying to diagnose the issue. He was trying to get going on 15m.

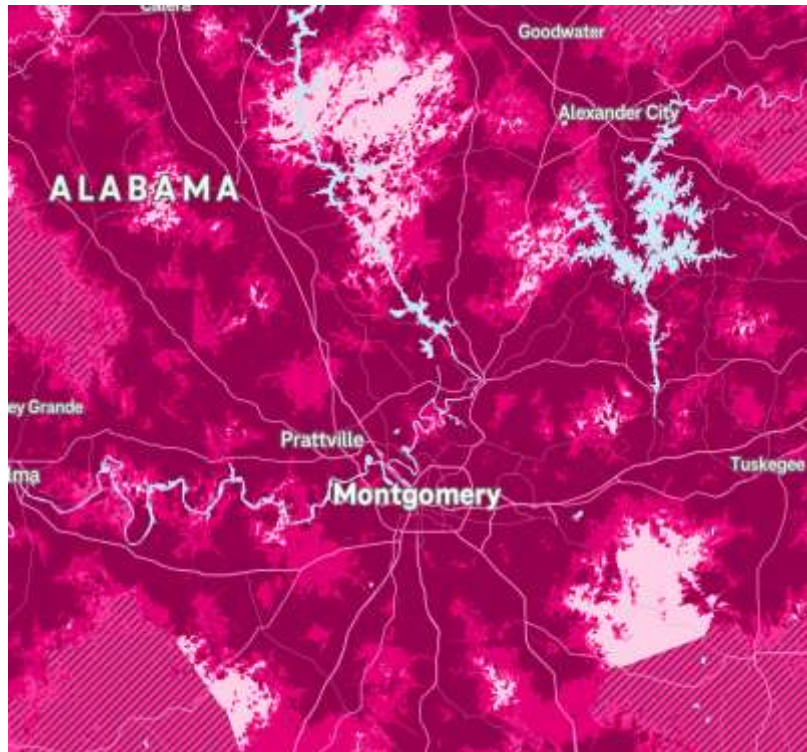
We used band filters to prevent stations from interfering with each other. Those worked very well. After an hour of intense operations we had enough of the heat and packed up, feeling good about what we had accomplished and the contacts we made.



SATELLITE TEXT MESSAGING COMING TO PHONES NEAR YOU!

N4UZZ

T-Mobile is launching T-Satellite, a messaging service (SMS and MMS) using Starlink for areas where traditional cellular tower service is not available. Verizon and AT&T customers can add the service for \$ 10.00 a month.



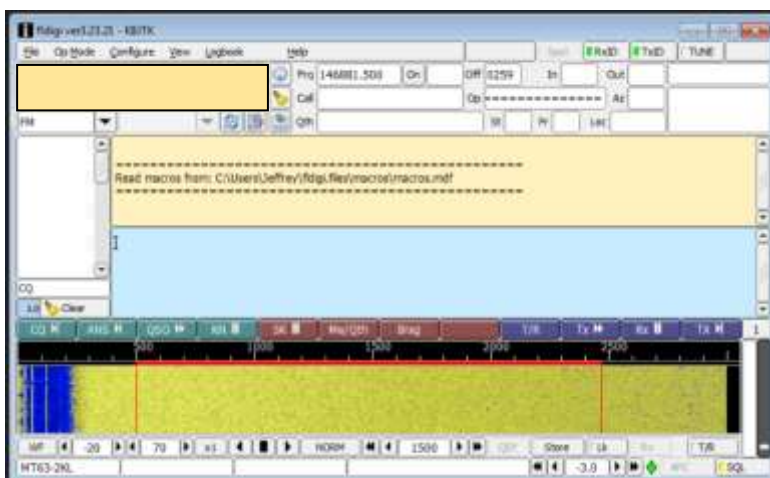
The light areas are where there is no cellular service for T-Mobile and text messages would be sent by Starlink satellite. Most modern cellphones such as Samsung Galaxy S21 and newer are compatible with this service. Sorry, Fred, flip phones will not work.

This is an important alternative for EMCOMMS for a time when many terrestrial cell towers may be out of service due to a disaster. This will permit the sending of messages and images to people outside of the affected area.



Montgomery County ARES Digital Emcomm Net Thursdays

Montgomery County ARES runs a digital emcomm net on VHF Thursday evenings from 8:00 pm local time to 9:00 pm local time.



ARES members participating in the net will set up their stations at or before 8:00 pm local time and set their stations to beaconing every ten minutes. After that, they can leave their station unattended. All net procedures involve automatic exchanges that require no further operator input.

Net control will obtain SNR reports from all stations on the frequency and within range at 9:00 PM. Then net control will send a message to all stations. All stations will acknowledge receipt of the message. (These are automatic procedures performed by the software.)

The net will conclude at approximately 9:15 pm local time.

Details regarding this net can be obtained upon request by emailing memarc840@gmail.com

Time to get Ready For the Hamfest!

N4UZZ



It is that time of the year! We need to get ready for the hamfest.

Our hamfest is November 8, 2025. Our last hamfest was a great success with increased revenues and continued good attendance. The hamfest is only 2 ½ months away!

We need to make this year's hamfest a success for the club and for amateur radio again. We need your help to do that.

We need volunteers to work admissions, club table. Vendor table sales, vendor breakfast, and to help Tower electronics with unloading in the morning and loading back up in the afternoon.

Every year, Scott, KB9AMM & Jill, KB9PZF, of Tower Electronics, bring you a huge selection of the kind of stuff that you cannot find online! At prices that you cannot find online! Connectors, adaptors, wires, antennas, jumpers, cables, tubing, tools,



But none of us are getting any younger! They need your help loading and unloading their huge display trays. Show them that we appreciate them and their loyalty to our hamfest!

Come to our club meeting and sign up!

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 Thursday nights 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM CT. Details are available by request to memarc840@gmail.com
- 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 August 2025

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

Aug 6, 2025	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Aug 13, 2025	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Aug 20, 2025	Sommer's Place, 7972 Vaughn Road near Vaughn & Taylor
Aug 27, 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
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
MGM-ARES Digital Net	every Thursday 8:00 PM – 9:15 PM CT memarc840@gmail.com

Club Breakfast Sat, Aug 16, 2025 starting at 7:00 AM
Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road,

Club Meeting **Mon, Aug 18, 2025, 7:00 PM**
Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery AL 36106

CAVEC Testing Mon, Aug 11, 2025, 6:30 pm
Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland,
9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117

ARRL-VE Testing Sat, Aug 30, 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)