

Zero Beat



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Established 1938

October 2010

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

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>

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

MARC Hamfest Saturday November 13

Garrett Coliseum

Setup Friday between 3:00PM & 8:00PM

Setup Saturday 7:00AM - 8:50AM

Show open from 9:00AM to 3:00PM

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

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

It's been a busy summer for the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club and several significant events have taken place since the last Zerobeat was published.

First, the ARRL annual Field Day event was the weekend of June 26th and 27th. The men and women of the MARC came together again this year and, as usual, we had a great weekend of operating and fellowship. Once again, Randy and Carla allowed us to take over their fields for the weekend. Ken was at the helm for MARC Field Day 2010 and he did an outstanding job! Thanks to all who participated in any way!

On the education front, MARC sponsored another Technician training course in August and September. The class was very well attended with 10 students participating.

The Alabama State Emergency Test or SET was held on Saturday, Oct 2nd. This year's scenario involved a land falling hurricane! As usual, it was exciting to listen in on all the activity. Many thanks to our Montgomery County EC El, K4DJL for heading up the effort for MARC this year.

There are several important events coming in the next few weeks and months too. The MARC Hamfest will be Saturday, November 13th this year. Rik Doll is our Hamfest chairman again this year. Like all other MARC projects, it takes a lot of work by a lot of people to make everything come together and run smoothly. So, if you'd like to help out, please talk to Rik.

At the October MARC meeting, nominations were opened for club officers. Here's a summary of the nominations so far - for trustee; Jim, KR4JY: for publicity officer; Bruce, KI4OZW and Trey, N4BTB: for secretary; Chris, K4LIA and Rick, AJ4ZZ: for treasurer; Dana, KJ4IBB: for Vice President; Daniel, KE5GDK: and for President; Ken, KJ4CJP and Rob, AF4JR. Nomination will remain open for officers through the

November MARC meeting. Also, at the November meeting nominations will be opened for the 2010 MARC Awards; Public Service, Elmer , and WH4OOPs. Nomination will be closed and the election will take place at the November MARC meeting. The time and place of the election is: Monday, Nov 15, 2010, 7:00PM at the Montgomery Red Cross facility located at 5015 Woods Crossing Drive. Voting members must be present to cast a vote. An announcement for the place and time of the election will also be sent out via the MARC-list.

Speaking of the MARC-list, if you're not already on the list, it's the single best way to stay in touch with what's happening with our club. Registering is easy (and you don't even have to be a MARC member), just go to <http://www.w4ap.org>, click on the MARC-list link on the left side of the page, and give us your e-mail address. Then, you'll get the latest MARC news delivered right to your inbox. Don't worry, it's a moderated list so there's no spam.

You may have noticed my name doesn't appear in the list of 2011 officer nominees. This is my fourth term as your President and I've decided to share the wealth by handing over the reins to someone else. I think we've made some extraordinary accomplishments in our club during the past couple of years and I'm certain the trend will continue under the next administration. I fully plan to continue to be active in the club, just not standing behind the podium. Thanks to every one of you for your support and friendship while I held the office of President - you all really did make my job easy!

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

NOVEMBERFEST
MARC HAMFEST
ARRL ALABAMA SECTION CONVENTION
NOV. 13, 2010
Rik, KU4PY

Yes!! It is that time again. Time to gather together for a face to face with the folks we have been exchanging "73s" with all year. Time to purchase that new rig: sell the unused stuff collecting dust in the corner; and part with all the old pieces of whatever that was and swap tall tales of exotic DX.

All this for only \$7.00 or a little hard work as a helper.

The Hamfest activities start at 8:00am on Saturday with license testing. The tail-gate area, outside, also gets pretty active about the same time. The doors, for general admission, open at 9:00am and the hamfest continues until 3:00pm.

We will have a good assortment of door prizes to be given out every hour. The grand prize ticket will be drawn at the end of the day. You do not have to be in attendance to win the grand prize.

There will be a good variety of forums starting at 10:00. A list of the forums can be found on the web page: www.w4ap.org.

The list of vendors includes: C.T. Morgan; The Sign Man; VIS; Cedar City: Ham World, Inc and a host of flea market tables. The RC (remote control) community will again join us at this year's hamfest.

The RC Swap Meet will include vendors, club and individual displays, and demonstrations. The vendors start arriving on Friday afternoon for check-in and setup. There will also be a setup on Sat. morning from about 6:00am to 8:00am. We will also host a free breakfast for the vendors from 7:00 to 9:00 on Sat.

For more details and directions visit the club web page: www.w4ap.org. Keep your eyes open for the mail out Flyer that should be arriving in the mail shortly.

Bring your family and come join us for a great **MARC Hamfest**.

One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he

replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produce the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application.

And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

You can keep up with all of Dan's dumb ham radio activities by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com. When Dan's not doing dumb ham radio things, he programs websites and does community-service type stuff as a member of the Ann Arbor (MI, USA) Rotary Club. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

D-Star Today
El Erby K4DJL
W4AP Sys Admin

Over the past few years there has been a lot of talk about remote access and digital communications. I have never tried to remote into my home station from a Motel with high speed Internet, but it seems to be the "New Thing".

D-Star does not provide a feature to allow you to remote into your home QTH to use your radios but there are several other solutions that, in my opinion, are superior.

The DV Dongle allows D-Star users to talk on repeaters or reflectors from the comfort of their Hotel room, patio, or any place that has Internet access.

My XYL and I enjoy trips to the beach and one of the requirements for me is a Hotel room with Internet access. Once all of our bags are stowed and we have rested. I pull out my laptop; get on the Internet, plug in my USB headset and DV Dongle, start up the software, and log into W4AP to see if anyone is on locally. I also check www.dstarusers.org to see a list of current user's from all over the world.

The DV Dongle allows me to login to all my favorite machines or reflectors from my favorites list or I can select a site from the global list.

The DV Dongle also provides D-Star access for anyone who doesn't care to use an Icom radio. At \$199.00

price tag, this is an inexpensive solution for trying out D-Star.

To use the dongle, you have to be registered with your local system in order to gain access to D-Star network. When you get your new DV Dongle or D-Star radio and you live in or near Montgomery, contact me via email: K4dj1@arrl.net and I take care of getting you registered.

The DV Dongle uses Java and works with Microsoft Windows, Mac, and the Linux operating systems. The software is free and is available online.

Until next time!

73,

El Erby K4DJL

Montgomery County S.E.T.
El Erby K4DJL
Montgomery County EC

On October 2, 2010 Alabama, the pan handle of Florida, and Georgia participated in a Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Hurricane Jay was to come ashore near Pensacola, FL. as a Category 4 hurricane, track northeast into the southeast corner of Alabama, and then into Georgia.

I went on the 146.840 repeater from parking lot of the Red Cross. I acted as net control from my van. Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery County did a combined SET for a while. We simulated downtown Prattville with 1.5 to 2 feet of flooding, Wetumpka had a tornado touch down on Highway 231 near Walmart with damage to the hospital and women's prison also along 231. Autauga and Elmore county EOC's were manned by county EC's, AEC's, CERT members and Ham's ready to deploy. Traffic was passed to the National Weather Service via D-Star.

We did have to break away from the exercise for a real world automobile accident on Highway 14. Patrick N2TAR drove up on the scene of an over turned car soon after it occurred. Elmore county EOC contacted local emergency to respond.

We stood down near 11:00 am.

Thanks to everyone that participated.

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)

--

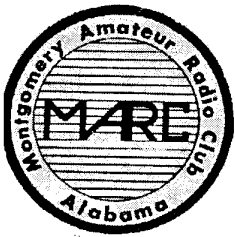
The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

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

