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CLUB MEETING NEW LOCATION

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

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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!

The ZeroBeat Returns: A Word from the Editor

The ZeroBeat is back! As most of you know, my wife Tara had been in declining health for some time. She passed away in May. I had to step back from many amateur radio involvements.

I want to thank all the members of the club that have expressed their condolences and their readiness to help me in any way necessary. Thank you for being there for me!

And now it is time to pick up the pieces and get back into the swing of things. My wife would want nothing else for me. So, the ZeroBeat is back, I am attending more lunchbunches and am enjoying the camaraderie of moving furniture and antennas from the Red Cross to Frazer Church.

This ZeroBeat is full of vital information about the next two club meetings, where and when they will be held, and how to get to the new meeting place. You will love the new setting. I am especially excited about no longer needing to drag the projector screen around ... Frazer has these big TV screens for our presentations.

Again, many thanks, and it's good to be back!

Otto
73 de N4UZZ





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!



ARES Net Now on UHF

The ARES Net is now on UHF, on the "dot-five" repeater. We are not publicizing the exact frequency so that casual outsiders cannot interfere with our net. (We would appreciate if you do not mention the frequency on the air.) If you are unsure of the frequency or wish to be added to the Montgomery ARES email list, send an email to Mac KO4UWY at Montgomery.AL.ares@gmail.com.

The ARES Net meets every Thursday at 7:30 pm local time except for the fourth Thursday of the month when we have no net. On the fourth Thursday of the month, we meet in person at 7:00 pm local time at the Montgomery Emergency Management Agency at 911 Communications Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36104. You can get to the EMA by going North on Ripley Street past the police station and then turn right on Communications Parkway near the Montgomery Sanitation Department lot.

Every week the ARES Net has discussions to educate ham radio operators about emergency preparedness and EMCOMM procedures. We regularly practice simplex communications and message relaying. We discuss severe weather, equipment needed for extended outages, and how we interact with the EMA. Every week hams share tips and tricks of emergency preparedness such as battery charging, use of generators, and home-built antennas. We are very fortunate to have an extremely supportive EMA staff that look upon amateur radio as an important communications alternative in the event of total blackouts. We are establishing a digital VHF station at the EMA as well as an HF station for long-range communications.

Join us on Thursday nights and contribute to the public service that amateur radio can provide in emergency communications.

Mac, 73 de KO4UWY

September Club Meeting Will Be At Frazer Free Methodist Church



Entering the Frazer Church compound from Atlanta Highway, turn left to park. Walk to the East Entrance (big double doors). On the wall to the left of the door is a sign "4000" and to the right of the door "3000".

A member of MARC will let you in at the East Entrance. Do not go to any other doors because they will be locked. After you enter, the meeting room is very close on the ground floor. If you are lost, contact us on 52 simplex. We will be monitoring.

**The August meeting will be
at the Red Cross Building.**

Planned Club Activities for 2026 (Updated August 1, 2026)



SET – Simulated Emergency Test Sat Oct 10, 2026

All day operators will report simulated emergency traffic and check into nets. Logs and reports will be furnished to the ARRL.

Glassner Autumn Challenge Sat Oct 24, 2026

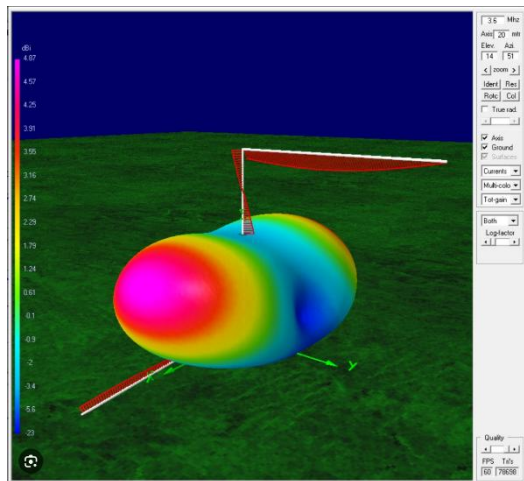
We provide communications for the Glassner ride through South Montgomery County.

Hamfest Sat Nov 14, 2026

Our hamfest continues to be a great success every year!

Additional events: Monthly club meetings, Christmas Party in December, monthly ARES meetings.

A Note about the August Club Meeting



How is an inverted-V different from a flat-top dipole?
What kinds of radiation patterns does an end-fed antenna have? How does an off-center-fed dipole radiate? Does a dipole have directionality? How does a vertical compare to a dipole?

We will explore these questions and more at the August 17 meeting of MARC at the Red Cross, using 4NEC2 antenna modeling to show just how the various wire antennas will radiate. Come join us!



Skywarn is now on UHF!

Skywarn has moved to UHF. The Skywarn Net is now meeting on the Bald Knob W4AP UHF repeater at the usual time, Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM CT. The net has storm spotter training, coordination, as well as check-ins.

We are keeping the new Skywarn frequencies confidential. We are not mentioning the new frequencies on the air! When on the air, simply refer to the “Skywarn repeater frequency” or the “Skywarn simplex frequency.” Anyone who would like to join the Skywarn group email list or get further details about Central Ala. Skywarn, contact me at caskywarn@gmail.com

Membership in the Skywarn Group

Members in the Skywarn email group on groups.io get regular **Skywarn WX Bulletins**. These are either marked as *Routine* or as *Special*. Routine bulletins are those that contain no warnings of any severe weather events and cover a time period during which storm spotter activation is not expected. These *Routine* bulletins are designed to keep members aware of the bigger weather picture for the next seven days. *Routine* bulletins are issued on Thursdays.

Special bulletins are issued whenever needed to alert members about possible severe weather

in the future – usually one to three days out. *Special* bulletins attempt to provide specific forecast details about the timing of front passage, severity and nature of weather threat.



Skywarn WX Bulletin – Special
01/24/2026 17:05 PM CST

A front will pass through Central Ala on Sunday 01/25/2026 at 2PM CT with possible svr t-storms and tornadoes (probability less than 5%)

An example of a recent Special Skywarn WX Bulletin.

All bulletins are extremely condensed, very brief executive summaries that give essential information in one or two sentences and a map. They are designed to give the reader the information they need at a glance.



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 and beaconing 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.

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.
- 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, 7:00 PM Skywarn Net on UHF. Weather topics. Storm spotter training. Contact the net manager at caskywarn@gmail.com to join.
- Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM local time the Montgomery County ARES Net meets on UHF to discuss topics of preparedness. Contact Mac Montgomery.AL.ares@gmail.com
- MGM-ARES runs a digital net Thursday nights 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM CT. Details are available by request to Montgomery.AL.ares@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 2026

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

Aug 5, 2026	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Aug 12, 2026	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Aug 19, 2026	Fried Tomato Buffet, 6561 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL 36117
Aug 26, 2026	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
MGM-ARES Meeting	every fourth Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM, Red Cross Bldg
Skywarn Net	every Thurs 7:00 PM except fourth Thur of the month, caskywarn@gmail.com
MGM-ARES Digital Net	every Thursday 8:00 PM – 9:15 PM montgomery.county.ares@gmail.com
Central Ala UHF Net	Mondays (except club meeting nights) 8:00 PM 444.500 W4AP
Club Breakfast	Sat, Aug 15, 2026, starting at 7:00 AM Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road,
Club Meeting	Mon, Aug 17, 2026, 7:00 PM American Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery, AL 36106
CAVEC Testing	Temporarily suspended due to closure of Renfroe's Foodland

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/>
MARC Business page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586661405752>

Club Officers:

President:	Otto Arnoscht N4UZZ
Vice-President:	Ken Brittin AK4KN
Treasurer:	Fidel Cintron KK4KGO
Secretary:	Dennis Egbert K4PDQ
Public Information Officer:	James Garner K4JKG
Director 1:	Philip Salley K4PO (2022 - 2026)
Director 2:	Fred Springall KR4YK (2023 - 2027)
Director 3:	Mac McWhorter KO4UWY (2026 – 2029)
Director 4:	Jerome Goddard II W4IJG (2026 – 2026)