

Zero Beat



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Established 1938

May 2010

MARC is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit corporation.
Donations to MARC are tax-deductable

CALENDER OF EVENTS

CLUB MEETING

Every month - 3rd Monday at 7 PM
American Red Cross Building
5015 Woods Crossing Dr.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday morning before the club meeting
Shoney's - Eastern Blvd.
8:30 AM

Club Nets

Central Ala 2 meter Net on 146.84 at 8:00 PM every Sunday night. A controlled net with information about amateur radio subjects including information bulletins, hamfest info, satellite info, local club info.
Net manager: Chris, KD6BOD

SkyWarn/Alabama Emergency Net Golf Thursday at 8:00PM on 146.84. Net manager: Otto, N4UZZ

2010 Officers

President: Scott Poole, W4SPA
Past President: Mark Wintersole, WB5NMZ
Vice-President: Ken Kohnke, KJ4CJP
Secretary: Chris Hall, KD6BOD
Treasurer: Paul St. John, K4APG
Publicity: Bruce Jenkins, KI4OZW
Trustee: Jim Eiland, KR4JY
Trustee: Rik Doll, KU4PY
Trustee: Phil Salley, K4PO
Trustee: Mark Wintersole, WB5NMZ
W4AP Trustee: Tim Moore, K4TK

FCC EXAMS

Montgomery ARRL VE Team: Last Saturday each month at 1:00 PM at American Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing Dr.
For information, contact Scott Poole W4SPA (334) 262-0412
Montgomery ARRL VE Team Liaison
Or email (swpoole@yahoo.com)

CAVEC every 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM at American Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing Dr.
For Info contact Phil Salley, K4PO (k4po@charter.net) or Jim Eiland, KR4JY (jeiland@knology.net)

Additional Exam Info:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml?State=AL>

Field Day June 25, 26, and 27

**At Randy and Carla Sedlak's farm
Setup Friday Night
Contest starts Saturday at 1:00 PM**

Local Repeaters

146.840(-) W4AP Wetumpka
146.920(-) W4AP Eastdale (DSTAR)
147.180(+) W4AP Tall tower - Grady, AL 123 Hz
444.5(+) W4AP Wetumpka 100 Hz
53.350(-) W4AP Titus, AL 100 Hz
444.450(+) WD4JRB Baptist Tower 100 Hz (Echolink Node 212144)
446.450 (Splx) IRLP (4845) Baptist Tower 110.9 Hz
147.200(+) KE4LTT Friendship 107.2 Hz
444.575(+) KE4LTT Friendship 100 Hz
147.380(+) W4KEN Santuck
145.690 W4AP BBS
144.390 W4AP-1/3 APRS Digipeaters



From the President's Shack
By Scott Poole W4SPA

Summer is almost "officially" here and everyone knows what that means... Field Day! Field Day is the biggest operating event of the year, so I hope everyone will take some time from their busy schedules to come out to the Field Day site at Randy (KV4AC) and Carla's (KG4EVC) home to join us! If you need directions, surf over the club's web page at <http://www/w4ap.org> and click on the Field Day link. There you'll find all you need to know including directions and maps. We have a brand new Field Day Chairman this year; the MARC Vice-President, Ken Kohnke, KJ4CJP, will be at the helm of this year's Field Day event so please come out and show your support of our club's Field Day effort. As usual, there will be lots of operating, fellowshiping, and eating! Yes, world renowned Chef Lewin will once again be serving up his famous chili along with the standard fare of hotdogs and hamburgers.

MARC recently concluded a Technician License class that began in April and continued until late in May. There were 12 students enrolled in the class and everyone has passed the examination so far. It's good to have a few new Technicians for Field Day 2010!

I'm planning to get a General Class upgrade course started some time later in the Summer so if you know someone that may be interested, have them get in touch with me (e-mail is best).

The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club recently attained 501(c)(3) status as a public charity. This means MARC is exempt from Federal income tax! It also means contributions to MARC are tax-deductible as charitable donations on your Federal income tax return! Stay tuned for more on how this new status will benefit our club.

Many of you have asked me about the next SOB launch so let me bring you up to date with the latest happens inside the Stratosphere or Bust laboratory. We placed our order for a 3000 gram Totex weather balloon in mid-April. It can take some time to actually

receive the balloon so until we receive it, I'm not setting a specific launch date. But, here's what I can tell you. The next flight (SOB X) will be another altitude record attempt. We've completely redesigned the payload to prevent a similar failure due to cold temperatures and we've added a backup RDF beacon. The backup transmitter is completely separate from the APRS equipment in order to minimize the chance of a double failure. The backup transmitter runs from 2 coin cells and will transmit for up to 3 days. Hopefully we can locate and recover a lost payload by then.

At the June 21st meeting, we will be discussing preparations for Field Day. We will also be demonstrating proper set-up and use of the Field Day antennas, the new Icom 7200 radios and Field Day logging software.

In September or October we're going to have a "junk swap" auction when I'll be asking everyone to go through your junk bins and pick out a few items you can live without. One man's junk is another man's treasure, you know... and the MARC will benefit from the proceeds too.

I hope to hear everyone on the air and see you at the meetings!

73,
Scott

Need a ride to MARC Meetings?

If you or someone you know of would like to attend the monthly MARC meetings but cannot get there, we can help.

Please contact me at 334.309.4703 or by email at secretary@w4ap.org

If you get my voice mail, please leave your name and phone number and we will make arrangements to get you to the meetings.

Please give us as much notice as you can. We have members that travel from areas other than Montgomery and would like to see you at the meetings

Field Day, 2010

From the 2010 Field Day Chairman

Here we are in the end of May and Field Day will be here before we know it! I want everyone to know how excited I am to be the chairman for Field Day this year.

Once again we will hold the annual event at Randy Sedlak's (KV4AC) ranch off of Snowdown Chambers Rd.

If you weren't at the April club meeting, Randy announced that several club members felt we should hold Field Day in a different location such as a shopping center or possibly at a University i.e. some place more public. The idea of doing something different for this year is an admirable idea however, it was decided that the idea came too late to do a search for a new location.

At the Technicians class on Thursday night I suggested to our President, Scott Poole (W4SPA) that if we are going to do something different next year that a chairman for next year be appointed and start conducting a search for a new location A.S.A.P. But enough about next year, let me talk about this year.

I will be looking into some P.R. for Field Day and check with local news organizations to try to get some publicity. At the May MARC meeting I will be gathering names of those that will be participating in Field Day such as who will be operating the phone station, cw etc.

Also Tom Bray (WB8COX) made a suggestion that we do a Field Day practice at his house some weekend in May using one of the new radios that the club purchased. This would give us a good opportunity to get accustomed to the new equipment in a pseudo Field Day environment. A date has not been decided on this but if anyone has any suggestions or is interested; feel free to write to me at kj4cjp@charter.net or Tom at wb8cox@tjbray.com . I'm looking forward to the May meeting and hope to see you all there!

73's

Ken Kohnke

KJ4CJP

KR4JY Resigns as Montgomery Co. EC

Because of other things going on in my life at church and other activities, I feel that it is not in the best interest of Montgomery County for me to stay on as the Emergency Coordinator. I have enjoyed serving Montgomery County in this position of the ARRL. At this point, I do not think that I can put my whole heart into the position. My last day officially is May 15th. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the position, please let Scott Poole or myself know. I thank everyone for being so supportive over the past year.

Jim Eiland-KR4JY
jeiland@knology.net

Upcoming Contests

Alabama QSO Party: Jun 5, 1600Z - Jun 6, 0400Z
ARRL June VHF QSO Party:
Jun 12, 1800Z - Jun 14, 0300Z
ARRL Field Day: Jun 26, 1800Z - Jun 27, 2100Z
IARU HF World Championship:
Jul 10, 1200Z - Jul 11, 1200Z
NA RTTY QSO Party: Jul 17, 1800Z - Jul 18, 0600Z

**** Field Day T-Shirts on sale NOW But only For a Limited Time ****

Again this year, and for a very limited time, we're selling MARC Field Day T-Shirts. Our MARC FD shirts will be green this year, similar to the 2001FD shirt color. Cost for the shirts is \$15 each. This is our only FD fund raiser and proceeds go directly to pay for Field Day expenses. So, have a little esprit de corps and support your club's Field Day effort at the same time by purchasing a shirt or 2 or 3!

To order, to go www.w4ap.org and click on the Field Day T-Shirt link

OR

Send an E-Mail with your callsign, sizes and quantities to Chris: secretary@w4ap.org

Hurry! Sale ends on Thursday, June 10th.

See you at Field Day,

Scott, W4SPA

Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this--or shortly thereafter--the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, www.kb6nu.com. Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that

cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

When not updating his No-Nonsense amateur radio license study guides, you'll find him on 40m, 30m, 20m, and if we ever get any sunspots to stick around, 15m and 10m pounding brass. You may even hear him trying to get the hang of using the bug he bought at Dayton this year. You'll find his blog at www.kb6nu.com, and you can e-mail website suggestions to cwgeek@kb6nu.com

DSTAR and Traveling

Spring is here and it time to head out doors and hit the highways. Many of us will take time to travel over the next few months. In this Zero beat edition I will show you how to link back to W4AP and call route back to user's last heard.

Let's say you are visiting one of the beautiful state or national parks. For this example I am going to use Mt. Cheaha's WB4GNA Dstar repeater. The easiest way to keep up with the action at home is to link to W4AP from WB4GNA.

To automatically figure out how to set up your radio, there is a D-STAR Calculator located at:

<http://www.dstarinfo.com/Calculator/>. This site is a good source for assisting you in setting up your radio when traveling or just hanging out around the QTH.

D-STAR Calculator
2.2.0.1

Source Repeater: United States, Alabama Anniston WB4GNA Gateway

Source Module:
DD A 1251.0000 RPS
DV A 1285.0000 -12.0000
DV B 442.4250 +5.0000
DV C 145.3000 -0.6000

Function: Link to Repeater

Destination Repeater: United States, Alabama Montgomery W4AP Gateway

Destination Module:
DD A 1251.0000 RPS
DV A 1284.0000 -12.0000
DV B 443.9750 +5.0000
DV C 146.9200 -0.6000

For D-STAR News and Information, check out www.DSTARINFO.com

Programming for linking from WB4GNA (port DV C) to W4AP (port DV C)
YOUR: **W4AP ••CL**
RPT1: **WB4GNA •C**
RPT2: **WB4GNA •G**
Set Radio To: **145.3000 MHz Offset -0.6000 MHz**
"•" represents a space
[Help!](#)

Dstar repeaters are being opened up for linking. Linking is a great way to visit machines and join QSO's on reflectors.

The other way to connect with Dstar user while you are home or away is to **Call Route**. This is done by putting the call sign of the user you want to talk to in the **urcall** call field. Here is an example.

MyCall Field: K4DJL
UrCall Field: WB8COX
RPT1: W4AP***C
RPT2: W4AP***G

(*) = spaces

This way if Tom (WB8COX) is at Mt. Cheaha, and this was the last repeater he was heard on, then he and other user's on the machine can here me calling. Tom and/or the other user's on the machine have to call route back to me by entering in my call in the UrCall field or by capturing my call with the press of the capture call button on the Dstar radio. The only issue with doing call routing is there may be a QSO in progress. Most times folk will pick you up and allow you to locate the station you are calling. Happy Dstaring.

73,

El Erby K4DJL

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Year _____

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club – PO Box 3141 – Montgomery, AL. 36109

Renewals enter, name and callsign and any changes in status.

***Note: Senior Members** over 70 please send in application to keep roster updated.

New Members enter all available information.

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL Member(Y/N) _____

E-mail: _____

Family Members

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL Member(Y/N) _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL Member(Y/N) _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL Member(Y/N) _____

E-mail: _____

Class of License: N= Novice, T= No Code Technician, T+= Code Technician, G= General, A= Advanced, E= Extra

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Indicate Membership type below. Membership fees are *due every January 1st*. There is a 60-day grace period.

Family membership is for immediate family with 2 or more amateur radio license holders *residing at the same address*.

Associate Membership is for individuals who *do not have* an amateur radio license, but are interested in the activities of the club and are preparing for exams.

Senior Membership is for an amateur age 65 or older.

Check type of membership:

_____ Single Membership (\$25 per year)

_____ Family Membership (\$40 per year)

_____ Senior Membership - age 65-69 (\$15 per year)

_____ Senior Membership - age 70+ (no charge)

Associate Membership (\$10 per year)

The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Public Service Since 1938

Amateur Radio

www.arrl.org

www.w4ap.org



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club, Inc
P.O. Box 3141
Montgomery, AL 36109-0141

