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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 and letters to the editor are welcome!



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Join the Fun!

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

Montgomery Hamfest

N4UZZ

We are back at the Alcazar Shrine Temple for our annual hamfest on Nov. 9, 2024. Doors open at 8:30 AM. The grand prize is an Icom ID-5100. We have great food and lots of chances to meet up and chew the fat with old friends over a delicious burger, hot dog, or their special nachos covered in cheese sauce!



Tower Electronics will be there so you can load up on all kinds of connectors, heat shrink tubing, antennas, and special wire tools. There will be a tailgate area in the parking lot where some people have already indicated they will unload free stuff!

Admission is \$ 10.00, and tables are still available for you to sell things you no longer need.

Forum presentations are the usual:

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Repeater Council
- 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM The Alabama Day Net and Traffic Net Mike
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 NN Launching Weather Balloons and APRS tracking
- 12:00 NN – 1:00 PM Montgomery County ARES

At 1:00 PM we have the drawing for the grand prize. You must be present to win. This way you can spend the entire time at the hamfest buying stuff!

The hamfest has a special section on our w4ap.org website. You can find all the details there. And yes, we will have VE testing from 9:00 AM on until about 10:30 AM.

Club Officer Elections

N4UZZ

We will hold club officer and board member elections during the November meeting of MARC.

The candidates for this election are:

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:	Jerome Goddard W4IJG (2025 - 2029)
Director 4:	Mac McWhorter (2025 - 2029)



Directors 2 and 3 (Phil Salley K4PO and Fred Springall KR4YK) have agreed to continue their service to the club and are not subject to election this year.



All candidates for election are unopposed as there are no other persons nominated for officer positions or Director positions. You are invited to come and vote! It is as American as apple pie!

For clarification, officers are the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and public information officer. The directors are board members who serve staggered 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.

Come join us at the November club meeting. We will have the elections as well as the first preliminary reports on how we did at the hamfest. We will also decide where to hold the Christmas Party.



“HF on a Budget”, Well, Mostly

Ben Venable, KE4GFI

In the October issue of Zer0 Beat, N4UZZ had an article about the Kenwood TS-120 that had been found on eBay along with the TennTennas end fed wire antenna. After reading this, I went to eBay to look for said radio and only found one or two for sale that were in Japan. The TS-120 had already sold but there was a TS-430, a bit more in price. I bit the bullet and did the Buy It Now. The seller then offered that he had a matching PS-50 power supply and the SP-430 that matched if I was interested and – turned out – he also had the matching AT-250 tuner. We struck a deal for the whole package.

The TennTennas end fed transformer and 100 feet of RG8x were promptly ordered as was a stop to Walmart for 100 feet of 16-gauge speaker wire. Within a week I had a complete Kenwood setup. After receiving the gear and downloading the instruction and service manuals, I realized I needed an RG8 patch cable from the radio to the antenna tuner and the correct 8 Din cable which allowed the radio to interface with the AT. Back to the internet I went along with a stop at Home Depot for some odd and end connectors and a few other items. After all of this I was still out a mic, the one I had ordered did not work and was returned. Emailing back and forth with Otto about my project, he mentioned that he had a Kenwood mic for the 430S, I took him up on that offer. Thank you, Otto! When the 8 Din came in it was a bit of a chore to get the cable inserted in both the AT and the radio. The vintage 80s plastic just didn't have the give that it once had and I wound up breaking some of the connector, however the connection still worked, and the AT now tunes the end fed half wave speaker wire antenna along my fence (HOA approved naturally) across multiple bands. Otto's \$380 article, in true HAM fashion, became about \$800 for me, but I enjoyed putting this complete Kenwood station together. It isn't perfect with some tuning issues to be ironed out on the radio, but it works as expected.

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 Autumn Challenge

N4UZZ



The Glassner autumn Challenge bicycle ride through southern Montgomery County went off without a hitch. We had a strong group of volunteers that practiced excellent communications and kept careful track of the riders. It was a demonstration of outstanding community service and emcomm capabilities.

This was a first-class team effort.

A shout-out to the folks who helped:

- Frankie N4FLB and Violet KN4SBC, who – along with Warren KE4ITL – undertook the task of following the last riders to the finish line.
- Charles KD4AXP who held down the fort at Pintlala Baptist Church with his wife LuAnne.
- Fred KR4YK, Tom WE4AU, and Tom KS4TOM, who made sure the Ramer rest stop was in the loop.
- Jeri W4CRS, Dennis K4PDQ, and Dave KK4GNG who handled the early morning shift on Woodley Road and Snowdown, along with KC4AV Randy and KG4EVC Carla.
- KO4UWY Mac and K4JLN Jim who worked Snowdown Baptist Church.
- AK4NG George and AK4NF Nancy who ran the Friendship rest stop comms.
- KJ6MTJ John who helped patrol the “hinterlands”.



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 November 2024

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

Nov 6, 2024	Pizza Perfect, 428 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36109
Nov 13, 2024	San Marcos, 61 N Burbank Dr, Montgomery AL 36117
Nov 20, 2024	Sommer's Place, 7972 Vaughn Road near Vaughn & Taylor
Nov 27, 2024	Full Moon Bar-B-Que, 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
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
Club Breakfast	Chappy's, Carmichael at Perry Hill Road, 7:00 AM Nov 16, 2024
Club Meeting	Mon, Nov 18, 2024, 7:00 PM, American Red Cross Building 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery, AL 36106
CAVEC Testing	Mon, Nov 11, 2024, 6:30 pm Community Room, Renfroe's Foodland, 9168 East Chase Parkway Montgomery, AL 36117
ARRL-VE Testing	Sat, Nov 30, 2024 9:00 AM, Renfroe Food Market Chantilly Corner Pre-registration required Lewin.nyman@gmail.com
Foxhunt	No foxhunt this month
HAMFEST	Sat, Nov 9, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM CT

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 w4ap.org Scroll down to the club calendar

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

Club Officers:

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