

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 WB4MMB

Trustees:

FRANK GOLDEN W4DQF

RANDY SMITH N4KTX

BOBBY CHANDLER N4AU

PETE SIDES W4AUP

REPEATERS/CUSTODIANS

146.04/64 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

DEC 86

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

MARC

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

ELECTION NIGHT

The December 1986 meeting of the MARC is on Monday the 15th and it is important that everyone attend because this is the meeting during which we elect officers for 1987. Each of the current officers has agreed to serve for one more year in his respective position. Check the front of this newsletter to see who those individuals are. This does not mean that other nominations can not be made from the floor to any office from President to Trustee. In fact, additional nominations are invited and welcome. Speaking of trustees, the only trustee position up for election is the one held by Frank Golden, W4DQF. Trustees are elected for three years and their terms are staggered so that only one position is subject to election each year. So, please make plans to attend and be a part of a very important club meeting. In case you don't know, we meet in the State Trooper Headquarters building at the corner of Coliseum Blvd. and Federal Drive. Starting time is 7:00 P.M. sharp.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Election night is not the only thing associated with the close of a year for the MARC. It is also the time to renew your membership. Membership in the MARC runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$15.00 for a family. I urge you to pay your dues promptly because they are the only source of income for the MARC. You can, of course, make your payment to Roger, KK4BM, at any club meeting.

Please note that with the exception of new members who joined in the last quarter of 1986, all members are up for renewal now. If you are unsure of your membership status, check your membership card. If you can't find it, contact any club officer (but preferably KK4BM) and he will check on your status. As usual, I have included a membership/renewal application form at the end of this newsletter for your convenience. If you can't make a meeting, just mail this form along with payment, to Montgomery Amateur Radio Club, Inc., P.O. Box 3141, Montgomery, AL 36109.

Although membership was at an all-time high this year, we still did not meet our goal of 200 paid members. We are closing the year at 180 paid members and even though that is 20 short of our goal, I am convinced we can break 200 this year. Therefore I would like to reinstate this goal for 1987. Remember, when you join the MARC, you are helping to support amateur radio and your community.

CLUB ROSTER

The club roster for 1987 will be mailed out in March to all who appear on the roster. However, we are going to make a change from the way things have been done over the last few years.

Historically, names of dues delinquent members have remained on the roster for a year. Starting with the 1987 roster, members who have not renewed by the March club meeting will not appear on the new roster and subsequently will not receive the quarterly issue of Zer0 Beat. Anyone renewing after the deadline will of course be immediately added to the mailing list and to the next printing of the roster.

FIELD DAY RESULTS

The results of last June's Field Day activities were published in the November issue of QST. The MARC operated in Class 3A which is "club or group operating portable with more than two operators and with three transmitters operating simultaneously." There were 25 operators who participated. They made 1041 contacts with less than 150 watts of power for a total point count of 3754. This placed the MARC at 52 out of 257 in the 3A Class.....a very respectable finish. And, of course, this again was a vast improvement over the year before when we used two transmitters and made 744 contacts for 2712 points. The year before that we used three transmitters and made 381 contacts for 1878 points. If you would like a few more details on the 1986 Field Day effort, check page 3 of the September 1986 issue of Zer0 Beat.

1986 HAMFEST REPORT

The 1986 Central Alabama Hamfest is now history and rather than throw a lot of verbage at you I'll just throw some numbers at you and let them do most of the talking.

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Opening Balance	\$2000.00	
Civic Center Rent		\$1852.00
Tickets		\$160.07
Donations	\$210.07	
Postage		\$210.00
Insurance		\$361.00
Ticket Sales	\$3103.00	
Table Rent	\$633.00	
Flyers		\$283.02
Prizes		<u>\$1525.45</u>
	TOTALS	<u>\$4391.54</u>
	\$5946.07	
Total Income	\$5946.07	
Less Total Expenses	<u>-\$4391.54</u>	
Subtotal	\$1554.53	
Less Opening Balance	<u>-\$2000.00</u>	
Net Loss	\$445.47	

The above indicated loss of \$445.47 was projected to be much larger by mid-morning of the second day of the hamfest, but fortunately some people began to hustle tickets in the crowd and this coupled with some hams digging deep into their own pockets enabled the hamfest to dodge a bullet and avoid financial disaster.

The main prizes and there respective winners shaped up like this:

ICOM 745.....J. Hagen, KA4JJF
ICOM 3200A.....J.B. Kramer, W4KMR
VCR.....Wesley Taylor, WA4YYL
ICOM 02AT.....Mike Hill, KB4XQ

MARC & STATE FAIR

The 1986 South Alabama State Fair has come and gone and the MARC has for the second year in a row sponsored a booth at the fair. We tried to improve this year's booth based on what we learned last year and although I think we were successful, there is still room for improvement in 1987. Nevertheless, we succeeded in signing up about 50 interested people and have notified them of impending Novice classes.

SHORT BREAK

Have you been wondering why there hasn't been any "short breaks" lately on 24/84? The answer is simple. P.A. let his license expire in late October and is quietly abiding by the letter of the law by not transmitting while he awaits the arrival of his renewed ticket. This admirable observance of the rules and regulations has prompted some to inquire about P.A.'s well-being. No, he ain't dead.

CCARA, INC. DISSOLVED

The Board of Directors of the Capital City Amateur Radio Association voted on September 24, 1986 to dissolve the corporation. The board also recommended that all current assets, both cash and property, be transferred to the MARC. In return, the MARC Board of Directors, agreed to give to each current CCARA member, membership in the MARC for for the remainder of the 1986 calendar year. Additionally, it was agreed that each life member of the CCARA would be given membership in the MARC for the 1987 calendar year.

The cash assets transferred to the MARC amounted to approximately \$540. The dissolution agreement required that this money be spent only for the purchase of a computer to be placed in service as a packet bulletin board system (PBBS). A computer was in fact purchased at the Montgomery Hamfest and is on line as a PBBS under the club call W4AP.

The following list is an inventory of property which is now owned by the MARC as a result of the dissolution.

3 KW Generator
Handi-Talkie
Maggiore 2-Meter Repeater
Ringo Ranger 2-Meter Antenna
4-Bay Folded Dipole 2-Meter Antenna
300 Feet of Hardline

MEETING NIGHT PROGRAMS

Vice-president Wayne Gentry, AA4BL, has ask me to mention that we are going to make an effort to have more meeting night programs during the up-coming year than we have had in the past. We realize that club business is sometimes boring, but a certain amount of it has to be conducted before the general membership. Nevertheless, we're going to try to decrease the business and increase the entertainment at our regular monthly meetings from now on.

The December meeting will mark the beginning of our new endeavor. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we have to elect officers at this meeting, but if that doesn't take to long, there will be a program about the ACC line of computer controllers. The program will include an excellent 28 minute audio tape. It should be particularly interesting and informative to members because I am proposing that the MARC purchase an RC-850 Repeater Controller which is manufactured by Advanced Computer Controls, Inc. This is an extraordinary machine, and you wont believe what it is capable of doing via an ordinary repeater.

The January meeting will host a DX program to be presented by Rick Dougherty, NQ4I, from Atlanta, Georgia. Many of you know Rick because he is a pilot in the Alabama Air National Guard, and he comes to Montgomery regularly to fly out of Dannelly Field. He is also a serious DXer and has participated in several DXpeditions. He will talk to us about and show slides from his most recent adventure in Guiana.

So, I think you can see that we are moving toward more interesting club meetings, and we hope this will be a shot in the arm for attendance which unfortunately has slipped a little during this last quarter of 1986. We are working on more programs, but it is a tough job with which we could use some help. If you have an idea for a program please contact Wayne, AA4BL, and tell him about it.

ZED-L BOB

If you happen to hear ZL0AKN on HF, speak to him because it will be none other than Bob Garrett, W4MF, operating from New Zealand on a reciprocal license.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CREDIT

As of December 15, 1986 the FCC will no longer require successful completion of a telegraphy examination before taking the respective written test. Of course a candidate will still have to pass both the written and code elements before being granted a license which requires both elements, but under the new ruling he or she could be given exam credit for a year for passing only the written portion of an exam. This would only apply to individuals attempting the Novice or Extra Class examinations since the Tech/General written exam can already be taken without passing the 13 WPM code test. The Advanced class license, as you know, does not require a code exam. A final note is that Volunteer Examiners are not "required" to give written examinations to individuals who have failed the respective code test.

NEW ROM FOR DOT 5

I'm sure that most of you UHFers are aware that the 444.5 MHz machine has a painfully slow I.D. Its so slow in fact that some folks fall asleep while waiting for it to finish. The I.D. message is a function of a ROM chip which came with the repeater. There is no way to reprogram the existing ROM, but we have discovered a company that will provide us with a custom ROM which will I.D. at the speed we specify. It will also give us a courtesy tone and will improve the repeater timer. There was enough money left in the UHF repeater fund to cover the cost of the new ROM so the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of one.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

The MARC hasn't had an official Emergency Coordinator or EC since I can remember, but Randy Smith, N4LZK, expressed an interest in trying to beef-up the clubs emergency preparedness and a willingness to take on the job of EC. I have appointed him EC of the MARC and he has already begun to formulate some tactics which he will advise us of after the first of the year. In the mean time Randy would like to know who is interested in emergency work on behalf of the MARC, so if you think you are, please indicate so on the application/renewal form at the end of this newsletter

TOUR FOR CURE ALREADY?

The Multiple Sclerosis Society has already contacted us about providing communications for the MS Tour for Cure in 1987. Those who participated last year will certainly be needed again this coming May, but we will really need more help than before because the Tour for Cure will be a two day event this time. May 30 & 31, 1987 are the dates, but thats about all we can tell you at this this point.

THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC

Back in 1978 when the sun-spot cycle was much kinder to us hams and when I was not nearly so experienced in this hobby, I very much enjoyed working DX. One evening I made a phone contact with a European country of which I can no longer remember the name. When I gave my QTH to the ham I was working, he immediately said he had a very good friend in Montgomery and asked if I would call him; not make a phone patch mind you, just call and tell him hi. I was delighted to do this for the guy, and after the QSO ended an unidentified station came on and advised me that I had just passed third party traffic for a country with which the U.S. had no third party agreement. Well, after I changed pants I began to look in QST for a list of countries with which the U.S. had third party agreements. I just couldn't believe that we didn't have an agreement with the average European country, but I was wrong. The list below is from the December 86 issue of QST and really hasn't changed much over the years. I include it because anyone who operates HF should have a third party countries list tacked to a wall in their shack. Remember, ignorance is no excuse!

COUNTRIES WITH WHICH U.S.A. HAS THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC AGREEMENTS

V2	Antigua	C5	Gambia	ZP	Paraguay
LU	Argentina	9G	Ghana	OA	Peru
VK	Australia	J3	Grenada	V4	St. Christopher
V3	Belize	TG	Guatemala	J6	St. Lucia
CP	Bolivia	8R	Guyana	J8	St. Vincent
PY	Brazil	HH	Haiti	9L	Sierra Leone
VE	Canada	HR	Honduras	3D6	Swaziland
CE	Chile	4X	Israel	9Y	Trinidad
HK	Columbia	6Y	Jamaica	GB	United Kingdom***
TI	Costa Rica	JY	Jordan	CX	Uruguay
CO	Cuba	HL9	Korea*	YV	Venezuela
HI	Dominican Rep	EL	Liberia	4U1ITU	ITU Geneva
J7	Comm Dominica	XE	Mexico	4U1VIC	VIC Vienna
HC	Ecuador	YN	Nicaragua		
YS	El Salvador	HP	Panama		

* Temporarily around Christmas in past years.

*** Limited to special-event stations with call-sign prefix GB (GB3 excluded) and to stations on Pitcairn Island (VR6).

FROM THE PENTAGON

I recently talked with Marve, WG4Q, on 24/84, and he brought greetings from Fred Essig, K4TDT, who is presently stationed at the Pentagon with Marve. During the conversation I discovered that Marve also knows Glenn Whited, N4EXR, who of course is stationed at the Pentagon. Later the same day I talked with Glenn who just happened to be coming into town. For those who might not know, Fred and Glenn were once stationed in Montgomery and both were a credit to our ham community.

64 OR 92?

In case you haven't noticed, the club's autopatch repeater has been operating on 146.32/92 instead of 146.04/64 for several weeks now. The original intent of this change was to determine if the 32/92 frequency pair would incur less interference than the 04/64 pair. Thus far, 32/92 does seem to perform better in our area than 04/64. Based on this fact plus the fact that there are no other 32/92 repeaters in our area, the Board of Directors has decided to request coordination of 32/92 in the name of the MARC. If this coordination attempt is successful, 32/92 will probably become our primary autopatch frequency pair.

As of this writing the repeater which was utilizing the 32/92 pair has quit playing so 04/64 may go back on temporarily. Please bear with us.

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

Club meetings over the next quarter will be on January 19, February 16, and March 16, 1987 at 7:00 P.M. local time. These dates are the third Monday of each month.

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

The MARC owns current U.S. and foreign callbooks and Wayne Gentry, AA4BL, is the custodian. Call him if you need an address.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

73 DE Jim, KK4A

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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