

# Zero Beat



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Established 1938

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## ***SO MUCH HAPPENING!***



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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. There is an “Easter Egg” in this issue! Be the first to spot it and win a N9TAX Slim Jim VHF/UHF rollup antenna with connector of your choice. 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 ☰**



# **Join the Fun!**

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

## So Much Happening!

*A quick rundown of the events for the next few weeks!*

N4UZZ

So much is happening in the next few weeks that we are presenting a brief summary with all the opportunities to get involved and have some fun!

- **Saturday, October 5, 2024 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM CT the ARES S.E.T.** The simulated emergency test. Simulated traffic about major flooding, roads closing, bridges collapsing, shelters opened. Directed net from the Montgomery County EMA on the 84 repeater by KK4IB, another on the 310 KC4EMG repeater for Elmore County. K4LIA will be at the Autauga EMA. Use your imagination and make up a report.
- **Saturday, October 12, 2024 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM Red Cross Antenna Raising Party** On the roof, 40-ft fiberglass mast with a 75m dipole, 60m dipole (with standoffs), and 40m dipole in fan-dipole config. New radio Yaesu FT-991A with wide range auto tuner MFJ-993B. Antenna is resonant on 75m, 60m, 40m, and usable (with tuner) on 20m, 17m, 15m, and 10m. Not usable on 30m.
- **Saturday, October 19, 2024 all day – Scout Jamboree at Camp Tuckabatchee.** Two radio stations operated to get scouts excited about amateur radio.
- **Saturday, October 19, 2024, all day – Glassner Autumn Challenge Bicycle Ride.** 600 riders going up to 100 miles through South Montgomery County. Ham radio operators will be at rest stops and patrol sections of the roads. N4UZZ organizes ham radio volunteers.
- **Saturday, October 26, 2024, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM** Trial balloon launch into stratosphere with APRS tracking and (hopefully) recovery. Launch at Wetumpka Sports Complex, Hwy 14, just west of US Hwy 231. Everyone is invited. Elmore County School District STEM students will be involved. Rain date Nov 2.
- **Friday, November 8, 2024, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM** Balloon launch at Wetumpka Sports Complex with the Elmore County School District high school students. APRS tracking, and hopefully, recovery of the payload.
- **Saturday, November 9, 2024 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM HAMFEST at Shriner’s Temple,** 555 East Blvd, doors open to the public at 8:30 AM. Main door prize is a Gonset Communicator. Hourly door prizes, certificates, forum presentations.
- **Go to [w4ap.org](http://w4ap.org) for more information on the hamfest.**

## Club Officer Nominations

N4UZZ

Under the terms of the new bylaws, we will nominate club officers and directors for 2025 at the upcoming October meeting.

For clarification, officers are the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and public information officer. The directors are board members who serve staggering terms and are only on the board for their judgment, wisdom, and commitment to the club. Directors used to be called trustees, but we abolished that title because it caused confusion with the position of FCC license trustee, which is a person that is appointed by the president.



Our current Board is:

### 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>Trent Davis KV4UZ (2024 - 2028)</b>
<b>Director 2:</b>	<b>Philip Salley K4PO (2022 - 2026)</b>
<b>Director 3:</b>	<b>Fred Springall KR4YK (2023 - 2027)</b>
<b>Director 4:</b>	<b>Mac McWhorter (2024 - 2025)</b>

All officers and one Director, Mac KO4UWY, are up for re-election.

Nominations will close at the end of the October club meeting. The November club meeting will have the election.

Otto  
73 de N4UZZ  
Club President



## Get on HF On A Budget

N4UZZ

Would you like to get on HF on a budget? Here is your chance! Right now there are two listings on eBay by highly reputable dealers that advertise Kenwood TS-120 HF 100 watt radios at incredibly low prices. There are more listings like this all the time.



This beautiful fully working Kenwood TS-120 is the kind of basic radio we can afford and that will get us on the air with a budget. At an incredible price - \$ 250.00 – and free shipping. There are two listings on eBay like this, and more are popping up all the time.

This is a basic radio that will allow you to work all over the country on 40m and all over the world on 20m. With just an endfed thrown over trees, you can have a great signal, participate in traffic nets, state QSO parties, and hunt POTA stations. BTW, a friend of mine works the world with his endfed 6 feet off the ground attached to his fence. He has worked Antarctica, South Africa, Japan, Guam.



A nice endfed antenna can use one of the TennTennas endfed transformers which runs about \$ 45.00. All you need to do is add 132 feet of wire to it and your coax, and you are in business.

If you pick up some coax at the upcoming hamfest, or you just decide to order 100 feet of RG8X from Dx Engineering, 50 feet will cost about \$ 65.00, and 100 feet will run about \$ 91.00. So for about \$ 380.00 you will have set up a complete HF station.

The Kenwood TS-120 is a very simple, basic radio but has full 100 watts in power output. There is hardly anything at all that can go wrong with these radios, and lots of them are still around, being used by hams every day.

A great chance to take advantage of the upcoming high of the solar cycle!

## What to do when the repeater is down?

### A proposal for a talk-about frequency

Fred, KR4YK

Consider this scenario:

We have a major disaster that takes out all of the power and does severe physical damage to the Bald Knob site. Many cell sites are offline and the ones that are operational are totally overloaded. Your road is totally blocked with debris including downed power lines and you are basically stuck at the house.



How would you make contact with other hams?

It is likely that you would try a simplex frequency, but which one?

There is an often-overlooked simple solution and it is called “Talk Around”. It is a common feature on commercial and governmental radio systems. This method uses the repeater output frequency (in simplex mode) and requires no tones. Just program the output frequency directly into an unused channel and name it something like T/A 84. Make sure that the automatic repeater offset function is turned off when this is being programmed. You will be able to talk with any other station within range provided they have this programmed in their radio. If you leave your radio on the normal repeater channel you can hear other stations within range, but you will not be able to talk to them. You will be able to tell when the repeater is back in operation because you will hear the squelch tail and automatic ID every 10 minutes.

I am proposing that we designate 146.840 simplex as the go to frequency in case of a widespread outage. We can discuss this at a future club meeting.

73, KR4YK

## Glassner Memorial Autumn Challenge

Otto Arnoscht, N4UZZ

The Glassner Memorial Autumn Challenge will take place October 19, 2024 starting at 7:00 AM and ending around 5:00 PM.



Starting and ending at Alabama State University's football stadium, the courses will again take the riders into South Montgomery County. The course will have eight rest stops. In a change from previous years, the longest ride will no longer pass by Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church and will not run along Gardner Road or Long Road or pass Red's Little School House. Instead, the riders will proceed east on Meriwether Trail and turn north onto Huffman Road towards Dublin, cross Hwy 94 and proceed north on Mt. Zion Road to Gibson. They will then come south on Mt. Lebanon Rd to Hwy 94 where they will proceed to Ramer.

The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club has provided communications and coordination assistance to this effort every year. We are seeking volunteers to man the rest stops and to provide rover and sweeper duties during the ride. This is one of our great community service projects. Thankfully, we have always had volunteers to do the job. We will use the 147.18 repeater on the top of the Ramer water tower.

The ride will have challenging intersections and points where traffic will be a concern.

- Crossing South Blvd on Woodley Road
- Crossing Hwy 331 at Hobbie Road, a dangerous intersection that was the subject of a recent news report
- Crossing Hwy 31 twice near Pintlala
- Crossing Hwy 331 where State Hwy 94 leads to Ramer
- Crossing Hwy 94 in Dublin and joining Hwy 94 westbound towards Ramer

The Montgomery Bicycle Club has several Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies who will assist, but they cannot cover the entire route. We will serve as communications link between the deputies and the ride officials.

Handhelds should provide good signals into the repeater for much of the course and most of the rest stops.

Please register as volunteers. Google "Glassner Autumn Challenge" then select GLASSNER, then VOLUNTEER FORM then scroll down to HAM RADIO OPERATOR and fill out the form. Disregard time and location specifications. We will coordinate coverage among ourselves and then let them know who will be where.

## Local Nets You May Want to Know About

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 October 2024

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

Oct 2, 2024	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Oct 9, 2024	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Oct 16, 2024	Sommer's Place, 7972 VOcthn Road near VOcthn & Taylor
Oct 23, 2024	Full Moon Bar-B-Que, 7660 Eastchase Pkwy, Montgomery, AL 36117
Oct 30, 2024	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>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 Oct 19, 2024
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Mon, Oct 21, 2024, 7:00 PM, American Red Cross Building 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery, AL 36106</b>
<b>CAVEC Testing</b>	Mon, Oct 14, 2024, 6:30 pm Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland, 9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117
<b>ARRL-VE Testing</b>	Sat, Oct 26, 2024 9:00 AM, Renfroe Food Market Chantilly Corner Pre-registration required <a href="mailto:Lewin.nyman@gmail.com">Lewin.nyman@gmail.com</a>
<b>Foxhunt</b>	No foxhunt this month

### Other regular club events:

Radio at the Park	No Radio at the Park this month
Club Station Operations	No club station operation this month
For details on all events:	go to <a href="http://w4ap.org">w4ap.org</a> Scroll down to the club calendar

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

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