

Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

April 04, 2016

Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County, Georgia

Attendance at Meeting: Mike Crowe, Dan Darsey, Ed Hoard, Buzz Kutcher, Melvin Mosier, Darlene Ragon, David Ridgeway, Whit Smith, Elaine Stachowiak, Anthony Strite, Brent Strite, JD VanSickle, Dennis Wagner, Ken Wallis, Rudy Williams, Glen Wyatt.

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens No after action report has been released for the Dixie Pipeline Exercise last month. There will be a full scale exercise using the same disaster situation held on site coming soon.

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Ken is in need of volunteers for Net Control Operators for the months of July-August-September 2016. Please consider volunteering; the job isn't hard and it is good experience especially for new operators. Contact Ken Wallis to volunteer.

VE Team: Dan Darsey Next VE testing day will be May 21st and will be held at the Butts County Recreational Center; contact Dan to register. Next Ham Cram will be July 16, 2016; contact Buzz or Dan for further information.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Mike has been thinking ahead to Field Day and our Club would like to do digital contacts as well as voice that weekend. Are you having any technical issues that prevent you from participating in digital communications?

Mike is attending a 'Contest University' event shortly and hopes to come back with several new tricks for use on Field Day.

Please start working on using PSK31 for digital communications as use of this mode is increasing in popularity.

Check the Fldigi website for a 'Users' Manual' with instructions on setting up macros which speeds up messaging when you are sending the same information repeatedly.

Please contact Mike for assistance if you are having difficulty checking into the D-RATS Southeastern Weather Net.

Mike encouraged members to actively participate in that Sunday Weather Net and the Wednesday night digital nets.

Remember practice makes the job easier when a real event occurs!

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Remember to monitor the Jackson or McDonough Repeaters should bad weather occur.

Field Day Committee: David Burnahm & Randy Beacham Field Day will be held on June 25 and 26, 2016.

Darlene Ragon is coordinating the food for the Family Picnic this year; several members have expressed that members only bring 'Homemade' goodies or other items. I totally understand that everyone is too busy but it is sad for someone to purchase 'store bought' cake or cookies and have them thrown away in favor of eating someone else's homemade offering. Talk with the cook in your family and plan now to bring a homemade salad, dessert or other item; something freeze beautifully and can be cooked at the last minute. The time to plan your food offering is now, not the day before Field Day when you will be rushed with last minute preparations. This is not to offend anyone I just know how much homemade foods are loved and appreciated. Many Thanks for all our families do to support up in our Emergency Communication services!

Membership Chairman: Ken Wallis We have 32 members with 5 prospective members.

Public Information Officer: Ed Hoard Ed plans to create a press release showcasing Elaine and other members that participated in the 'National Parks on the Air' event recently. Eleven contacts were made at their NPOTA event. Others are planned for later this year, possible at Andersonville and near Plains, Georgia; it sure looks like they had fun so take this opportunity to join them if you possibly can. Contact Elaine for future event information.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Buzz encouraged all members to at least complete ICS courses 100-700-802. Please make every effort to get these classes completed. Without them you will not understand how amateur radio fits into a disaster relief effort.

Buzz reminded us that to remain as an active member of ARES you must participate in at least one activity every 6 months.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1069.81 Repeater Fund \$1022.00 Total \$2091.81 Mike Crowe said a fellow Ham that he and Ken Wallis assisted with erecting an antenna donated \$100.00 to our Club in thanks. Three cheers for this kind fellow!

Club Old Business: Dan Darsey is working on the completion of the 'how to' manual to open, run and close the Sylvan Grove Hospital station. Buzz was unable at this time to acquire a special call sign for the Sylvan Grove Hospital Station. The computer at the 911 center is now connected to the Internet.

Club New Business: Upcoming "Bluebird and Bluegrass" Festival to be held April 23, 2016. Our Club will be assisting the Jackson Football team with communications for a 5K race they are holding on May 7, 2016. We still need several volunteers with HT radios. Contact Buzz to volunteer. We are in need of someone to be 'Grill Master' for our Field Day family picnic; please consider volunteering.

Coming Events: Cheerio Challenge with the Newton County Radio Club. Hungry Hams Breakfast April 16, 2016 at the Lunch Box in Jackson, Georgia.

Monthly Program: Our program this month was a very informative and hands on demonstration of Anderson Power Poles and their usefulness in amateur radio. Many thanks to Mike Crowe for his willingness to share his wealth of knowledge with our Club.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: Our Club raised \$41.00 in raffle funds this evening. Please donate items to Anthony Strite for our fund raising efforts and thanks to all who do and those that purchase raffle tickets!