

Z E R Ø B E A T

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WAYNE GENTRY AA4BL

146.24/84 WETUMPKA, AL

TOMMY GARRETT WA4FYU

147.78/18 GRADY, AL

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CLUB STATION

Call: W4AP

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JUNE 85

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

MARC

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

ONE YEAR'S WORTH

This is the fourth quarterly issue of Zero Beat and based on response to the first three issues, we seem to be heading in the direction of the prime objective of this newsletter which is to zero beat the club with its members in an effort to improve communications between the two. It has recently come to my attention that other clubs have expressed an interest in receiving a copy of Zero Beat. The MARC will be glad to accommodate these clubs by putting them on the mailing list and we would like for them to reciprocate by putting the MARC on their mailing list. Intercommunication among Amateur Radio Clubs is bound to be beneficial to the members of the clubs involved. I would also like to point out that other clubs may feel free to reuse or glean any information from this newsletter as they see fit for possible republication in their club newsletter or bulletin.

MAY CLUB MEETING

The MARC meeting for the month of May was a particularly energetic one and worthy of mention herein. Several important issues were discussed including Field Day and the Montgomery Hamfest, both of which have been given separate articles farther on in this issue of Zero Beat. But another matter was brought up and by the time the meeting was over it was apparent that a lot of people have similar opinions. I am speaking of "publicity" for amateur radio and the MARC. It was pointed out in the meeting by one of our newly licensed members that it was very difficult for an individual, with aspirations to become a ham, to find out how to go about becoming a ham. This individual stated that he ran across P.A.'s call, WA4RMY, in the telephone book and gave him a call. P.A. in turn told him whom to contact. If it hadn't been for P.A.'s call in the phone book, we might have one less ham in the world right now. Others related similar horror stories. So it's painfully obvious that we are a very obscure group, and we apparently give off a very negative message from this obscurity. Fortunately, we can probably change the polarity of this message and one way to do this might be through appropriate publicity. A number of suggestions were made such as an ad in the yellow pages, public service spots on radio and TV, an ad in the Bulletin Board, and a booth at the South Alabama State Fair. Some of these would be difficult to accomplish so it was decided to create a publicity committee. John McLemore, WA4MTG, and Delano Geoghagan, N4LWS, were appointed to join with existing Publicity Officer Mel Orenstein, W6THZ, to make up a three man publicity committee. If any of you have any suggestions or can help this committee in any way, please give one of them a call.

FIELD DAY

June 22 and 23, 1985: Mark these two dates on your calendar and start making plans to attend and participate in FIELD DAY 1985 on the above noted weekend. Field Day is the one most important event of each year for the amateur radio community and each reader is hereby personally invited (and requested) to join the MARC in its 1985 Field Day exercise.

Some of you may not know exactly what Field Day is, so let's look at it. The official objective is to work as many stations as possible during the allocated time frame of 24 hours and, in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions. A premium is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio. Those of you who

have participated in previous Field Days know that it is not necessarily all fun and games especially if you have to operate for all or most of the duration of the contest. This is why it is imperative that we have good participation; so that those who do participate aren't worked to death. Now it's my understanding that we have plenty of rigs available so if the thought of having to bring your rig is going to keep you away, don't worry about it, just bring yourself. We need operators, loggers, dupers, go-fers, workers, etc. and if you can't do any of those things, just come keep us company. Also, keep in mind that you don't have to be a hot-shot CW operator to be of help. In fact, you don't need any contest experience at all. The only thing you really need to operate on phone is a "mouth" and I know from just listening that there's plenty of those around. The key to obtaining a relatively good score on Field Day is to be sure that all rigs are operated continuously; for example, if we chose to put four rigs on the air, then each of those four should always have an operator in front of it. This can only be achieved through your participation.

I guess that's enough about participation, but I haven't told you what time and where. The Field Day contest begins at 1800 UTC (1:00 P.M., C.D.S.T.) on Saturday, 22 June 1985, and ends at the same time on Sunday, 23 June 1985. The MARC conducts its Field Day exercise at the farm of Charlie Cargile, WB4LJJ. By the way, Charlie can't guarantee that his horse won't try to eat your supper so you might consider bringing two; one for you and one for the horse. I have included a map hereinafter which will show you how to get there; it's real easy. Oh yeah.....even though the actual contest begins at 1:00 P.M., set-up usually starts about 8:00 A.M. Now in the past, the boys that spend four or five hours setting-up are very tired by contest time so here again we see the need for participation. Also, I'd like to point out that you should bring your own personal needs such as food and the beverage of your choice, suntan lotion, bug repellent, lawn chair(s), change of clothing, hat, etc. and if you're a CW man, you may want to bring your own keyer, key, bug (paperweight) or whatever. The MARC has appropriated \$100 to buy gas for the generators plus any other odds and ends that may be necessary.

So, all indications are that it will be a great weekend but it depends on you to make it happen. See you there.

TEMPORARY VS. INTERIM

Way back in about 1976 or early 1977 the FCC created "instant upgrading" which enabled a person who passed an amateur radio license examination (except novice) to immediately begin using the privileges of the license class to which he just upgraded. Upon passing an FCC administered test, you were given an interim permit which instructed you to use, after your call on phone contacts only, the word "interim" plus a two letter identifier for the FCC field office which administered the exam. On CW a slant bar was used in place of the word "interim". This had to be done until you received your permanent license from the FCC and only when you were using privileges of your new license class. Most people around here were tested through the Atlanta office of the FCC; therefore, we tacked an "interim AT" onto the end of our calls with AT obviously standing for Atlanta. Your old or new license class had nothing to do with it. Now in case you've been hearing strange sounds on the end of some calls lately, such as "temporary KT" or "temporary AA", it's because things changed with the advent of volunteer examinations. Instant upgrading still exists but the word "interim" has been changed to "temporary" and the

identifier no longer reflects location but does reflect the new license class. Temporary tags are now the same throughout the U.S. and its possessions. Here is how they go:

"Temporary KT".....Technician Class
"Temporary AG".....General Class
"Temporary AA".....Advanced Class
"Temporary AE".....Extra Class

Please note that "temporary" and "interim" are not interchangeable. "Temporary" is the only correct term in the eyes of the FCC. One last point is that a slant bar is used on CW in lieu of the word "temporary" just as it was used in lieu of the word interim.

NET NEWS

Larry, KB4GPN, has asked that we give a little publicity to a pair of very worthwhile CW nets so here are the stats for each:

Alabama Emergency Net Bravo (AENB)

Frequency - 3.575 MHz
Time - 7:00 P.M. daily
Mode - CW, 15-18 WPM
Function - Emergency and Traffic
Manager - Larry, KB4GPN

Alabama Emergency Net Delta (AEND)

Frequency - 3.725 MHz
Time - 5:30 P.M. daily
Mode - CW, 8-10 WPM
Function - Training Net, Emergency and Traffic
Manager - Mark, WD4NYL

So, why don't you knock the dust off your key, skeet a little WD-40 on it if necessary, burnish the contacts, and jump right in. Larry says the training net is a very patient operation, so don't be bashful. If you have any questions about these nets, just contact the respective net managers listed above.

MONTGOMERY HAMFEST AGREEMENT

The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club has for several years sponsored the annual Montgomery Hamfest. Although the event has been fairly successful over the years, we have not had the full support and cooperation of all the hams in the local area. In an attempt to unite the local amateur radio community, and thereby be in a position to improve and conduct a better Hamfest, the MARC has officially invited the Capitol City Amateur Radio Association and the Montgomery-Tuskegee Technicians Amateur Radio Society to join us in a common effort as co-sponsors of the Montgomery Hamfest. President Jim Minor, K4BTP, of the MARC took on the task of drafting an agreement between the three clubs involved. This was an agonizing job but nevertheless Jim succeeded in preparing an excellent agreement which was favorably received by all three clubs. The following are highlights of the agreement as presented to the other clubs:

- A Hamfest committee composed of three members from each club shall be appointed each January to plan and conduct the Hamfest. Any club which fails to appoint committee members shall forfeit their share of any funds distribution for the year.
- The Hamfest funds currently on deposit in the MARC "Hamfest Fund" shall continue to be held for the purpose of financing Hamfest in the City of Montgomery.
- A written financial statement showing total receipts, total disbursements, and balance of funds on hand shall be prepared by the Treasurer of the MARC and furnished to each club.
- Each year upon conclusion of Hamfest, all funds in excess of \$2,000 shall be distributed to each club based on ratio of total paid-up members in each club as of Hamfest Day. Funds of \$2,000 or less shall remain in the "Hamfest Fund" to finance next year's Hamfest. Funds under \$2,000 shall be made up by each club based on above ratio.
- A Hamfest shall be discontinued only by a majority vote of the committee members and with approval of all clubs bound by the agreement. In the event that a Hamfest is not conducted during the period of two calendar years, remaining funds shall be distributed to each club based on above ratio.
- Any law suits or debts incurred by a Hamfest shall be shared equally by all clubs bound by the agreement.
- Each club shall furnish necessary insurance for the Hamfest or insurance may possibly be paid out of Hamfest funds.
- The agreement shall remain in effect for as long as a "Hamfest fund" is in existence and may be amended only by approval of the members of each of the three clubs or surviving clubs.

1985 MONTGOMERY HAMFEST

In accordance with the new Hamfest agreement, a "1985 Hamfest Committee" has been appointed and consists of three people from each club as follows:

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Al Erdman, W4CNO
Tommy Griffin, WB4WIM
Fred Springall, KB4EGH

Capitol City Amateur Radio Association

Paul St. John, N4DLV
Phil Salley, WB4OZN
Ron Richardson, WD4BSU

Montgomery-Tuskegee Technicians ARS

Dr. Leroy Bell, KA4WZD
Ike Singletary, WA4RZK
Chuck Cooper, WA4ZYS

Tommy Griffin, WB4WIM, of the MARC was elected Chairman of the 1985 Montgomery Hamfest Committee. Tommy gave us a progress report at the May meeting of the MARC, and it sounds like the new committee has hit the ground running. The 1985 Montgomery Hamfest will be a one day event and will be held in the Civic Center on Saturday, 9 November 1985. Planning is still in the early stages so we can't be real specific about most events, but I'm sure we can count on most of the usuals such as dealer displays, flea market, license examinations, social programs, forums, prizes, snack bar and more. We'll provide more detailed information in the September issue of Zero Beat.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A new Technical Committee was appointed at the April meeting of the MARC. The committee is made up of the following individuals:

Wayne Gentry, AA4BL
Roland Townley, K4BOJ
Walter Boyd, K4ZXA
Bobby Chandler, N4AU
Tommy Garrett, WA4FYU
Tommy Griffin, WB4WIM
Al Erdman, W4CNQ

I couldn't lay my hands on a job description for this illustrious group of hams, but I assume their function would include giving advice to club members which may be experiencing technical difficulty at their home QTH. So the next time an irate neighbor calls at 11:00 P.M. to tell you that you're tearing up Johnny Carson, just give one of the technical committee members a call (right then) and I'm sure he will be glad to come right over and talk to your neighbor.

146.25/85??????????

One day in mid-May I noticed I couldn't bring up the 25/85 machine. I attributed it to a minor problem which I was sure would be quickly resolved by the respective repeater janitor. After a couple of more days of still being unable to raise the machine, I was advised that the frequencies had been changed from 146.25/85 to 146.24/84 MHz. Well, I knew this change was coming but I just didn't know when. So if you can't get into 25/85 anymore, move down 10 KHz and try again. (If you're rock bound, I can't help you.) "Why the change?" you ask. Well, it's kind of a long story and I'm not really qualified to tell it but I'll try.

For years most areas of the country used 15 KHz channel spacing for locating repeaters in the 2-meter repeater sub-band. The general consensus is that the successful use of 15 KHz channel spacing requires careful attention to frequency, deviation, and coordination. Proponents of the 15 KHz plan maintain that none of the above is beyond amateur state of the art and that with 15 KHz spacing (opposed to 20 KHz) more repeaters can be accommodated within the available band of frequencies. Now somewhere along the way someone decided that 20 KHz channel spacing was more desirable than 15 KHz spacing and the battle has been raging ever since. Advocates of the 20 KHz plan claim that it makes better use of the spectrum because repeaters on adjacent channels 20 KHz apart can physically be located closer together without the adjacent channel QRM which allegedly is a problem with 15 KHz spacing. Theoretically, with 20

KHz spacing, you can place adjacent channel repeaters in the same town without regard to physical location. 15 KHz supporters claim that 20 KHz spacing encourages the appearance of non-coordinated repeaters between channels.

Now where does all this leave us? Well, in March of this year, a rather mysterious organization called the Alabama VHF-UHF Repeater Council voted to adopt the 20 KHz band plan and have informed all Alabama repeater owners that they must comply with the new plan by July 1, 1985 or they will be considered "uncoordinated" and their frequencies will be reassigned. (How does that grab you?) The MARC was advised that the only one of our three repeaters requiring a change in frequency would be the 146.25/85 machine which would go to 24/84. This met with a great deal of opposition; many people wanted to know just who was this "Repeater Council" and what gave them the right to tell us what to do. Nevertheless, after careful consideration and to the chagrin of many, the MARC complied with the directive of the Repeater Council. Other local machines which have been affected include 146.31/91 which went to 146.32/92 and 147.645/045 which will go to 146.30/90 MHz.

In closing I'll leave you with some statistics which came from the June issue of QST. Fourteen (14) states have specifically adopted the 15 KHz plan and specifically rejected the 20 KHz plan. Twenty-seven (27) states have specifically adopted the 15 KHz plan without specifically rejecting the 20 KHz plan. Nine (9) states, including Alabama, have specifically rejected the 15 KHz plan and specifically adopted the 20 KHz plan. We (Alabama hams) seem to be in the minority.

24 MHZ/12 METERS

The new 12 meter WARC band (24.890-24.990 MHz) will be released to U.S. amateurs, General Class and above, at 0001 UTC on June 22, 1985. The HF bands at this frequency aren't exactly bustling with activity at this point in the sunspot cycle, but it may be fun to play around here anyway if you have a radio that is equipped to tune the WARC bands. You should note that this band is only 7.5 percent removed in frequency from the CB band, which means that CB antennas should work fine with a little lengthening. Full power will be permitted on the 12 meter band. A1 and F1 emissions will be permitted from 24.890 to 24.930 MHz; A1, A3, A4, A5, F3, F4, and F5 emissions will be permitted from 24.930 to 24.990 MHz. Amateur operation will be on a secondary basis to the few Fixed Service stations that may continue to operate in the band. Also, as of this writing, 12 meters cannot be used for contests including Field Day.

AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

For the past six or eight weeks the MARC has been conducting Novice and Technician/General amateur radio classes every Tuesday and Thursday night at the EOC (Emergency Operating Center) which, of course, is also the MARC club house. John McLemore, WA4MTG, is teaching the Novice class and is assisted by Frank, W4DQF, Tim, KE4KE, and Jack, KB4MVW. This class is still underway but should be graduating a new crop of Novices in the near future. Bobby Chandler, N4AU, taught the Tech/General class which finished up on May 14, 1985 and resulted in three Technicians and two Generals. Our hats are off to those hams who give so much of their time and so much of themselves to help others by teaching these classes. They are a credit to the MARC and to the amateur radio community in general.

Plans are being made for new classes in the near future. A new Novice class will hopefully be started in July or August so if you know any prospective candidates have them contact John McLemore, WA4MTG, or get their name and number and pass it on to John.

DON'T FORGET

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 approximately 8:15 P.M., local time, on the 147.78/18 repeater.

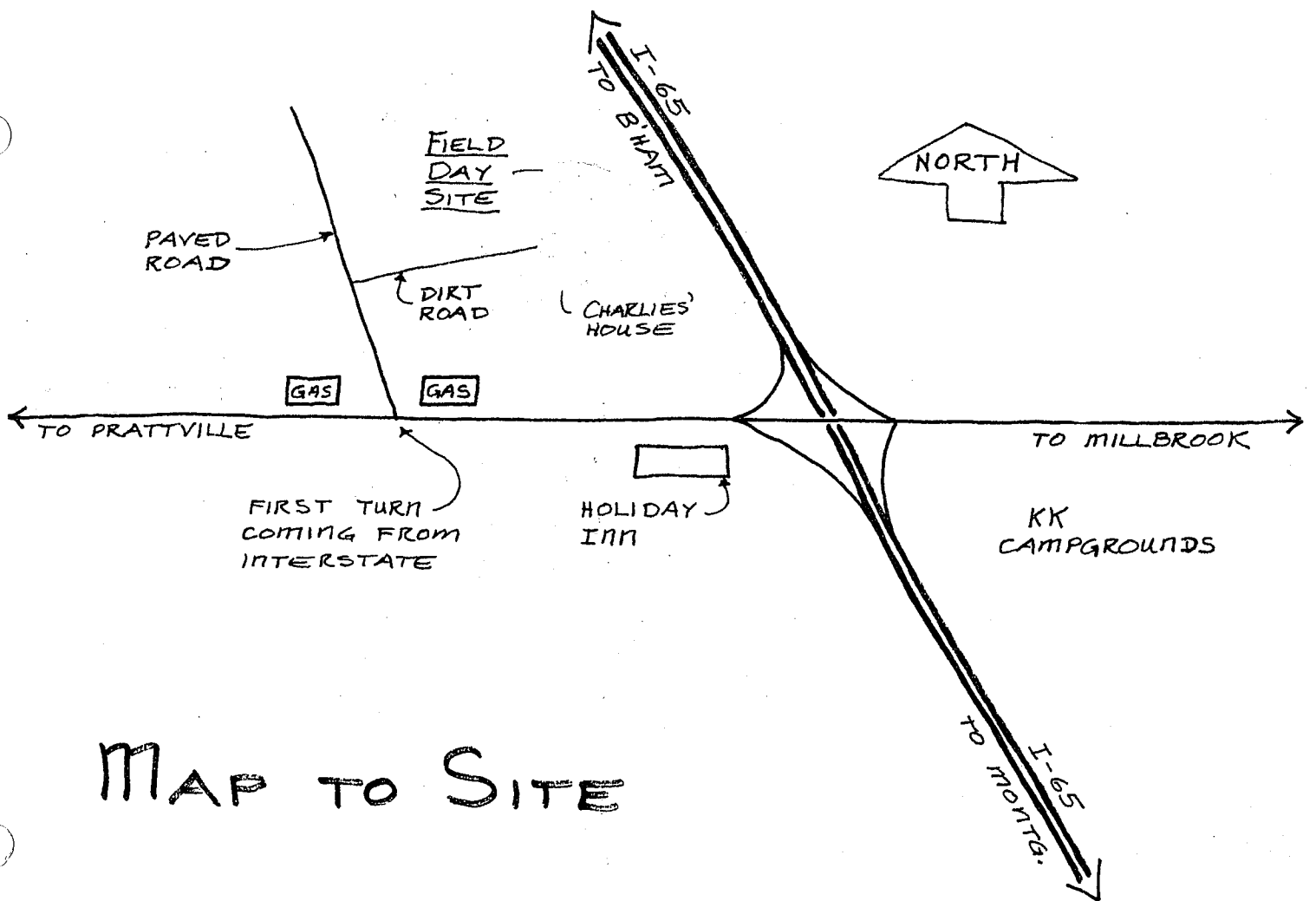
Club meetings over the next quarter will be on June 17, July 15, and August 19, 1985 at 7:00 P.M. These dates are the third Monday of each month. Check the March issue of Zero Beat for detailed instructions on how to get to the meeting place.

Field Day on June 22 and 23, 1985; see text of this issue for details.

Join or renew your ARRL membership through the MARC to maintain ARRL affiliation. The MARC gets \$2 for each renewal and \$5 for each new member.

Club callbook is in the possession of Wayne Gentry, AA4BL. Call him if you need an address.

"FIELD DAY" 1985 MONTGOMERY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MAP TO SITE

