

Z E R Ø BEAT

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

JIM MEACHAM KK4A

Vice-President:

WAYNE GENTRY AA4BL

Sec./Treasurer:

ROGER LITTLEFIELD KK4BM

Publicity Officer:

KEN COPELAND KK4GA

Trustees:

FRANK GOLDEN W4DQF

RANDY SMITH N4KTX

BOBBY CHANDLER N4AU

PETE SIDES W4AUP

REPEATERS/CUSTODIANS

146.32/92 MONTGOMERY, AL

WAYNE GENTRY AA4BL

146.24/84 WETUMPKA, AL

TOMMY GARRETT KK4AP

147.78/18 GRADY, AL

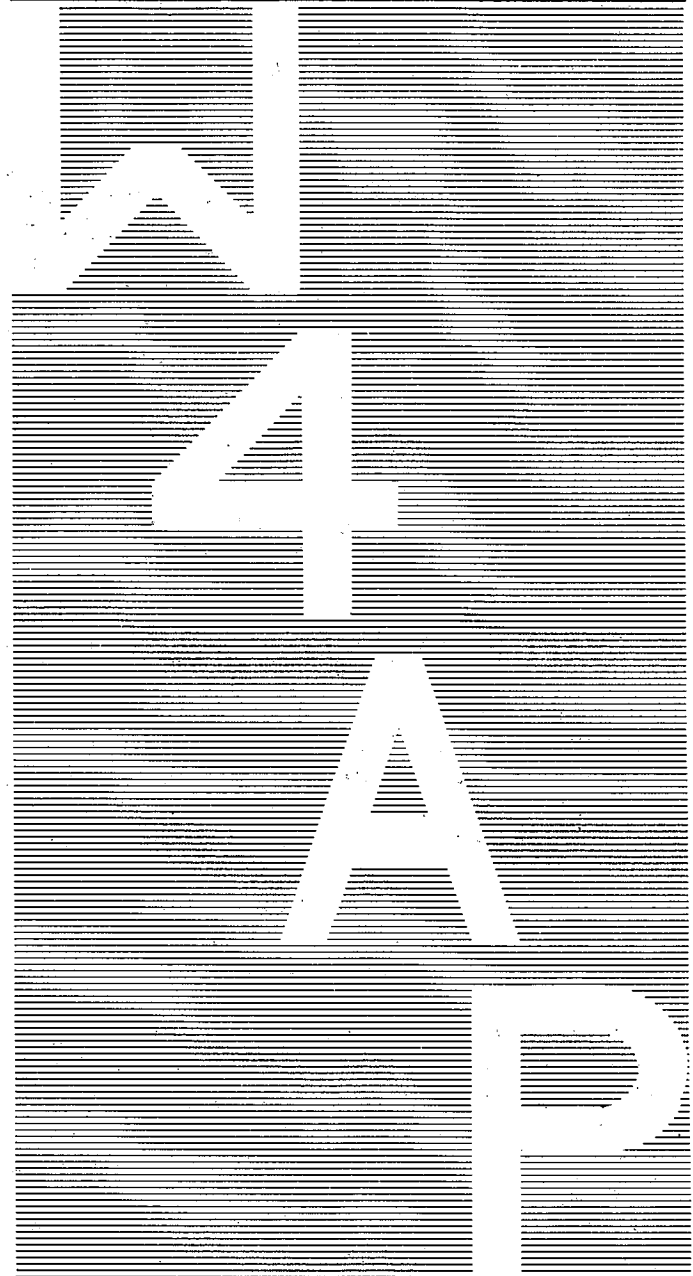
ROLAND TOWNLEY K4BOJ

145.01/DIGI WETUMPKA, AL

TOMMY GARRETT KK4AP

444.5/449.5 WETUMPKA, AL

BOBBY CHANDLER N4AU



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

MARC

MONTGOMERY AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB, INC. P. O. BOX 3141
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36109

MAR 87

OFFICERS FOR 1987

Officers for 1987 were elected during the December 1986 meeting and the results can be seen on the front cover of this newsletter. As you can see, all 1986 officers and trustees were re-elected for the 1987 calendar year. The Board of Directors of the MARC is now made up of the following eight individuals:

Jim Meacham, KK4A - President
Wayne Gentry, AA4BL - Vice-President
Roger Littlefield, KK4BM - Sec/Treasurer
Ken Copeland, KK4GA - Publicity Officer
Frank Golden, W4DQF - Trustee
Randy Smith, N4KTX - Trustee
Bobby Chandler, N4AU - Trustee
Pete Sides, W4AUP - Club Call Trustee

The new Board has already met and established it's first priority which is; bring all of the MARC repeaters back up to proper operating condition. I'll tell you more about that later on in this newsletter.

MONTGOMERY HAMFEST COMMITTEE

In accordance with the 1985 agreement between the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club, the Capitol City Amateur Radio Association, and the Montgomery-Tuskegee Technicians Amateur Radio Society, I have appointed the following individuals to serve on the 1987 joint hamfest committee as representatives of the MARC:

Randy Smith, N4LZK
Bob Simms, WD4BTX
Ken Copeland, KK4GA

Of course the Capitol City club is no longer in existence and the Montgomery-Tuskegee club has advised us that although they intend to support the hamfest, they will not participate in the planning, so it looks like the MARC will again be the sole sponsor of the Montgomery Hamfest. So, I hope everyone is ready to pitch in cause the three guys above can't do it all although they're off to a good start. They have already had at least one planning session; its obvious that they don't intend to waste any time.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

As I told you in the December issue of Zer0 Beat, Randy Smith, N4LZK, is our new Emergency Coordinator or EC. Randy is not letting any grass grow under his feet as you will see in the following article submitted by him.

TAKE IT AWAY RANDY

For those hams who have a burning desire or even a slight interest in the public service aspect of Amateur Radio, now is your chance to get involved. As Emergency Coordinator, I am developing ideas and formalizing plans about how we can effectively respond to the need for communications during times of emergency in the Montgomery area.

There are two timely articles in the February 1987 issue of QST. First, "1986: REAFFIRMING AMATEUR RADIO'S OBJECTIVES" addresses the commitment of Amateur Radio to the public as stated in FCC Rules Part 97. With proper organization and coordination, we as members of the MARC and the amateur radio community, have the capability to provide a valuable service to the Montgomery and central Alabama area. If properly prepared, we could possibly have an opportunity to save lives in times of disaster.

The second article, "THE MINITURIZED, SIMPLIFIED LONDON TONE ALERT" describes a tone decoder that could be used to alert amateurs in emergency situations. With a system established to send a particular tone over one of the local repeaters in times of emergency, such a decoder could alert amateurs without having to continuously monitor the repeater. The new repeater controller for 24/84 could easily be used to a great advantage here. This is just one of many possibilities. What about more ideas ?

In addition, the program for the March club meeting will be presented by Mr. Pettit of the National Weather Service. This is a program that you do not want to miss. Some very important training and information will be presented such that we can be effective storm spotters and be able to respond properly during times of severe weather. Even if you do not want to be on the front lines during weather emergencies, the information presented may possibly save your life by knowing how to respond. Pass the word and do not miss the March meeting.

If you are interested in serving during times of emergency and/or public service events, please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to my attention at the MARC address. This form will be used to build a data base with those who wish to participate in an emergency communications service. More information will be provided in future articles.

See you on one of the MARC repeaters or you may contact me by phone on weeknights at 288-5740. Of course I'll also be at most of the club meetings if you want to talk eye ball to eye ball.

73,
Randy, N4LZK

SPECIAL CODE

At the end of every newsletter I always point out that you should join or renew your ARRL membership through the MARC. This helps us maintain ARRL affiliation and also earns money for us. The MARC gets \$2 for each renewal and \$5 for each new membership. In the past we have asked that you send us your paperwork so that we could process it and get the money, but due to some problems we want to change that approach. In the future you should handle your own paperwork but we ask that you include the MARC code number on the ARRL membership or renewal form. Simply write "CREDIT AFFILIATED CLUB NO. 0763" in a clear space on the ARRL form. Pay the standard amount (currently \$25) and the MARC will receive a refund from the ARRL. It won't cost you anything, you will be sure that your application has been mailed, and you will be helping the club.

AILING REPEATERS

The MARC owns and maintains four VHF repeaters, one UHF repeater, and several digipeaters. Over the years we've been pretty successful at keeping them all playing simultaneously. Lately however, the wrath of Murphy's Law has landed square upon the MARC. If you operate above 6 meters in this town, you probably know what I'm talking about. To make a sad story short, 78/18 has only recently been put back on the air after suffering a stroke several weeks ago; 24/84 has been sounding like *?/\# for several weeks now (we suspect hemorrhoids); 32/92 (the autopatch machine) goes into convulsions every time it is turned on at its present location; and 04/64 (the Maggiorie we inherited) suffers from samitis but we still plan to put it on the air. The UHF machine is the only one that hasn't given us trouble lately.

I know this is all very frustrating to those of you who frequent our machines and I can assure you it is equally frustrating to the current officers of the MARC. I can also assure you that we are aware of all the problems and are working on solutions. Getting our repeaters back up to snuff is the number one priority of the MARC Board of Directors. Within that priority, getting 24/84 back to its normal top-notch status is ranked number 1; finding a new home for 32/92 holds the number 2 slot; and installing 04/64 on an already selected tower brings up the rear. So, please bear with us; we are working on it.

FILLER

It is extremely aggravating when typing this newsletter to find out that I have a little space left at the bottom of a page and nothing meaningful that will fit in it.

NEW REPEATER CONTROLLER

In case you don't know, the MARC is now the proud owner of a shiny new RC-850 Repeater Controller from Advanced Computer Controls. It was the subject of the program at the February club meeting. The controller will be installed on the 146.24/84 repeater as soon as we receive our certificate of insurance (thats another topic) from the ARRL. Maybe it will be on line by the time you read this. When it does go on line you will know it, because it will announce it's presence in plain, synthesized English. Just what all it will do is way beyond the scope of this article, but I intend to write an article on the controller in the next three issues of Zer@ Beat. In each article I will introduce you to some of the features of the controller and thereby bring you up to speed gently. (In the mean time, I gotta figure out how to use the dang thing).

This is the first newsletter since the membership voted to buy the RC-850. We needed \$1000 to complete the controller fund of \$2800. I was going to send out a flyer telling about the controller and asking for donations, but as of last count we only needed approximately \$275 out of the original \$1000. Since we are so close to our goal, I see no need to spend money on an additional mailing so I'll just "dunn" you right now. If you haven't already donated to the controller fund, now is your chance. We don't need much so pitch in and help put us over the top. If you've already helped, it was sincerely appreciated. If you haven't yet, but intent to, it will certainly be appreciated.

CHAMPION FUND GRANT

One of the things that enabled the MARC to purchase the new RC-850 repeater controller was a grant for \$500 from the Champion International Corporation in late December of 1986. The opportunity to apply for this grant came through Warren Bryant, N4MEC, who works for the Champion International Corporation. Warren told us last Field Day about the "Champion Fund for Community Service" which enables employees of Champion International to request monetary grants for public service oriented clubs that they are members of, provided that the club can show a need. We applied for a grant back in the Fall of 86 and subsequently received \$500. On behalf of the MARC I want to thank Warren for providing us with the opportunity to apply for the grant and the Champion International Corporation for their generosity. Both are deeply appreciated.

Oh yeah, Warren says we can apply once a year as long as we can show need. I feel sure we can show need; the problem will be deciding which of our many needs to spend the money on. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

A FOUNDING FATHER

In the March 86 issue of Zer0 Beat, I reported on the "founding fathers" of the MARC. I didn't realize that any of those guys were still around, but I was proved wrong when Robert Troy, W4AHP, showed up at the December 86 meeting of the MARC. Mr. Troy was the Vice President of the newly formed Montgomery Amateur Radio Club back in 1929. We were all delighted to see Mr. Troy and are hopeful that he will continue to attend club meetings in the future.

INSURANCE

After purchasing the RC-850 Repeater Controller, the MARC Board of Directors voted to purchase "replacement insurance" from the ARRL before putting the device on the air. It was further decided to insure "all" MARC repeaters while we were in the process of buying insurance. While performing the premium calculations, I was astounded to find out that the MARC owns over \$18,500 (replacement costs) of repeater gear and that doesn't include antennas and feed lines nor does it include non-repeater assets such as a generator, handie-talkie, and miscellaneous equipment. It does include all repeaters, duplexers, TNC's, a computer, and of course the controller. Things sure do add up over the years.

CLUB ROSTER

The new club roster will be printed shortly after the March meeting, so if you want your name to appear on the roster you need to be sure that you have paid your dues for 1987. If you're not sure of your status, check with Roger Littlefield, KK4BM, and he will let you know how you stand. As usual I am including an application and renewal form at the end of this issue of Zer0 Beat.

DON'T FORGET

Club meetings over the next quarter will be on March 16, April 20, and May 18, 1987 at 7:00 P.M. local time. These dates are the third Monday of each month.

Central Alabama Two-Meter Net every Sunday night at 8:30 P.M., local time, on the 146.24/84 repeater.

Tall Tower Net every Monday and Thursday night at 8:15 P.M., local time, on the 147.78/18 repeater.

The MARC owns current U.S. and foreign callbooks and Wayne Gentry, AA4BL, is the custodian.

MARC

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SERVICE

Yes, I want to be included in and participate in the emergency communication service provided by the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club.

I. Contact Information:

Name: _____.

Call: _____.

Phone: day _____ night _____.

Address: _____.

City, State & Zip: _____.

II. Include me in the following emergency situations:

- Severe weather.
- Assist with search and rescue.
- Other.

III. Contact me for assistance with public service events:

- Yes
- No

IV. Time of contact:

- Anytime
- Night only
- Day only

V. Excused from work for emergency service:

- Anytime
- Never
- Sometimes

NOTE: This is a preliminary form and will be revised or amended as necessary in the future. The main objective is to determine the membership interest and to formalize response plans for emergency conditions.

MONTGOMERY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NAME _____ HANDLE _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

CITY & STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

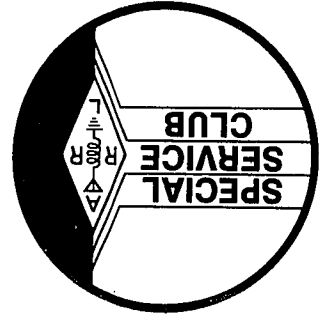
ARRL MEMBER ? _____ LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE _____

Those wishing to join the MARC or members wishing to renew, please fill out this application and return with \$10.00 annual dues (\$15.00 for families) to:

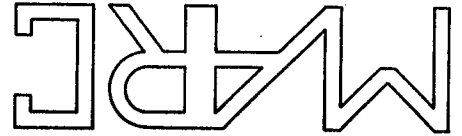
Montgomery Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 3141
Montgomery, Alabama 36109

Please take a moment to answer the following questions:

1. Are you seriously interested in assisting with emergency communications during times of disaster? Yes/No
2. Do you think the club is oriented too much toward VHF & UHF activity? Yes/No
3. If you answered "yes" to no. 2, what should the club do to be attractive to non VHF & UHF oriented hams? Be specific.
4. Do you have any comments about the club's present direction?
5. Should the Montgomery area hams continue to put on an annual hamfest? Yes/No



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