

Z E R Ø BEAT

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FRANK GOLDEN W4DQF

CLUB REPEATERS

146.04/64

146.25/85

147.78/18

CLUB CALL - W4AP

SEPT
1984

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

MARC

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

ZERO BEAT

Well, since you've made it this far into this newsletter, I'm sure the question foremost in your minds is "What the ~~hell~~ ~~is~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~a~~ zero beat and what is it doing on the front of my dang newsletter?" O.K., here it is. The Radio Amateurs Handbook defines Zero Beat as tuning two different signals to the same frequency. "So what's this got to do with me?", you say. Well, it sometimes appears that the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club (MARC) and its members are operating on different frequencies and not communicating; therefore, it will be the prime objective of this newsletter to zero beat the club with its members in an effort to improve communications between the two. After all, it's much easier to communicate with someone when you're both on the same frequency.

Other than the title of the newsletter I'm sure you also noticed the front cover design. This design is not necessarily final but it is a beginning, so let us hear from you, pro or con. Also, let us know what you think about the configuration of the letters MARC in the lower right corner of the cover. We may try to work this design into a club logo. Don't be bashful; say what you think!

HELP!

As was stated in the last newsletter (June 84) we are attempting to make ZERØ BEAT a "regular" quarterly publication. If the need arises, we may increase the frequency as required. We will endeavor to print information which is meaningful and important to club members and hams in general. To do this, we need your help. We are, therefore, asking each reader of this newsletter to be on the lookout for appropriate subject matter. If you come up with something, give Jim Minor (K4BTP) or me, Jim Meacham (KK4A) a call. We'll be counting on your input, so let us hear from you. Thanks.

CLUB MEETINGS

The MARC meets each month on the third Monday at 7:00 P.M. local time. The meetings are held at the State Trooper Headquarters located at the corner of Coliseum Boulevard and Federal Drive. The September and October meetings are especially important since they are the last two meetings prior to the Montgomery Hamfest. We invite each and every one of you to attend the club meetings, and we request that you spread the word about the meetings to fellow Hams. Your input is desired, needed and appreciated. We feel that meeting attendance and participation in the club would be greatly increased if each member who usually attends club meetings would contact a member (or non-member) who doesn't attend meetings and invite that person to join us. Let's give it a try and see what happens.

AUTOPATCH PROCEDURES

As most of you already know, the 146.04/64 repeater is the autopatch machine sponsored by the MARC. In light of some confusion regarding autopatch procedures, we feel like a little review is in order. First of all the repeater has taken the place of the old 146.40/147.00 machine. It is an open repeater and can be used for general communications as well as autopatch communications. When using the autopatch it is best to key your microphone, give your call, bring up the dial tone with the *, dial 9, and then dial the number you wish to call. When you have finished the call, turn off the patch with the #, give your call, and announce that you are clear. Please note that it is not necessary to give the time, date, temperature, marital status, number of children, age, weight, etc. when bringing the patch up and down. Your call is sufficient.

Some hams have asked "Why do we have to dial 9 before dialing the telephone number?" The answer is because the telephone line to the autopatch is on a telephone system within a building which requires you to dial 9 to get an outside line.

As we all know the autopatch can be a very useful means of communications especially if you encounter an emergency situation while you are mobile or otherwise away from a regular telephone. In an emergency situation which requires the services of a local agency such as the city police, fire department, paramedics, etc. you should call 911 or in autopatch language dial * 9 911. Now let us caution you on one thing. The local emergency number 911 will not work on the 146.31/91 autopatch repeater which is sponsored by the Capital City Amateur Radio Association. Why? Because the 146.31/91 machine is located in Wetumpka and the telephone line going to the machine is on a Wetumpka exchange which will not access the Montgomery emergency number 911. This is mentioned because I have personally heard on two occasions someone try to call 911 through the 146.31/91 machine. Needless to say, it didn't work, and it was very frustrating for the two individuals making the calls; probably even more frustrating for the victims of the emergency situation.

Now one last comment; if you hear a funny noise like a European siren while trying to place a call, don't worry about what it's called, just turn off the patch with the # and try again.

MONTGOMERY HAMFEST!!!!!!!

That's right! The annual Montgomery Hamfest is just around the corner, and we want each of you to make plans to attend. Even better than that, contact one of the Committee Chairpersons and instead of just planning to attend, you can help in the planning. The Montgomery Hamfest will be a one day event and will be held in the Civic Center on Saturday, October 27, 1984. There will be plenty to keep you busy such as the dealer displays, flea market, license exams, social programs, prizes, snack bar, and more. Doors will open at 9:30 A.M. Talk-in will be on the 146.25/85 machine.

First prize this year will be a complete satellite TV receiving system consisting of a 10' diameter dish antenna, low noise amplifier, 100 feet of cable, and a Drake receiver. Retail value of the system is approximately \$1,800. Other prizes will be added as the Hamfest date approaches. To be eligible for a prize, you must buy at least one ticket but preferably more. Tickets are \$1.00 each (or 6 for \$5) and can be purchased at the Hamfest or from any member of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club. What?....You say you are a club member and you don't have any tickets to sell! Well, you better contact Jim Minor K4BTP and he will fix you up (he's Chairman of the Ticket Committee). Tickets are easy to sell to non-hams due to the nature of the main prize so get yourself a bundle and start to work for your club.

Putting on a Hamfest requires a lot of work and a lot of help is still needed. If you're interested in helping with the Hamfest, call the Chairperson of one (or more) of the following Committees and volunteer:

Hamfest Chairmen: Sam Windham WB4RGX
Ed Sensintaffar WA4NKU

Ticket Committee: Jim Minor K4BTP

Commercial Distributor and Prizes Committee:
Ed Sensintaffar WA4NKU

Facilities Committee: Bob Kinsaul K4UJH

Flea Market Committee: Al Erdman W4CNQ

Publicity Committee: Phil Salley WB4OZN
George Walborn W4ZEC

Social Program Committee: Julie Salley

License Examination: Bob Garrett W4MF

Treasurer: Bob Lieberman KA4WZI

One last comment regarding the Hamfest. Please spread the word and tell those you talk to tell others. Let's make this the best Montgomery Hamfest yet.

LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The Montgomery Chapter of CAVEC will give Amateur Radio Operator License Examinations for novice through extra class licenses on September 22, 1984 and at the Montgomery Hamfest on October 27, 1984. The September 22nd exams will be given in the H. C. Trenholm Science Building on the campus of Alabama State

University in Montgomery, Alabama and will begin at 8:00 A.M. The October 27th exams will be given in the Civic Center in conjunction with the Montgomery Hamfest and will begin at 8:00 A.M. (Note that this is before the Hamfest actually begins.) Candidates should either send a completed 610 form to CAVEC, 5244 Millwood Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36109, or fill out a 610 Form as a "walk-in" at the examination point. Questions regarding the examinations should be directed to Bob Garrett W4MF, 277-2287.

CIVIC DUTY

O.K. Hams. Here is an opportunity for some of us to fulfill a small portion of our civic obligation to our community and our country. The Montgomery Track and Running Club is sponsoring a foot race to raise money for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty, and they have asked the MARC to support the race by providing communications over the race course. The race will be held on Saturday, October 13, 1984 at the Normandale Shopping Center. Volunteers with 2-meter mobiles or handi-talkies will be needed from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at the race site. If you can help with this very noble cause, please contact Sam Windham WB4RGX at 272-0235. Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt from the club sponsoring the race.

BAND CHANGES

If you haven't been very active on HF lately, you may not be aware of the recent changes in phone privileges on 10, 15, 20 and 80 meters. Basically what has happened is that the phone portion of these bands has been extended down in frequency to give you phone buffs a little more room to "flip your lips". We will not attempt to be specific about the exact frequencies that each class of license is authorized to use because a mistake in this newsletter could cause someone to operate outside the confines of their license classification. Instead we just want to make you aware that there have been changes which are now in effect. The best way to find out the specifics would probably be by looking at the latest issue of QST or some other ham radio publication.

CENTRAL ALABAMA NET

We would like to remind you about the club sponsored 2-meter net which meets every Sunday night at 8:30 P.M. local time on the 146.25/85 repeater. All hams within the listening area are invited to check in. The net is a general type net and is an excellent way to find out "what's happening" with regard to club activities, ARRL bulletins, swap items, license exams, and your fellow hams. The net manager is Wayne Gentry AA4BL and one of his many responsibilities is seeing that the net always has a "net control" operator. Net control is handled on a rotational basis and Wayne may need your help so instead of making him call you, why don't you call him and offer your services.

James H. Meacham, Jr. KK4A
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Montgomery, AL 36116

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