

# The Alabama – Georgia, Amateur Radio Update Newsletter

November 10, 2002

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Edition no 135

Edited by Jerry Hemby, WINRA

Hello folks and thanks for the good reports on the last newsletter and the new format. I only had one inquire about not being able to see the last edition.

Well, as most of you know, the Montgomery Al. Hamfest was this weekend and I made it over there and enjoyed it very much, as usual but it seemed to be bigger than last year. There were lots of folks there and many from the Columbus, Phenix City as well as Opelika, Auburn. Good to see everyone there.

I did have a hard drive back as I think I overstayed the limits to my back while on the concrete. But after making a stop in Tuskegee for some Tylenol and a walk around, limber up session, I made it on in and had a rest in the recliner for a while.

While I didn't buy anything this time, I did enjoy looking at all the big guy toys. I know several folks bought radios and scanners and probably a few antennas while there.

I've always wanted to take a walk around the parking lot and photograph many of the mobile antennas that are around. There are some that are original to say the least.

I see some large ones with guy lines (ropes) leading somewhere up front to keep them in a somewhat vertical attitude while cruising down the highways.

I saw one in Huntsville that had a large aluminum plate on top of the package rack with no less than 8 different antennas attached. "Wonder if it whistled while going down the road." This same Mobeecel had one or two antennas also mounted to the bumper as well. I don't know if they actually went anywhere or if they were just for looks..hi hi.

I was to glad see Miss Billie there and I told her that we expect to hear her check in to the wed night nets. She said last week she had planned to check in but fell asleep in the recliner ! Seems I've heard that somewhere before. We may have to ring her up next time if we don't hear her.

## **Alabama Severe Weather Information for 2002**

I talked to Mr. Brian Peters, who is with the National Weather Service, Birmingham, Al.

Brian is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the Birmingham office.

He also has given us many great and informative classes in the area for recognizing and reporting severe weather conditions to the SkyWarn nets in the area. I think I understood that there will be a class in the Phenix City area in the

near future. I'll have to check on the schedule for that class and pass it on to everyone. I do encourage everyone to attend whether you've been to one of them before or not. They are always informative and interesting to everyone. Everyone who attends these training sessions receives a nice certificate from the National Weather Service.

I picked up a Weather Safety folder at the NWS table and it has a lot of information about tornadoes and how to preparing for severe weather situations before they occur.

Also listed are the frequencies for the NWS weather radio stations around the state. The Columbus station is on 162.400 and the Auburn station is on 162.525. So if you have a scanner, put these frequencies in memory so you can check on the weather at any time. If you don't have a scanner, there are many models available and your local Radio Shack has several of them. If you watch, you can usually get one on a pretty good reduction in price. Many of them have a button that will take you instantly to the NWS frequencies with changing any settings on the radio. Be sure to get one that can be battery powered so if you lose power, you can still hear not only the weather but the local Ham Radio nets as well during

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emergency conditions  
around where you live.

I think I'll suggest that our club (CARC) purchase a scanner for raffle to be given away at the Christmas dinner and maybe we can put a few bucks in the club change box.

There will be a Christmas Dinner party this year. I'm not sure of date, time, or location. I will forward that information if I receive it from the club. I'm sure it will be announced on the Wed night nets. It should be regular club night and Chef Lee's. but check net for details.

Back to WEATHER INFORMATION. The fall winter storm season is on us and while we've been pretty lucky for a while, we must be ready for severe conditions at any time. There was a tornadoe last week at Abbeville Alabama which is just below Eufaula. It's about 65 or 70 miles south of us. There was considerable damage and I think two deaths. Brian said this was a category 2 tornadoe.



The web address for the Birmingham office of the NWS is:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/index.html>

Check here for many articles of interest as well as schedules for any weather training to be held in and around the state. (Alabama)

Speaking of severe weather conditions and storm watching, here are several photographs that I took July 14 of this year. This looked like a very dangerous WALL CLOUD that formed over downtown Columbus as I watched from Kmart parking lot in Phenix City. There was no storm warning at the time and there were no nets up on the radio. I watched this cloud with much interest for probably 20 minutes until it finally disipated. Believe me, I didn't take my eyes off of it until it was gone. I was ready to put it on the radio if it looked if it was going to get any lower or if I saw any rotation. Strangely there was no rotation of this cloud or any around it so I just watched it for a while. Oddly enough it was almost on top of the Columbus Emergency Management office..... Nobody ever said anything about it so I just came home after seeing it go away.



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If the EAARC and the CARC will send me their plans for Christmas dinner for the two clubs, I will pass it on in the next letter. Otherwise, I guess just check the nets for time, place etc.

I understand that John Cunningham bought and donated to the CARC, a new repeater. I hear that it will be put somewhere east of Columbus "so we can talk to people in Macon". I never hear anyone over there who much wants to talk anyway and if need be I can almost always hit their repeaters from the house.

That's about all I have for this edition.

Club meetings for November will be:

CARC, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
EAARC, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**REMEMBER CARC MEMBERS BRING YOUR QSL CARDS TO THE NEXT MEETING AND GIVE THEM TO JOHN WINGARD. THEY WILL BE PLACED ON A DISPLAY AT THE CLUBHOUSE.**

Hummm, somebody was going to get some qsl holders at the Montgomery hamfest. I'll bet that didn't happen...

I don't remember seeing any but I just thought about it myself. Oh well I guess we can order some from HRO or somewhere else.

"Es no my job man"

Everybody have a good week and see you at the next clubmeeting.

If you have information of suggestions for the newsletter, send them to me at [w1nra@yahoo.com](mailto:w1nra@yahoo.com)

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**Oh yes I almost forgot. There was a 9 year old girl in Montgomery and she PASSED HER EXTRA CLASS LICENSE TEST WHILE THERE. I don't know her name but there was a group of us there and we did offer her our congratulations for sure.**