

Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

August 01, 2016

Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County, Georgia

Attendance at Meeting: Mark Baker; David Burnham; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Ed Hoard; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Dennis Wagner; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Pete Acevedo; Glenn Coffey.

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Buzz Kutcher volunteered to be Net Control for September 2016 and Mark Baker volunteered to serve in October 2016. We still need volunteers for November and December 2016.

VE Team: Dan Darsey There were 15 attendees at the July 16, 2016 Ham Cram/VE Session; 12 people passed their testing with 10 new Technician licensees and 2 upgrading to General license. Congratulations to all! The next VE testing session will be held on September 17, 2016 to be held at the Biles Recreation Center. Also our Club VE's have been asked to assist with the VE session sponsored by Newton County at their Hamfest to be held on September 24, 2016. Please mark your calendars for these testing dates if you are a VE and can help.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe The duplexer that was sent off for repairs now checks out good; Mike is follow up on a lead of an antenna to assist with our Club's communications.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Hurricane season is upon us and so far the Gulf has been fairly quiet; the National Weather Service however stresses that the waters off the Southeastern US is unusually warm and that can lead to increased storm activity potential. Check you hurricane preparations and be sure you are ready to shelter in place or deploy to service stricken areas if called upon. The Hurricane Webinar shown last week should be available for viewing on the ARRL's You Tube channel.

Field Day Committee: Dennis Wagner Dennis said that he will shortly be asking for volunteers to serve as 'Band Captains' for 2017's Field Day activities and he welcomes any suggestions to make our event run smoothly and be more enjoyable for all involved. He hopes to begin holding regular planning meetings and set goals for Field Day. Please be supportive of Dennis' efforts and volunteer your energies to assist.

Membership Chairman: Ken Wallis The Club presently has 42 members with one prospective member.

Public Information Officer: Ed Hoard The August issue of the 'Repeater' should be released very shortly; please share with friends and family. You never know if you might spark an interest in Ham Radio in them. Also if you have not 'liked' our Facebook page, please consider doing so and sharing with all your 'Friends' at Facebook.

Ed brought to the Club's attention two opportunities to serve our community by setting up a Amateur Radio booth at Jenkinsburg Founder's Day on October 01, 2016 and the Jackson Alive Festival to be held on October 29, 2016. Buzz and David Ridgeway are hoping to coordinate our Club's efforts at the Jackson Alive Festival with Butts County CERT team members to educate the public. Member support for the festivals was not very evident and no action on either one would have occurred save for Elaine Stachowiak fostering support for the Jackson Alive Festival.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway David wanted to remind us of the upcoming CERT class on "Active Shooters" to be held on Monday night August 15, 2016 7:00 p.m. at the Towaligia Baptist Church in Jackson. Please consider inviting family, neighbors and friends to attend. I can think of no more pressing information that might save the lives of those we care about.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher If you have not checked into the newly renovated Georgia ARES Database, please do so to be sure you can access and update your records. If you have any problems contact Buzz for assistance. No updated information on the Dixie Pipeline Exercise at this time. Tuesday October 25, 2016 members of our Club will be assisting Spalding County in the Strategic National Stockpile Exercise which will activate a Point of Distribution (POD) and will involve several counties surrounding Spalding County. Our Hospital team will be activated to provide communications between Sylvan Grove and LaGrange Health

Department officials.

Thanks goes out to Mark Clark for volunteering to be our Club's Event Coordinator for the Jackson High School's Jackson Football Club's 5K Race held in 2017. Our club cannot continue to provide assistance with public events without the willingness of our members to serve; we applaud all who step up and volunteer!
We currently have 30 registered members in our ARES group; so nice to see our numbers steadily growing.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund: \$880.42 Repeater Fund: \$1335.00 Total Funds \$2215.42
Expenditures in July: \$384.00 for Club tee shirts Income: \$60.00 in dues; \$11.00 donation to repeater fund; \$94.00 raised in raffles tickets.

Club Old Business: Sunday August 7, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. is the Georgia Hospital Net.

"National Parks on the Air" activities are on hold temporarily due to the prolonged extreme heat conditions our area is experiencing.

HIPPA training for Hospital team members and Hospital staff Fldigi training is on hold at present while the corporate change over continues.

Buzz and Ed Hoard expressed their gratitude to all Club members that attended 'Newbie Night' recently and supported the enthusiasm of the 5 new Amateur Radio Operators that participated.

It was suggested by Ed Hoard that a plaque in recognition of the generosity of Fire Station #7 in allowing us to use their facility be grandfathered in to the motion made last month. All members were in agreement.

Club New Business: A brief discussion ensued as to whether as a Club we wanted to continue the tradition of holding a family Christmas Dinner at Buckner's Restaurant. Everyone was in agreement that it is a tradition worth continuing as the fellowship is meaningful to all that attend. Proposed date as of now will be the first Thursday night in December; December 01, 2016. Final date and time to be announced later.

Buzz continues to welcome suggestions for monthly training activities for the remainder of the year; if there is a topic or skill you would like to learn more about please ask if a training session can be arranged; we all have so much to learn to be better operators.

The possibility of holding a Club 'Winter Field Day' activity was discussed with members. It would be held towards the end of January 2017 and could be an outside, inside or 'stay at home' event. Amid many chuckles no definitive decision has been reached as of yet.

It was also proposed we could participate in a group/club effort during a weekend DX contest just for fun and operating procedures practice. Discussion will continue at a future meeting to ascertain interest and or commitment to support this activity.

Coming Events: Digital University class to be held Saturday August 27, 2016 at the Clayton County EOC facilities in Riverdale. Winlink Express will be the topic of study, bring your laptop so that all software and digital forms may be downloaded into your computer. Training will begin at 8:30 a.m. Future plans are to offer Fldigi training in October. 'Active Shooter' class August 15, 2016 7:00 p.m. at Towaligia Baptist Church.

Spin for Kids Race volunteers will be needed for this worthy cause to be held on October 16, 2016. Last years' efforts raised over half a million dollars for handicapped children to attend a camp which catered to their needs to participate in activities not often available to them; ex. Horseback riding. Contact Bill Ronay at billronay@plantationcable.net to sign up.

Hungry Hams will be 7:30 a.m. Saturday August 20, 2016 to be held at the Lunch Box in Jackson, Georgia.

VE Sessions: September 17 and September 24, 2016.

Stone Mountain Hamfest will be held November 5 & 6, 2016 at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds.

September's meeting will be held on Monday September 12, 2016 due to the Labor Day Holiday. Note this change!

Monthly Program: An excellent overview of Echolink capabilities and use was presented by Buzz Kutcher.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: Our Club raised \$47.00 for the Repeater Fund this evening. Thanks to all who donated and remember to bring useful items to donate for raffle items.

Thanks to Anthony for his continued efforts to assist with this worthy cause!