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# CHRISTMAS 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](mailto: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!**

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

**Mobiles click top left menu button **



## **Join the Fun!**

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





## MARC Christmas Dinner And Awards Celebration

This year we celebrate at the Feast Buffet, 5831 Atlanta Highway. just east of Burbank Dr and north of Atlanta Hwy, **Dec 15 at 7:00 PM**. No reservations. **BRING A gift for Dirty Santa!** (Max \$ 10.00 value). Can be new, can be used, can be a gag gift!



They have a wide variety of entries where everyone can find their favorite food.

We will have a room for our group. Members will serve themselves but staff will serve drinks.



Typical cost for a meal is about \$ 15.00, and you may want to add a tip for the staff.



**Who will get the Whoopsie Award? And what did they do to get it?**  
**Come and find out! Come play Dirty Santa with us!**



# Dirty Santa

**We will play Dirty Santa at our Christmas Party!**

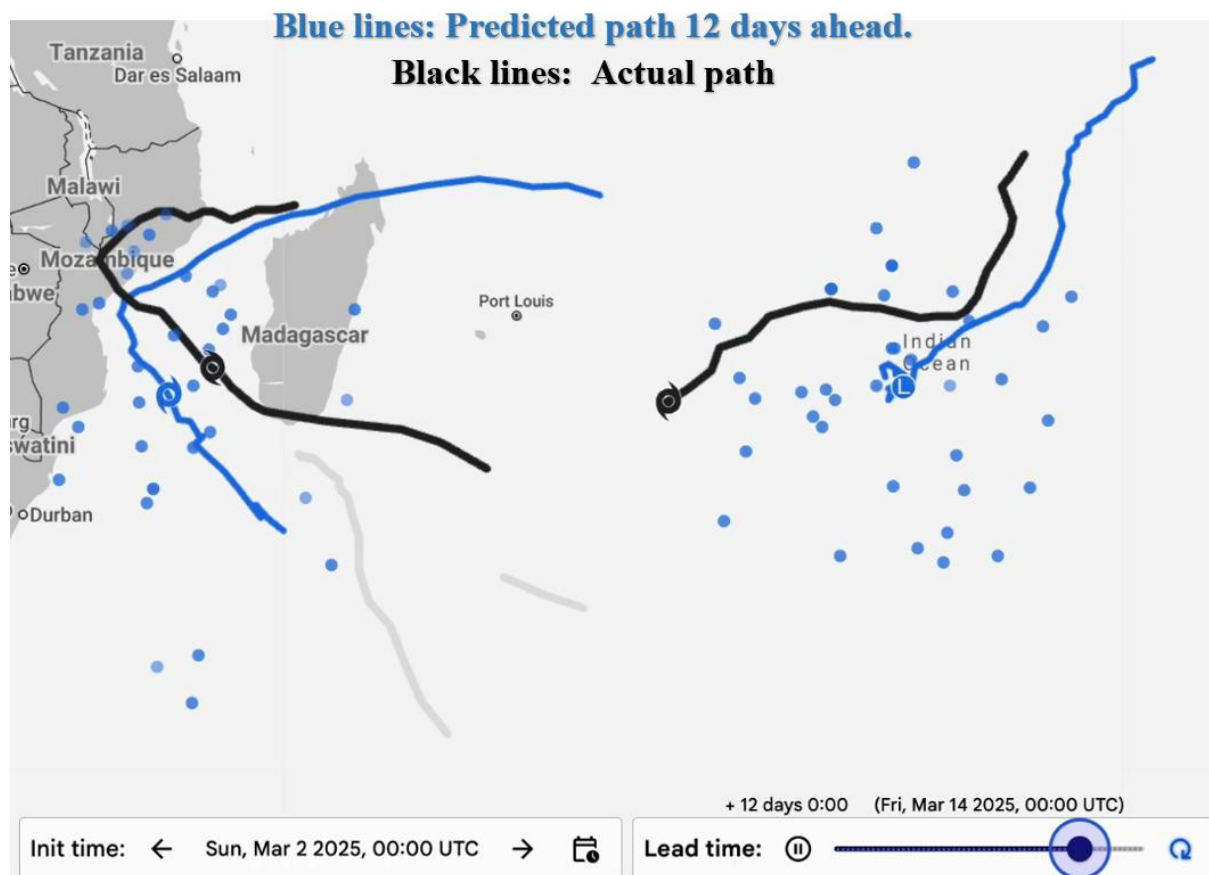
**Here are the rules:**

- 1. Participation is voluntary. If you do not bring a gift, then do not draw a Dirty Santa number. You can still get a door prize!**
- 2. Bring gifts well wrapped so content cannot be guessed and it is anonymous.**
- 3. Value of gifts must be under \$ 10.00.**
- 4. Gifts do NOT need to be radio related. Yes, they can be used items. Yes, they can be white elephants hanging around your shack. Yes, they can be gag gifts!**
- 5. When your number is called then**
  - a. pick a present from the pile, open it, and show it to the group,**
  - OR**
  - b. take a present that someone else picked**
- 6. Presents retire with the third gift recipient**
- 7. You cannot steal a present back once it is stolen from you!**
- 8. If someone steals your present, you then go to the pile and select another present.**

## Better and Faster Hurricane Predictions Using Google's DeepMind

N4UZZ

Google's DeepMind tool is more quickly forecasting hurricane behavior. It is much less expensive and time-consuming than traditional computation-heavy models that require super-computers to run. DeepMind helps with fast and accurate predictions, possibly saving lives.



When then Tropical Storm Melissa was churning south of Haiti, Philippe Papin, a National Hurricane Center (NHC) meteorologist, had confidence it was about to grow into a monster hurricane. As the lead forecaster on duty, he predicted that in just 24 hours the storm would become a category 4 hurricane and begin a turn towards the coast of Jamaica. No NHC forecaster had ever issued such a bold forecast for rapid strengthening.



But Papin had an ace up his sleeve: artificial intelligence in the form of Google's new DeepMind hurricane model – released for the first time in June. And, as predicted, Melissa did become a storm of astonishing strength that tore through Jamaica.

Forecasters at the NHC are increasingly leaning hard on Google DeepMind. On the morning of 25 October, Papin explained in his public discussion and on social media that Google's model was a primary reason he was so confident: "Roughly 40/50 Google DeepMind ensemble members show Melissa becoming a Category 5. While I am not ready to forecast that intensity yet given the track uncertainty, that remains a possibility.

Google DeepMind is the first AI model dedicated to hurricanes, and now the first to beat traditional weather forecasters at their own game. Through all 13 Atlantic storms so far this year, Google's model is the best – even beating human forecasters on track predictions.

Melissa eventually made landfall in Jamaica at category 5 strength, one of the strongest landfalls ever documented in nearly two centuries of record-keeping across the Atlantic basin. Papin's bold forecast likely gave people in Jamaica extra time to prepare for the disaster.

Google DeepMind has been making weather forecasts for a few years now, and the parent forecast system from which the new hurricane model is derived also performed spectacularly well in diagnosing large-scale weather patterns last year.

To be sure, Google DeepMind is an example of machine learning – a technique that has been used in data-heavy sciences like meteorology for years – and is not generative AI like ChatGPT. Machine learning takes mounds of data and pulls out patterns from them in a such a way that its model only takes a few minutes to come up with an answer, and can do so on a desktop computer – in strong contrast to the flagship models that governments have used for decades that can take hours to run and require some of the biggest supercomputers in the world. Still, the fact that Google's model could outperform previous gold-standard legacy models so quickly is nothing short of amazing to meteorologists who have spent their careers trying to forecast the world's strongest storms.

The weather lab website is now live at <https://deepmind.google.com/science/weatherlab>



## The Space Weather Woman

Dr. Tamitha Skov is an astrophysicist who offers a weekly (and sometimes more frequent) sun weather report on a website – **spaceweatherwoman.com** – and on YouTube, where she has a channel that describes sunspot activity.

She gives short-term forecasts that are aimed at scientists, communicators, and ham radio operators. "It's like the weather channel but for the sun!"



Phil, K4PO, has raised interest in solar activities with his alerts regarding solar storms. This is a great way to follow up and keep informed. (Dr. Skov is better looking than Phil ... hihi).

## Club Election Report

N4UZZ

At the November 2025 meeting of the club elections were held. One position, Public Information Officer, was open due to the retirement of Jim Norris. All other officers agreed to serve another year and ran unopposed.

The current slate of office holders who were elected by unanimous acclamation are:

<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>



For Public Information Officer, Gene "Sparks" Simmons, KK4IB, and Jim Gardner, K4JKG, were nominated during the October meeting. At the November meeting, Gene "Sparks" Simmons withdrew his acceptance of nomination for the office, leaving Jim Gardner, K4KJG, the sole candidate who was elected by acclamation.

The Board also has four Director positions that serve staggered terms. This year, none of the Directors were up for election. The current Directors and their terms are:

<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>

In 2026 Director 1 and Director 4 will be up for election.

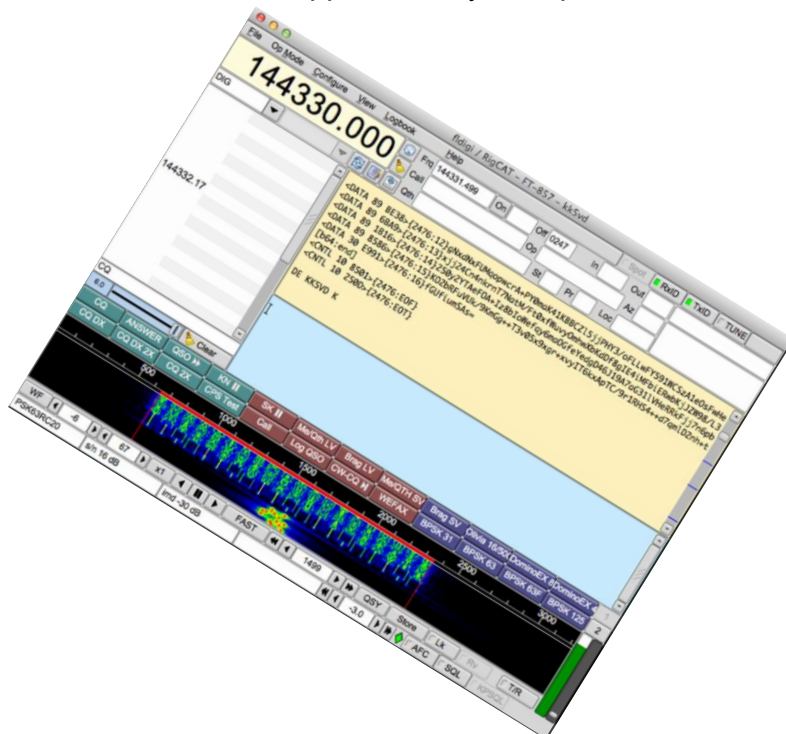




## Montgomery County ARES Digital Emcomm Net Thursdays

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 sometime after 7:00 PM LT but no later than 8:00 pm local time and leave the station running in the designated digital mode. After that, they can leave their station unattended because all net procedures involve automatic exchanges that require no further operator input.

The net will conclude at approximately 9:00 pm local time after net control sends a request to the station at the Red Cross to list all stations heard.



The digital station has excellent range due to its antenna placement about 20 feet above the roof of the Red Cross building. We have had check-ins from North Prattville, Millbrook, Pike Road, and Ramer.

Stations can send a signal report request to the Red Cross station at any time.

The MGM-ARES groups.io files area has a one-page cheat sheet on how to set up your radio for this digital net. It also gives a list of basic commands such as requesting a signal report.

The file is password protected. If you do not have the password, you can email me at [memarc840@gmail.com](mailto:memarc840@gmail.com) and request it.

## 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.
- 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
- Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM local time the Montgomery County ARES Net meets on the 146.84 W4AP repeater to discuss topics of preparedness.
- MGM-ARES runs a digital net Thursday nights 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM CT. Details are available by request to [memarc840@gmail.com](mailto: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 October 2025

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

Dec 3, 2025	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Dec 10, 2025	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Dec 17, 2025	Sommer's Place, 7972 VDechn Road near VDechn & Taylor
Dec 24, 2025	Full Moon BBQ, 7660 Eastchase Pkwy, Montgomery, AL 36117
Dec 31, 2025	Slim Chickens 9035 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>The Hams for Lambs Net</b>	Christian fellowship meets every Sunday at 7:00 PM CT on 146.84 W4AP
<b>MGM-ARES Digital Net</b>	every Thursday 8:00 PM – 9:15 PM CT <a href="mailto:memarc840@gmail.com">memarc840@gmail.com</a>
<b>Central Ala UHF Net</b>	Mondays (except club meeting nights) 8:00 PM 444.500 W4AP

**Club Breakfast** Sat, Dec 13, 2025 starting at 7:00 AM  
Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road,

**Club Meeting** **Christmas Party**  
**Mon, Dec 15, 2025, 7:00 PM**  
**Chinese Feast Buffet 5831 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL 36117**

**CAVEC Testing** Mon, Dec 8, 2025, 6:30 pm  
Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland,  
9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117

**ARRL-VE Testing** Sat, Dec 27, 2025, 9:00 AM, Renfroe Food Market Chantilly Corner  
Pre-registration required [Lewin.nyman@gmail.com](mailto:Lewin.nyman@gmail.com)

For details on all events: go to [w4ap.org](http://w4ap.org)  
Scroll down to the club calendar, click on any event for details

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

### Club Officers:

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