

Z E R Ø BEAT

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

JIM MINOR K4BTP

Vice-President:

WAYNE GENTRY AA4BL

Sec./Treasurer:

BOB LIEBERMAN KA4WZI

Publicity Officer:

MEL ORENSTEIN W6THZ

Trustees:

ED SENSINTAFFAR WA4NKU

FRANK GOLDEN W4DQF

JIM MEACHAM KK4A

REPEATERS/CUSTODIANS

146.04/64 MONTGOMERY, AL

WAYNE GENTRY AA4BL

146.24/84 WETUMPKA, AL

TOMMY GARRETT WA4FYU

147.78/18 GRADY, AL

ROLAND TOWNLEY K4BOJ

CLUB STATION

Call: W4AP

Trustee: PETE SIDES W4AUP

DEC 85

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

MARC

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

DECEMBER MEETING

By the time you read this, the December meeting of the MARC should be staring you in the face. So, while it's fresh on your mind, make plans to attend on Monday, 16 December 1985 at 7:00 P.M. The location is the Alabama Emergency Management Agency Headquarters in the State Administrative Building. For you newcomers I've included a map to help you get there. You can park in the lot on the northeast corner of the building or you can park on King or Ripley Street. Once inside the entrance door, take the stairs down two floors to the basement and follow the corridor.

It will be election night so everyone is encouraged to attend this very important meeting. Please consider this your personal invitation and also make an effort to spread the word among other interested parties. It sure would be nice to see some new faces and for that matter some old faces that we haven't seen for a long time. SEE YOU THERE.

ELECTION NIGHT

As mentioned in the latter article, election of club officers will take place during the December meeting of the MARC. You may recall that I spoke rather pointedly about this matter in the last issue of Zero Beat. Well, as it appears now, we will approach election night 1985 in much better shape than we were prior to this same night a year ago. My point is that we now have a list of people who have expressed a willingness to take on an elected position in the MARC. Here's how it looks:

President:	Jim Meacham, KK4A
Vice President:	Wayne Gentry, AA4BL
Sec./Treasurer:	Roger Littlefield, N4LKM
Publicity Officer:	Ken "K.C." Copeland, WB4MMB
Trustee:	Bobby Chandler, N4AU

Now please understand that this list is not the result of an official nominating committee but is the result of several concerned club members asking about to see who might be interested in working for the MARC. These people will be nominated for the indicated offices and, of course, the floor will be open for nominations by anyone for any office.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 1985 calendar year is quickly drawing to an end and, of course, this signals the beginning of the membership renewal process for the MARC. To renew your membership for 1986 simply fill out the attached application form and mail it to the Secretary/Treasurer along with \$10 for an individual membership or \$15 for a family membership.....So you think you smell a rat, huh? Well, here's the scoop. The Board of Directors of the MARC met in October and after due consideration voted unanimously to raise the annual dues from \$6 to \$10. They also voted to establish a family membership rate of \$15; i.e., every licensed amateur radio operator in a family (parents and their children) can join for \$15.

Of course, dues can also be paid directly to the Secretary/Treasurer during any club meeting if you so desire. Regardless of how you pay, the club needs your support to carry on. A new roster will probably be issued during the first quarter of 1986.

SOUTH ALABAMA STATE FAIR

As many of you know, the MARC sponsored a booth at the 1985 South Alabama State Fair in October and I think it is safe to say that it was a tremendous success. The booth consisted of an operating HF station plus a two-meter rig, displays of QSL cards and operating maps, and of course plenty of handout material promoting amateur radio. The booth was manned by at least two people from Monday, the 14th, through Saturday, the 19th of October. Both HF and VHF contacts were made daily from the booth and the response from the public was excellent. Those who manned the booth took the names of prospective hams, each of whom will be contacted prior to commencing the next "novice class".

It goes without saying that a lot of people put a lot of work into the fair booth, and I would like to acknowledge those individuals and congratulate them on a job well done. Special thanks goes to Roger Littlefield, N4LKM, who was chairman of the Fair Committee and to Roy Jarrett, WB4TKU, who so graciously allowed us to use practically every piece of amateur radio gear that he owns. Additionally, thanks are extended to the following people for their help with the fair booth:

Wayne Gentry, AA4BL
Bobby Chandler, N4AU
Jim Minor, K4BTP
Greely Wells, K4RYQ
Frank Golden, W4DQF
John McLemore, WA4MTG
John "P.A." Klumker, WA4RMY
Phyllis Barrentine, KB4GGQ
Jimmy Moore, WB4ZOR
Bob Simms, WD4BTX
Charlotte Sims, WD4BSX

Al Erdman, W4CNO
Walter Graham, W4YXJ
Lamar Singletary, N4AWW
Jackie Singletary, N4BKF
Ken "K.C." Copeland, WB4MMB
Gene Munger, KE4FO
Leroy Bell, KA4WZD
Warren Bryant, N4MEC
Fred Springall, KB4EGH
Bob Garrett, W4MF
Randy Smith, N4KTX

It may interest you to know that the fair display was built in such a way that it is reusable. It was designed so that it could be broken down into several basic components for storage and transportation purposes. Because of this, there won't be quite as much work involved prior to fair time next year.

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 2A which is "club or group operating portable with more than two operators and with two transmitters operating simultaneously." There were 22 operators who participated. They made 744 contacts with less than 150 watts of power for a total point count of 2712. This placed the MARC at 151 out of 384 in the 2A Class.....a very respectable finish. And, of course, this was a vast improvement over the year before when we used three transmitters and made 381 contacts for 1878 points. If you'd like

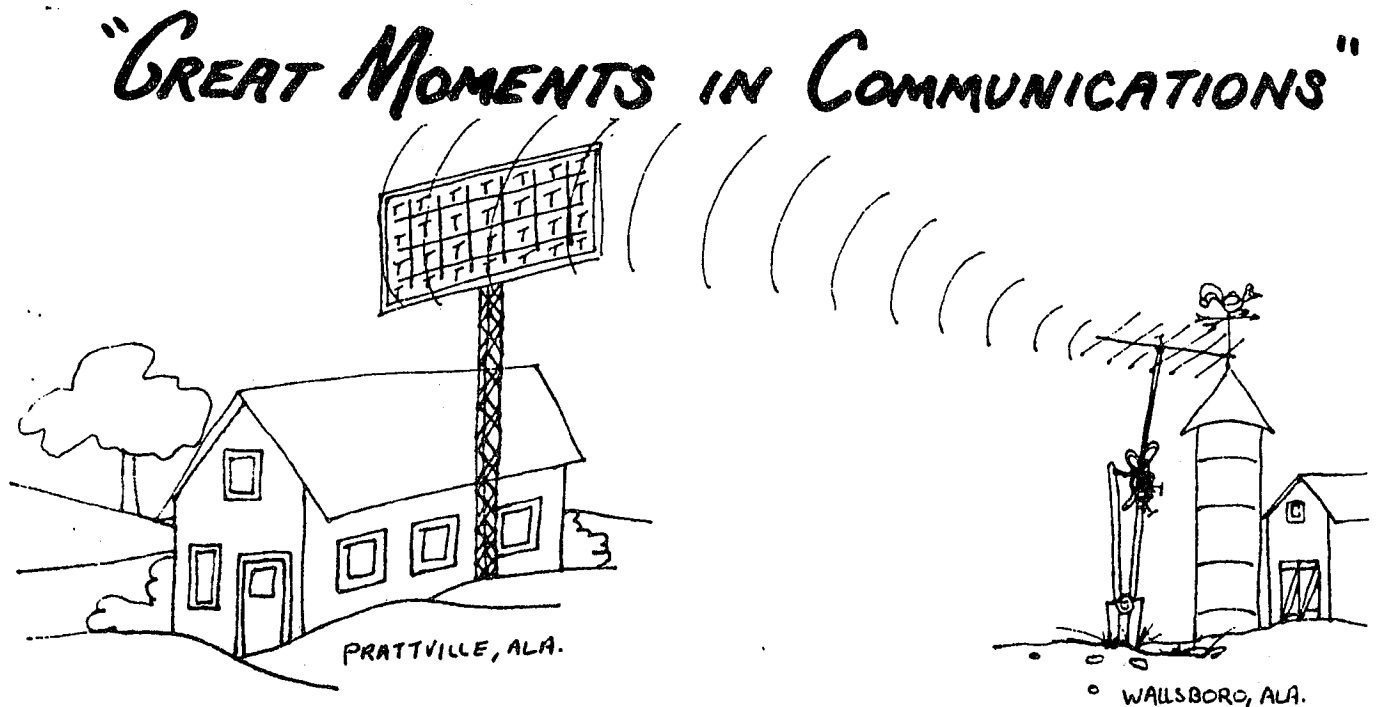
a few more details on the 1985 Field Day effort, check page 4 of the September 1985 issue of Zero Beat. Also, why don't you start planning right now to participate in the 1986 Field Day next June. The more people we have, the more fun we have, and that's the name of the game. Yonder come day!

NEW UHF REPEATER

At their last meeting, the Board of Directors of the MARC voted to put a club sponsored UHF repeater on the air. The club applied for a pair of coordinated frequencies and was subsequently authorized to operate a repeater on 444.5 MHz output and +5 MHz (449.5) input. The machine is on the air and is presently located at the QTH of Bobby, N4AU, Wetumpka, Alabama. It is planned to move the repeater to Bald Knob (the home of 24/84) around the first of the year and, of course, when this is done, the coverage should be greatly improved. I would, also, like to point out the MARC has not spent any money on this new machine except for the cost of some crystals. All of the equipment is borrowed. If it proves to be a worthwhile venture, then the club may want to consider purchasing a new machine someday. So those of you with UHF capabilities are invited to give the new machine a try and those of us without UHF capabilities certainly need to be thinking about it as a possible Christmas present.

THE REAL PIONEERS

In light of the new UHF repeater, you may be interested in knowing a little about the history of amateur UHF communications in this area. Contrary to some stories, UHF communications really started to percolate around here about ten years ago. Bobby Chandler, N4AU, worked up the following story to enlighten us regarding "the real pioneers" of UHF in the Montgomery area.



IT IS DECEMBER 23, 1975 AND IN PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA THE FIRST FAINT SIGNALS FROM AMATEUR STATION K4YJQ ON 449.2 MEGAHERTZ ARE HEARD BY N4MWF.....

In the early days of 440 MHz in this area, it was 440 MC then, the road was rough, but the lessons learned were very valuable. Equipped with an old surplus Motorola mobile with a rigged up AC power supply weighing about 40 pounds and a YAGI antenna mounted on a posthole digger, contact was made with Tom, W4MWF. Signals were weak but readable. Sensitivity on my old Motorola was poor because of a broken multiplier slug, and I think Tom was using surplus GE equipment, but we did communicate and things steadily improved. John McLemore had an old GE Prog Line mobile in those days and someone had settled on 449.2 MC (MHz now) as a local simplex frequency.

Things steadily became more interesting and I decided to try a 440 repeater. So, with an old Prog Line station, on the air went WR4ARQ on 449.2/444.2. About that time, Joe Brewer, W4DPX, and Mike Mims, K4IZN, got the 440 bug and store bought SBE 440 rigs began to appear in this area. Joe had a couple, I had one, and John and Mike had one each (I still have mine and Joe's). These were whopping 5 watt rigs (which delivered about 3 watts) with pretty good receivers (if you didn't try to tune them). These rigs came equipped to operate on a couple of popular repeater pairs, but my repeater was upside down, (low in high out) so I decided to change frequency and turn it over to match commercial standards and ARRL band plan, so it went up on 444.5/449.5.

Along about 1976 Mike decided to put up a repeater in Prattville on 440, so he purchased a VHF engineering repeater on 444.1/449.1 and interfaced it with a two-meter remote base, auto-patch, etc. It is still in operation, but is now at Wetumpka. The original call was WR4AZL (now K4IZN/R).

We've had many interesting experiences on 440 over the years. Once Mike was riding around Prattville with his remote on a Birmingham repeater running a blistering 3 watts on 440 talking to some Birmingham boys who didn't believe him. Then there were the many mornings the dot 5 machine would lock up with an upside-down 444.5 in Atlanta and we would carry on a 440 QSO with a fellow in an office in Atlanta (I forgot his call), until one of the repeaters timed out.

Some time around 1977 or 1978, we upgraded the antennas on the repeaters. We spent many hours chopping half-wave lengths of RG-8 making 16 element co-linear antennas (nicknamed sausages). We replaced the brand name antennas, sometimes referred to as external dummy loads, I purchased a Ham Tronics preamp for my repeater, and things improved dramatically. John interfaced my dot 5 repeater with a two-meter repeater (147.045) and a ten-meter remote base. While he was building it up, he had the receive-only operational and one local ham heard Colorado on 147.045 and really thought there was a two-meter opening. Not aware that he was receiving on ten meters but not transmitting there, his feverish response went unnoticed (except for the locals on two and 440). After the ten-meter remote was in full operation, it was not unusual to talk to east and west coast from two via the remote. I had a couple of DX contacts one afternoon going home from work, one with a Japan station.

We could not stimulate much interest in the 440 activity, so I took dot 5 off the air. The 444.1 repeater (with remote) is still in operation and improvements are being made. A control system has been conceived by Mike and me which is being built and will allow remote QSY capability (and other functions) in the near future.

With rigs more reasonably priced (which work exceptionally well) I think you would find some interesting goings on on 440. Next, 900 or 1.2 GHz?

BATTLE STATIONS!!!

If you haven't been checking into the Tall Tower Net lately, you may not be aware that amateur radio is under attack in Washington, D. C. The Westlink Reports which are aired regularly on the Net have given a fairly in-depth review of what's going on. I am not an authority on the matter so I will only touch lightly on it in an attempt to at least alert you to the fact that amateur radio is being threatened.

A bill called the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1985 was introduced to Congress in mid-September. This bill is the work of a lobbyist group called the Cellular Telecommunications Industries Association (CTIA) and has been designated Senate Bill S.1667 and House Bill HR 3378. The bill would amend Title 18 of the U. S. Code with respect to unlawful interception of wired and wireless electronic communications; some are calling it "the anti-scanner law". Nevertheless, amateur radio is allegedly effected by this proposed law in the area of radio/telephone interconnects; i.e., phone-patches and auto-patches. It is my understanding that the proposed law could completely disallow radio/telephone interconnects on some bands and severely limit them on other bands.

The obvious problem here is that a group which is totally unrelated to amateur radio is pursuing legislation which would have an adverse effect on amateur radio. No one seems to know why amateur radio is being included in the bill and the general feeling is that amateur radio is not a threat to cellular telephone. So why are they sticking their noses into our business? Regardless of the reason, we need to advise our Congressmen and Senators, via letters, that we are against the inclusion of amateur radio in the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1985. If you do write, be sure to refer to Senate Bill S.1667 and House Bill HR 3378.

GREENVILLE SWAPFEST

January 26, 1986, which is the last Sunday of the month, is the date of the Butler County Amateur Radio Club Swapfest in Greenville, Alabama. The Swapfest is held in the Greenville Recreation Center in Beeland Park. Exact directions can be received via the talk-in on the 146.06/66 repeater. The Fest begins at 8:00 A.M. and runs until 2:00 P.M. Parking and admission are free. Food and drink may be purchased at the Swapfest. Tables are available for \$3.00 each and may be reserved by calling Jim K4TNS, at 382-5040 at night or 382-7911 during the day, or Randolph, KW4B, at 382-3496 anytime. Don't wait on reserving a table because they go fast. There will also be prizes, at least two dealers (Quad and Hooper), and license exams. Exams will be given for Technician through Extra Class and will begin at 9:00 A.M. Either bring a completed 610 Form or fill one out at the door. Also, remember to bring your license and photocopy of same.

MONTGOMERY HAMFEST

The Montgomery Hamfest which was held on 9 November 1985 is history now, and to those who were involved we offer congratulations for a job well done. I can't

give you any statistics on ticket sales but judging from the looks of the ticket barrel just before the main prize drawings, I would say that the Hamfest probably made some money. There were two major dealers there and I believe they were both glad they came. The license exam session given by the Montgomery unit of CAVEC was also very successful. They administered 47 exam elements to 36 people which resulted in 20 upgrades for a 56% pass rate. All-in-all it was a fun day and a very successful one. Again, congratulations to all involved.

CLUB UNIFORM

Have you ever been to a club or organization meeting or function (not necessarily a radio club) where the members were all wearing the same type or color of hat, shirt, or jacket with an emblem, patch, or logo appropriately located on the garment. It's pretty spiffy looking to me especially when the matching garments are worn at a function or gathering involving more people than just the immediate club members. For example, if the MARC helped out with a footrace one Saturday morning, it would be nice if all participants from the MARC were wearing matching shirts with a club emblem or logo on the front. This would immediately identify each individual as a communications participant and as a member of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club. Matching garments of some type would have been very effective at the fair booth last October.

Primarily, this is just food for thought but there are already some MARC members who are excited about the idea and at least one sketch of a club emblem or logo has been drawn. There are endless possibilities as to what the logo might look like so maybe we should have a contest to allow all interested parties a shot at drawing a logo and then let the club members be the judges. So think about this idea, and let's discuss it at a club meeting after the first of the year.

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 December 16, 1985, January 20, and February 17, 1986 at 7:00 P.M. These dates are the third Monday of each month.

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.

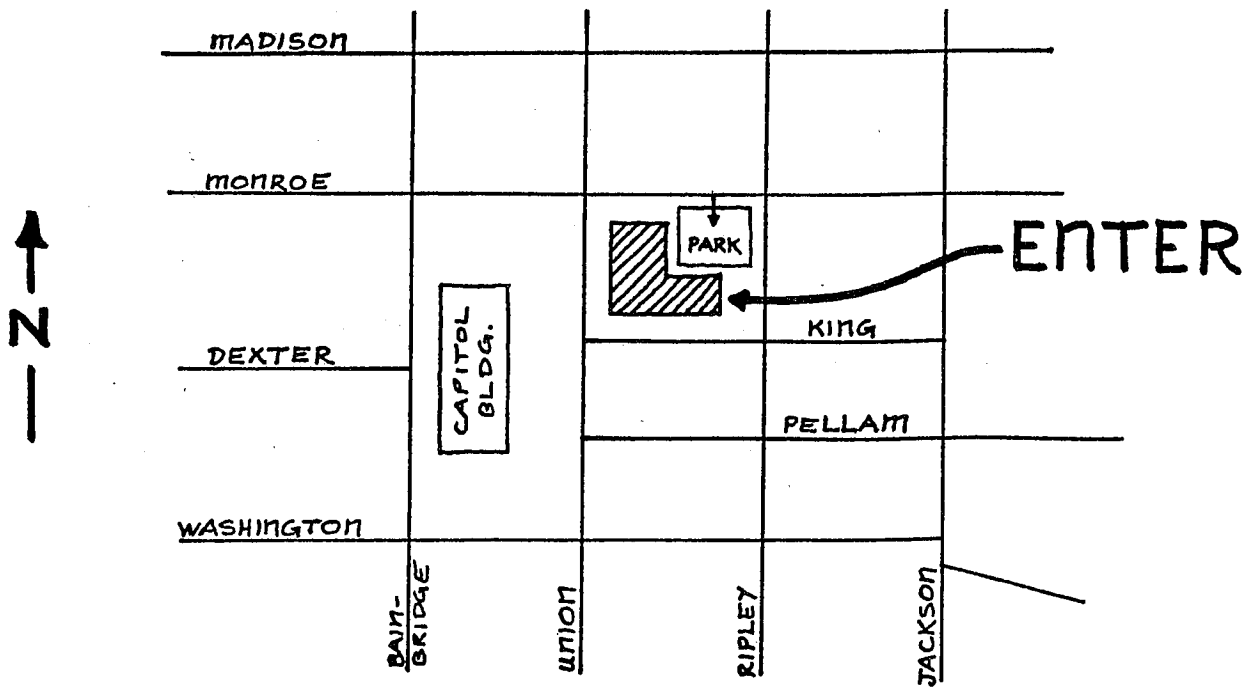
The "Club Challenge for the 80's" contest ends December 31, 1985. Remember to use the special code 0763 on your ARRL application if you've never been a member before.

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

Central Alabama Two-Meter Sideband Net every Thursday night at 9:00 P.M., local time, on 144.190 MHz, USB.

Greenville Swapfest on Sunday, January 26, 1986.

If you know any prospective hams, pass their names on to a club officer so they can be put on the list for notification of the next "novice class".



MARC MEET'N PLACE

MONTGOMERY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

CITY AND STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARRL MEMBER ? _____ LIC. CLASS _____

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

Non-members receiving this newsletter for the first time are invited to join the MARC and receive each quarterly issue of Zero Beat.
