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WINLINK AND THE S.E.T.

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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!

Go to w4ap.org click on JOIN/RENEW

Mobiles click top left menu button 

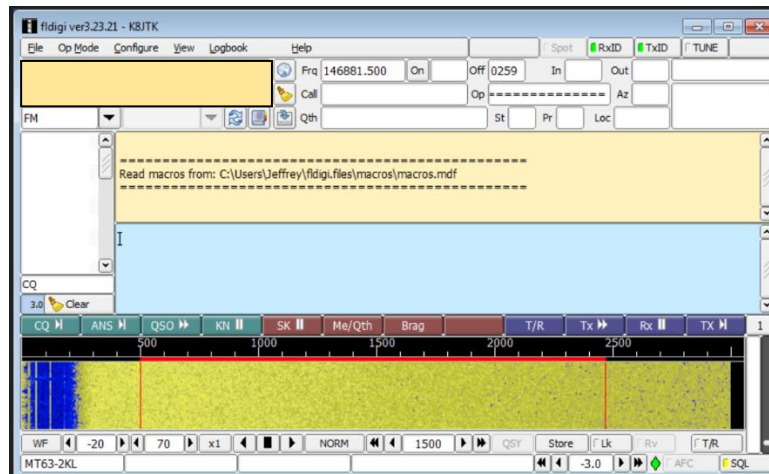


Help keep amateur radio flourishing in Central Alabama for education, discovery, public service, and great fellowship!



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

Internet and EMCOMM

Get a New Player: The Tesla Pi Tablet

N4UZZ

From MNNEWS:

In a groundbreaking announcement that has sent shockwaves through the tech world, Elon Musk has unveiled the highly anticipated Tesla Starlink Pi tablet, priced at an astonishingly low \$157. This revolutionary device, equipped with space-grade technology, promises to redefine connectivity for the masses like never before. While competitors like Apple charge over \$1,000 for basic connectivity, Tesla is delivering satellite internet from space for less than \$200—a game changer for consumers fed up with exorbitant data plans and unreliable service.



This isn't just a budget tablet; it's a lifeline for those in remote areas and underserved communities. The Starlink integration ensures connectivity without the need for traditional fiber lines, making it a vital tool for farmers, students, and families in rural regions. With solar charging capabilities and a monthly service fee of just \$10, the Pi tablet stands to benefit millions, providing a critical resource for education and emergency communication.

Due to a large number of low-orbit satellites, Starlink can maintain connections through adverse weather. However, heavy rain and thunderstorm cells can cause brief reductions in connection quality and speed.

With a purchase price under \$ 200.00 and full internet connectivity for \$ 10.00 per month, this is an amazing advance in technology. When ground-based infrastructure is impacted by severe weather, Starlink can serve as an EMCOMM lifeline during recovery.

More Volunteers Needed For the Hamfest!

N4UZZ



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 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 stuff you cannot find online at prices you cannot find online! Connectors, adaptors, wires, antennas, jumpers, cables, tubing, tools, pliers, tweezers.



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! Sign up on line!

Go to: <https://ethercalc.net/ftw16zisp0tq>

(address contains numbers one and zero, and no letters l or o)

See who has volunteered already and what positions still need volunteers!



Volunteers needed for Glassner Bicycle Ride Saturday, Oct 18, 2025, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM CT

Volunteers are needed for the annual Glassner Autumn Challenge ride that proceeds from the Alabama State University stadium through Montgomery County. Volunteers will man rest stops and patrol sectors.

You do not have to volunteer for the entire day. Just let me know how long you can volunteer and what your preferred location and duty is. I will do my best to accommodate. In the past we have been successful accommodating specific requests from volunteers. Some rest stops are only open for a couple of hours in the morning; others will be open late in the afternoon.

When you sign up to volunteer, please do so online with the Bicycle Club.

Go to: <https://www.mgmbikeclub.org/Glassner.html>

Glassner > 2025 Volunteer Form
Scroll down to Ham Radio Operator.

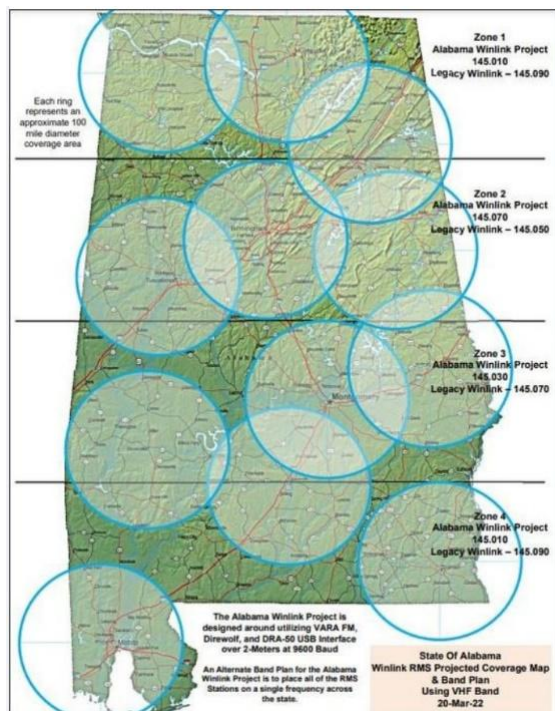
Then email me at CASKYWARN@GMAIL.COM with your requests and the times you can volunteer. Also let me know if you have a pick-up truck that can transport broken down riders back to ASU.

Local Winlink RMS Station Is Now Operational on Baptist Tower

N4UZZ



The State ARRL had received grant from a California foundation to install VHF Winlink RMS stations all over the state, and to give local operators mobile Winlink stations. We received a mobile VHF Winlink FM station two years ago, and installation at Baptist tower for the RMS station began.



There was little further activity in getting the RMS station going until Mike, WX4AL, pressed State ARRL officials to get the installation completed so it could be used for the SET, the Simulated Emergency Test, this coming October. They responded and have completed the installation.

Winlink RMS station KQ4DKA-5 is now operational on 145.030 MHz. I have only connected to it in the WIDEFM mode. The RMS station uses the VARA FM modem which is very fast.

We will use this Winlink resource to send and receive messages during the SET which is set for October 25, 2025 (a weekend with no home games for Auburn or

Alabama).

We are planning on holding Winlink P2P practice sessions in the coming months to become more proficient with this mode and to take advantage of the speed of the VARA FM modem.

Alabama Section S.E.T. Set for October 25, 2025

N4UZZ

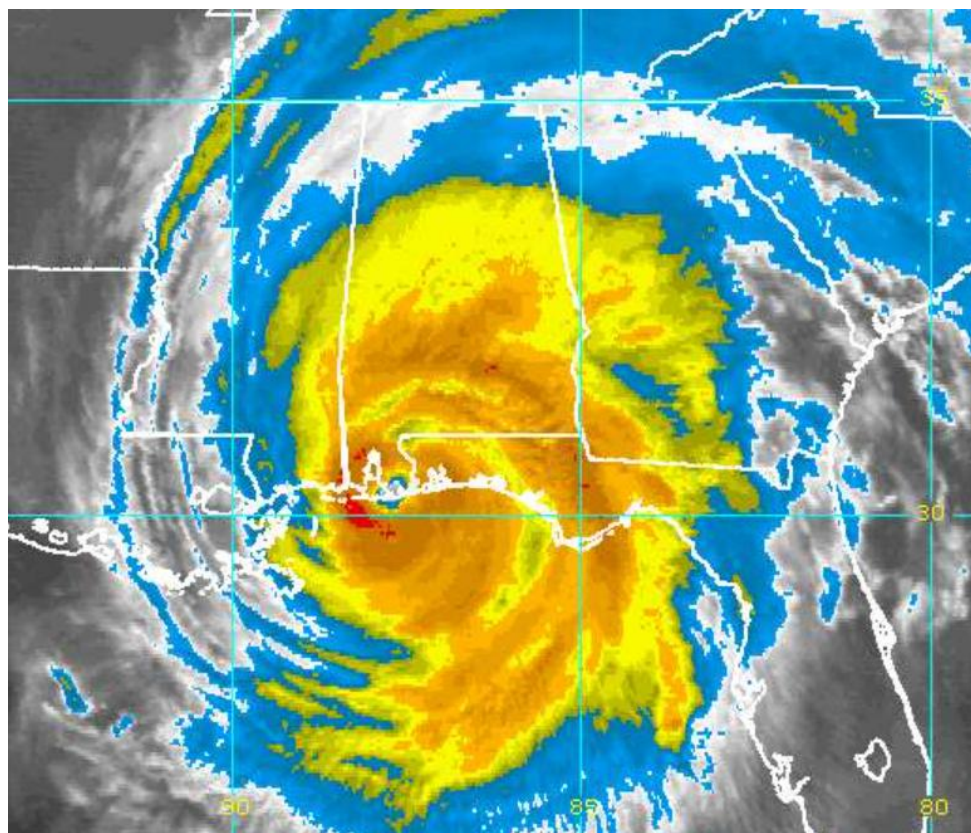
The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) for the Alabama Section is set for Saturday, October 25, 2025. During this exercise, we exchange messages related to a simulated disaster. For this year, the scenario is a hurricane moving through the state in a north-easterly direction from

Mobile to Anniston, disabling electric power, internet, and cellular services.

In Central Alabama, we will call an ARES Net from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM CT.

During that time we will pass as many simulated disaster messages and situation reports as possible.

Messages can include: reports of flooding, residents stranded, motorists stranded, persons reporting to shelters, persons being transported to hospitals, hospitals accepting patients, damage



Hurricane Ivan making landfall in Alabama, 2004.

to structures, gas stations open or closed, wind damage.

On the next page is the SET reporting form. Looking at the items on that form, you can see how to maximize our score. All our hams have mobile stations in our cars and can therefore operate on emergency power. All our repeaters have generator backup. We have a traffic net liaison. Dual membership is encouraged as is Skywarn training. We will use digital modes. And yes, we do have an ARRL Public Information Officer. So you see, we are ahead of the game. All we need to do is maximize the number of amateurs participating.

The SET score card:

		Points
A. Number of amateurs who participated in the test	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
B. Number of new amateurs (licensed since 2021) participating	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
C. Number of formal 3rd party written traffic messages originated or delivered during the SET on behalf of served agencies	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
D. Were TACTICAL communications conducted on behalf of served agencies?	1 hour or more, score 20 points: <input type="radio"/> 1/2 hour to 1 hour, score 10: <input type="radio"/> less than 1/2 hour, score 5: <input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
E. Number of stations on emergency power during the test	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
F. Number of emergency-powered repeaters used during the test	<input type="text" value="0"/> Give call signs of repeaters: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G. Is dual membership in ARES and AUXCOMM (RACES in some parts of the country) actively encouraged?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
H. Are ARES members encouraged to take SKYWARN training and participate in SKYWARN Nets?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
I. Was liaison maintained during the SET with an NTS section or local net?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/> Give call signs of station(s) performing liaison: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
J. Was liaison maintained during the SET with a NWS office for SKYWARN, local or State EOC, MARS or NGOs (such as American Red Cross, Salvation Army etc.)?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/> Give call signs of station(s) performing liaison: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
K. Were digital modes utilized at any time during the exercise?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/> Name the digital modes utilized: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
L. Number of different agencies for which communications were handled	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
M. Number of communities in which agencies were contacted.	<input type="text" value="0"/> Name the community(ies) served: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
N. Was a press release submitted?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/> If YES, attach copy. (PDF, DOC(X) or TXT only) <input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen	<input type="text"/>
O. Bonus: Is your group represented by an ARRL Public Information Officer?	Yes: <input checked="" type="radio"/> No: <input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total Number of Points		<input type="text"/>

We can check off a whole bunch of items before we even get started.

Last year our joint effort with Elmore and Autauga Counties led the state, and the state led the nation. This is a great way to demonstrate our preparedness for disaster and ability to support the EMA, the Red Cross, and other agencies.

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 September 2025

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

Sep 3, 2025	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Sep 10, 2025	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Sep 17, 2025	Sommer's Place, 7972 VSeahn Road near VSeahn & Taylor
Sep 24, 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, Sep 13, 2025 starting at 7:00 AM
Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road,

Club Meeting **Mon, Sep 15, 2025, 7:00 PM**
Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery AL 36106

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

ARRL-VE Testing Sat, Sep 27, 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)