

**Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary**

**October 03, 2016**

**Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County, Georgia**

**Attendance at Meeting:** Mark Baker; David Burnham; Mark Clark; Dan Darsey; Ed Hoard; Buzz Kutcher; Melvin Mosier; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Elaine Stachowiak; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Glenn Wyatt; Jerry Waller; Chuck McCord; Donna McCord

**Meeting called to order by President Buzz Kutcher at 1900**

**Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens** No report

**Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis** We have had 1460 digital contacts/messages sent Year to Date; 207 for September 2016

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** There will be a VE Session held on Saturday November 19, 2016 at the Butts County Recreational Center. Contact Dan to register or for further information. BCECA will be hosting a Ham Cram in January and July of 2017. Please share this information with all who might be interested.

The first of the month Hospital Net Check in was attended by 5 of the 7 team members. Thanks to those who attended! Band conditions were good that day for communications but our station still had some problems with DRATS and Internet connections.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Fldigi training class to be held at the Clayton County EOC Education facility on Saturday October 15, 2016. Class will run from 8:30 to noontime; bring your 2m stations, laptops and signal link connections.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Hurricane Watch Net broadcasting on 14.325 for daytime and 7.268 for evenings in anticipation of Hurricane Matthew.

**CERT Activities: David Ridgeway** Presently there are 4-6 confirmed to attend the next CERT training class.

**Field Day Committee: Dennis Wagner** No report

**Membership Chairman: Ken Wallis** We have 43 members with 4 prospective new members.

**Public Information Officer: Ed Hoard** Our Club has secured a 'free' booth space for the Jackson Alive Festival to be held Saturday October 29, 2016. Contact Ed or Elaine to volunteer time or equipment. All of the appreciation plaques have been delivered to the deserving parties.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** The Strategic National Stockpile activity to support Spalding Counties participation will be held on Tuesday October 25, 2016. We hope to activate the Sylvan Grove Hospital station in assistance. Our club recorded 27 hours of Public Service Events for September 2016. The annual Georgia State ARES meeting will be held on Saturday January 21, 2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

**Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb** General Fund: \$893.02 Repeater Fund \$1457.00 Total Funds \$2350.02

**Club Old Business:** Elaine's van has passed way so due to lack of transportation the National Parks on the Air activity is presently on hold.

Buzz encouraged members to take and send proof of ICS-802 class work.

Our annual Christmas Family Dinner will be held on Thursday December 8, 2016 at Buckner's Restaurant beginning at 1830. Cash, credit cards or debit cards only; no personal checks.

Jackson High School Football Fundraising Race to be held on Saturday May 6, 2017.

For those wanting to obtain an official Georgia State ARES badge to use for identification please check the State ARES website for details required.

**Club New Business:** Please send Buzz you requests or volunteer your knowledge as we are in need of program ideas for the calendar year 2017. Now is your chance to share your passion in this hobby or other venue of interest to the group.

Ed Hoard made a motion to hire a professional tower climber for the fee of \$500 to climb the tower at Sylvan Grove to make necessary repairs and additions to our antenna array there. The funds will be paid out of our Club Repeater Fund. Mark Clark and JD VanSickle seconded the motion. It was brought to a vote with no requested further discussion and passed by all members in attendance.

Mark Baker made a motion to purchase a 6-8 foot Diamond antenna for approximately \$150 to erect on the tower at Sylvan Grove Hospital. The antenna is a Dual Band antenna to connect to the 440 and 2m repeaters at Sylvan Grove Hospital. The motion was seconded by Dan Darsey and passed by all members.

Dan Darsey asked if there was interest in obtaining new tee shirts since the addition of so many new members. If there is enough interest and we can have at least 10 committed members to building an individual NIVS antenna then our Club could purchase enough quality 14 gauge wire at a discounted price from DX Engineering. Approximate price for 1000 feet is \$158.95.

Ken Wallis made a motion to purchase 1000 feet of 14 gauge wire from DX Engineering for Club projects. Elaine Stachowiak seconded the motion and it was passed by all members.

**Coming Events:** Meet for breakfast at the Riverdale IHOP on Saturday October 15, 2016 at 7:00 prior to the Fldigi Class afterwards.

Stone Mountain Hamfest Saturday and Sunday November 5 & 6, 2016.

**Monthly Program:** This evenings program was on Repeaters with a Q&A session following.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** Raffle funds raised this evening were \$57.00

**Meeting was adjourned at 2045.**