

Zero Beat



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Established 1938

4th Quarter 2006

MARC CALENDER OF EVENTS

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING every 3rd Monday 7:00 PM
American Red Cross 5015 Woods Crossing Dr.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST every Saturday preceding the
monthly club meeting at Flip's on the corner of Perry Hill Rd. &
Atlanta Hwy at 8:30 AM

FCC EXAMS

ARRL Last Saturday each month at 1:00 PM at
American Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing Dr.
For Info contact Scott, W4SPA (334) 262-0412
Or email (w4spa@arrl.net)

CAVEC every 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM at American Red Cross,
5015 Woods Crossing Dr.
For Info contact Steve, K4NM (padgett@jschool.troy.edu) or Jim
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 Clay, KC4YAU.

Skywarn/Emergency Net Golf Thursday at 7:00PM on 146.84.
Net manager Mark, WB5NMZ.

Hamfest

Saturday
November 11th at Garrett Coliseum

Election for MARC

At the November Meeting

Details Inside

2006 Officers

President: W4SPA-Scott Poole
Past Pres:
VP: KG4PNL-Rick Seeders
Secretary: KG4MIQ-Tim Dixon
Treasurer: K4APG-Paul St. John
Publicity: KI4CSQ-Shaun Thomas
Trustee: WD4JRB-Stuart May
Trustee: K1AZE-Lew Nyman
Trustee: K4OZN-Phil Salley
W4AP Trustee: K4TK-Tim Moore

Local Repeaters

146.840(-) W4AP Wetumpka
146.920(-) W4AP Eastdale
147.180(+) W4AP Baptist Tower (Autopatch)
444.5(+) W4AP Wetumpka--Linked to IRLP 100 Hz
53.350(-) W4AP Baptist Tower 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 Simplex Packet
144.390 Simplex APRS-W2 in this area.



From the President's Shack

By Scott W. Poole, W4SPA

Well, there's definitely a chill in the air and the days are getting shorter and that can mean only one thing, it's time for the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club's Arthur L. Price / KF4ILP Memorial Hamfest and Computer Show! This year's Hamfest will be held at the Garrett Coliseum on Saturday, November 11. Doors open to the public at 9AM, CAVEC testing starts at 8 AM. Please ask anyone wanting to test to be in place by 8AM. The testing needs to be wrapped up by 10AM so the room can be set up for a forum. As always, there will be door prizes, new equipment vendors, a flea market, and a tail-gating area. New to this year's Hamfest; there will be 2 foxhunts on-site. The first will begin at 8:30 outside the coliseum and the second hunt will be at around 10:30 after the youth forum concludes. Prizes will be offered to the winners, so please plan to hunt. As has been the case for the last couple of years, we're asking club members working at the Hamfest to wear their yellow Hamfest Staff T-shirts. This makes it easy for anyone needing assistance to find one of us. Talk-in will be on the 146.84 repeater starting on Friday afternoon and continuing through the end of the show on Saturday.

At the October meeting, nominations were opened for the 2007 MARC officers. Rick Seeders, KG4PNL, has accepted the nomination for President. El Erby, K4DJL, is running for VP. Paul St. John, K4APG, has agreed to run again for Treasurer. Tim Dixon, KG4MIQ, hasn't had enough punishment yet, so he's willing to be the Treasurer again. Bruce Jenkins, KI4OZW, has accepted the nomination for MARC Publicity Officer. And for the Trustee position that expires this year, the incumbent Stuart May, WD4JRB, and challenger Jim Eiland, KR4JY, have both thrown their hats into the ring. Officer's nominations will remain open until closed during the November meeting so if you're interested in running for a club office; it's still not too late to do so. Officer elections will immediately follow the closing of the nominations at the November meeting which will be held on Monday, November, 20th at the Central Alabama chapter of the American Red Cross, located at 5015 Woods Crossing Drive, just off Carmichael Rd. Meeting time is 7:00PM.

As you may have noticed, my name is *not* in the list of officer candidates for 2007. I have been asked by many of you to run again and I must say I'm flattered. I have served as a club officer for the past 3 years and I'm ready to stand aside and give someone else a chance. In closing this, my last installment of the president's article, I want to thank all of you for the outstanding support you have given to me and the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club over the past 3 years. There are too many of you to thank individually, but I would like to mention a couple that really went above and beyond the call. First, my wife Anita, KG4YWT; without her support, I simply could not have accomplished this job. She came early with me to all of the meetings, helped set-up, and clean-up afterwards. There was many a meeting night that it was after 10 PM before we got home. Thanks Anita, you have no idea how much I appreciate all you do for me! To Rick Seeders, KG4PNL; a President has to delegate, and Rick stepped to the challenge and delivered every time. I couldn't have asked for a more supportive VP. You have

no idea how much time it takes to run a web site as complex and dynamic as ours, but Rick makes it look easy. Thanks Rick. Also to Tim, Paul, and the trustees, Stuart, Phil, and Lew; each of you made my job much easier by being so supportive and understanding. I have benefited immensely from the knowledge and experiences that each of you has shared with me. And last, but certainly not least, to all of the wonderful members of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club I say "Thanks". It has indeed been an honor to have served as your club President.

73,
--Scott

Winlink 2000

Hello and Greetings,

I am pleased to announce the availability for Winlink nodes: Dexter, Alabama K4GR-10 Prattville, Alabama KB0OLA-10 The systems are using the VHF Freq of 145.690 simplex They can be accessed via the W4AP-2 digi on Bald Knob Use the following syntax to connect: Direct: C callsign (ie.. c KB0OLA-10) Via Digi: C callsign via Digi callsign (ie.. c KB0OLA-10 via W4AP-2) I will keep the posting updated as more nodes come on line.. I would like to thank everyone who has helped with this project, especially (Bobby N4AU, Mike K4IZN, Mike KB0OLA) 73's and Enjoy...:):)

Greg, K4GR, vAlabama Emergency Net Manager
Emergency Coordinator (Elmore County)

Editor's addition:

The Winlink system is a worldwide system connected by the internet that allows digital communication. It can be used for Email (including attachments) for emergency communications from your hf or 2 meter radio. It utilizes the local packet radio system here in the Montgomery area.

If you don't have a TNC, you can use your computer sound card and a free program called Packet Engine (AGWPE) available for download on the internet. It can also be used with a dumb terminal, if you have a hardware TNC or with AGW Packterm (by the same author), with sound card TNC.

The best setup, however, is to utilize your Outlook Express email client with a program called Paclink AGW and Paclink Post Office, which creates the interface with OE on your computer and sets up an email link to the Winlink server. This does require that you have Microsoft® .Net Framework on your computer. This is included with Windows XP® and is available for download from Microsoft for ME. See www.winlink.org for complete information.

**Zero Beat is published by the Montgomery Amateur
Radio Club.
Editor, N4AU. Hard Copy, W4MF and KU4PY.**



Southeastern Division Leadership

Director--Frank M. Butler Jr--W4RH-- w4rh@arrl.org

Vice Director--Sandy Donahue--W4RU-- w4ru@arrl.org

Assistant Director --Alabama--Rik Doll--KU4PY--ku4py@arrl.net

Section Manager--Greg Sarratt-- W4OZK-- w4ozk@arrl.org

ARRL Alabama Section Cabinet at

Ala Section Web Page www.arrl-al.org

League Notes

By Rik Doll, KU4PY

ARRL Assistant Director

Southeastern Division

Hopefully, you have received your Hamfest mailout or read the article about our hamfest in the latest edition of QST and consequently, are well aware of the MARC hamfest to be held on the 11th of Nov. Our S.E. Div. Director, Frank Butler and Alabama Section Manager, Greg Sarratt will be staffing the ARRL table as well as conducting several forums. Here is a golden opportunity to find out the latest updates on the ARRL and FCC. Please make a point to stop by the ARRL table to say hello or join in the forums. See the MARC web page for a complete list. (www.w4ap.org) The FCC has released the, long-awaited, "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order. This document contains many changes and re-allocations of the amateur spectrum. What you will notice, after you read the R&O, is that the "CW" issue is not addressed. So we still don't know if a CW will be retained as a requirement for advanced licensing or not. There are some errors that need to be corrected and will be addressed before this becomes final. The R&O will not take effect until 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register later this fall. The following is a synopsis provided by the ARRL. "The FCC's Report and Order in the, so-called, "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10, 2006. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the proposed changes in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released back in 2004. The FCC has:

- + expanded the phone sub-bands in the 75 and 40 meter bands;
- + permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- + permitted the use of spread spectrum on 222-225 MHz;
- + permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;
- + permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;
- + prohibited an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity call sign;
- + eliminated certain restrictions on equipment manufacturers;

+ permitted Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications;

+ clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";

+ deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for RACES stations;

and

+ deleted the requirement for public announcement of test locations and times.

In addition, the FCC took several other miscellaneous actions.

In "re-farming" the frequencies currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees, the Commission increased the voice segments for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees.

On 75 meters, Generals will be able to use voice from 3800-4000 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz. Advanced class licensees will be able to use voice from 3700-4000, an increase of 75 kHz, and Amateur Extras will be able to use voice from 3600 to 4000 kHz, a generous increase of 150 kHz.

On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees will be able to use voice from 7125-7300 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz. General class licensees will be able to use voice on 7175-7300 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz.

On 15 meters, General class operators will have phone privileges on 21275-21450 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the ARRL's gratitude to the FCC Commissioners in a letter dated October 11: "On behalf of the ARRL and the Commission's licensees in the Amateur Radio Service I want to express appreciation for your release yesterday of the Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) amending Part 97 of the Commission's Rules. The Commission's action in clearing this pending proceeding will assist the Amateur Radio Service in meeting its objectives, particularly with regard to providing emergency and public service communications."



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2006 Montgomery County Simulated Emergency Test

*by Mark Wintersole WB5NMZ
Montgomery Co EC*

Scenario

This year's event simulated simulated an earthquake measuring 9.2 on the Richter scale centered in the area of New Madrid MO causing widespread damage throughout the area. The effects of this great earthquake were supposed to have been felt as far east as Alabama. Commercial utilities were reported to be out throughout the central Alabama region, leaving only emergency power available. Telephone connectivity south and east of the Alabama River appeared to remain intact, but connectivity with areas north and west of the river was out. Most cell phone towers along the Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa Rivers were either out or overloaded, therefore useless. The state UHF communications network was simulated to have been damaged and no longer provided reliable emergency communications within the Montgomery area. Local ham operators were asked to check and report on the status of bridges and overpasses that had been selected by the Montgomery City/County EMA beforehand. These reports were to have been collected on the Alabama Emergency Net Golf on the local repeaters and then passed on 3965 to the State EOC in Clanton.

Results

This year's test, the first we've had in quite some time, went quite well. Ten stations throughout the Montgomery/Autauga/Elmore County area participated, all operating on emergency power per the scenario. Stations in Lowndes and Butler Counties also participated in the drill, but as separate entities working directly with their own local EMAs.

Since the 146.84 repeater is situated atop a mountain ridge and could have been affected by this earthquake, we purposely shut it down. Unfortunately, not everyone made it to the backup frequency of 147.18 quickly. Please remember that both the SkyWarn and AL Emergency Net Golf backup frequencies are [in order]: 147.18+, 146.92-, and 146.56spx. If an emergency situation arises and you can't hear the .84, look elsewhere for activity.

All of our mobile operators showed good hustle in getting to the assigned locations and reporting back. We had all 12 of our assigned sites inspected and reports back to the EMA within 45 minutes of net activation. MGM EMA then generated a situation report for the State EOC, which was successfully passed via HF within the next 15 minutes.

Overall, I'd declare the 2006 SET a rousing success. The Montgomery City/County EMA Deputy Director observed this drill and was suitably impressed. As a result, Amateur Radio has been added as a permanent "battlestaff" position during city/county emergencies. I hope all of you are already looking forward to participating in next year's SET – it's a rewarding experience and lots of fun!

Are You Ready? It's HAMFEST Time!!

Rik, KU4PY
MARC Hamfest Chairman

Roll up your sleeves and head on out to the Coliseum for our annual hamfest. We need your help to make this a success. Without a good volunteer staff, we just would not be able to put on an interesting and professional hamfest and have the folks coming back every year. The people who attend look forward to a well run and friendly get together. This is as much a social event as it is a buying spree. Though, the latter would be nice also. We start setting up on Friday afternoon about 2:00pm and some folks stay till 9:00pm to assist the vendors and sign them in. Activities start about 6:00am on Saturday with boneyard setup, vendor breakfast, vendor sign in, and final preparations for the admissions folks. These are all areas where you can help out. Phil Salley, K4OZN, handles the vendors, Lew Nyman, K1AZE, is in charge of admissions and the boneyard, Anita Poole, KG4YWT, orchestrates the food service, and Pete Carroll, KF4QOE, heads up the folks at the club table. Pick a place where you would like to work and let the person in charge know that you are available and interested. If you cannot make contact with one of these folks then call Scott, W4SPA, or myself and we will be more than happy to pass your desires along to the appropriate person. We are looking forward to a great hamfest. See you there!

*****MARC*****

Election of Officers For 2007 at the November Meeting



Radio House Site



Coax Connections



Part of the Grounding System



Repeater and Remotes



300' Tower

THE W4KEN REPEATER

Here are some views at Ken's Repeater Site located at Santuck about 6 miles north of Wetumpka. He has installed a 300 foot tower and a very well setup Radio House which houses his 147.380 repeater and remote bases on 2 Meters, 440 mHz, and 222 mHz. The remotes are controlled on various frequencies which must be compatible with the repeater, for minimum cross interference. Emergency power is provided by Gel Cell Batteries and the building has it's own power feed.

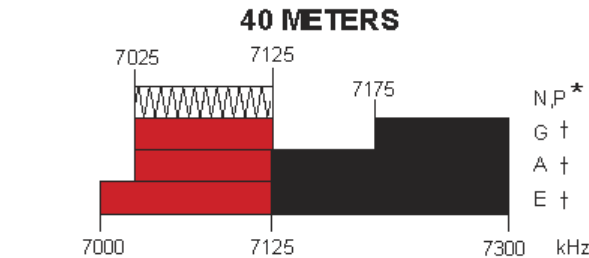
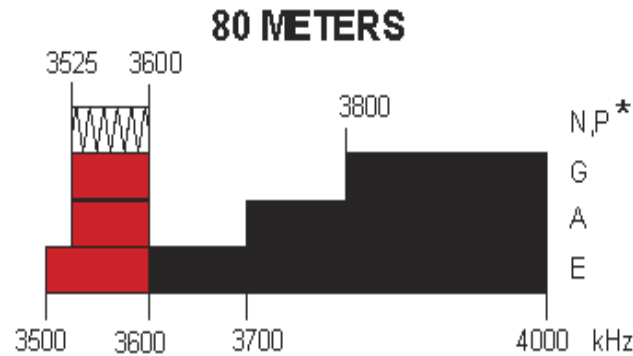
The site is used commercially by 1 user and there are prospects pending for others to use the tower and facilities. Ken has done a very professional job in setting up the site as he erected the tower himself and it is Rohn 55g tower installed to the specifications by Rohn for this area. He has copper grounding using copper pipe inside the building and tied to the ground system externally.

I'm sure Ken would give you a tour if you'd like to visit the site.

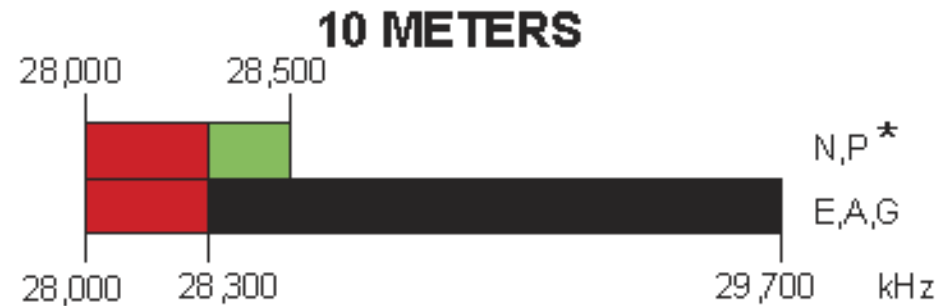
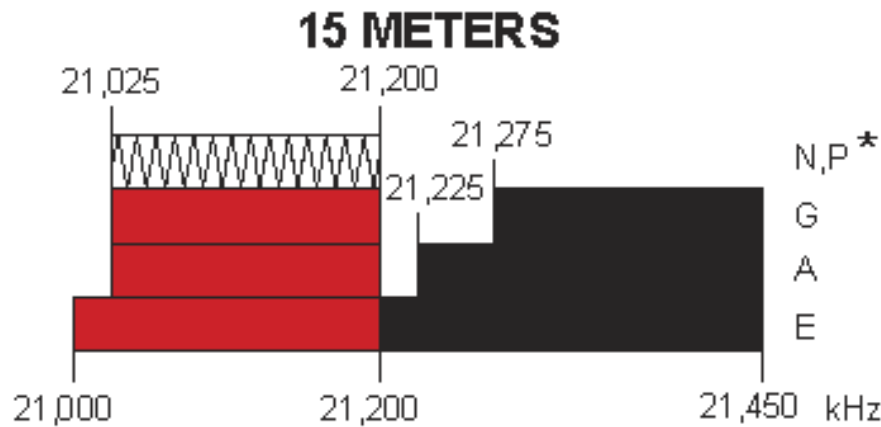
KEY

- = CW, RTTY and data
- = CW, RTTY, data, MCW, test, phone and image
- = CW, phone and image
- = CW and SSB phone
- = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
- = CW only
- = USB Phone only

- E** = AMATEUR EXTRA
- A** = ADVANCED
- G** = GENERAL
- P** = TECHNICIAN PLUS
- T** = TECHNICIAN
- N** = NOVICE



† Phone and Image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.305(c) and 97.307(f)(11). Novice and Technician Plus licensees outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.



Propose band allocations under the R and O

Courtesy American Radio Relay League

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

