

## Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

February 06, 2017

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

**Meeting Began at 1856**

**Meeting Concluded at 2100**

**Attendance at Meeting:** Mark Baker; David Burnham; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Lee Dale; Dan Darsey; Ed Hoard; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Darlene Ragon; Elaine Stachowiak; Brent Strite; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Javan Strite; Nancy Phillips; Erion Starker; Alan Levy.

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

**Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis** March Net Control: Ed Hoard; April Net Control: Melvin Mosier; May Net Control: Darlene Ragon; June Net Control: Still need a volunteer; July Net Control: Mark Clark. Members this is a great training opportunity to become comfortable running a net with little pressure! Please take advantage of this as someday you may be called upon to perform in an emergency situation and would it not be better to be experienced than not? Ken requests that members send in all digital contacts/net check-ins recorded for the week when you check-in on Sundays. Please send the information via Winlink. We had 138 digital transactions for January 2017.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** At our most recent VE Session we had 8 people testing for licensing; 6 passed and we welcome 2 YL's into our Club.  
Next VE Session will be on March 18, 2017; details to follow shortly. Contact Dan for further information and to register.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Mike reports that the Club now has the UHF repeater operational.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Elaine reports that there were 40 plus tornados confirmed in last weeks' severe weather event.  
This coming week is Georgia Severe Weather Week and our Club is participating in the state wide drill to be held Wednesday February 8, 2017.

**CERT Activities: David Ridgeway** No report tonight.

**Field Day Committee: Mark Clark** Mark Clark, KW4VB, has graciously consented or has been drafted to serve as our Field Day Coordinator for 2017. Band Captains that volunteered to serve are: 40m Elaine Stachowiak; 80m Mike Crowe; 20m Rudy Williams; GOTA Station Buzz Kutcher; Digital Comms Ken Wallis. Many thanks for those willing to serve!

Mark is planning on having a sign-up sheet for members to commit to two hour blocks of service to run the radios. This will prevent a few members from becoming overworked and give a chance for everyone to learn the techniques associated with Field Day.

It is planned to hold "Tech Session" to help prepare us with the needed skills and to work out the bugs with equipment prior to Field Day. Our Club is fortunate to have so many willing members to help us improve our skills and service! Planned Committee Meetings are as follows: March 18; April 15; May 6; June 10 and June 17 will be a 'dry run' for Field Day. Please follow the Yahoo Forum for further announcements.

Our Club plans on beginning equipment set up on Friday before the Saturday start of Field Day; please mark your calendars to be available.

**Membership Chairman: Ken Wallis** We have 44 members in our Club presently. Members may begin paying their 2017-2018 dues March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Information Officer: Ed Hoard** Please consider writing an article for the newsletter! It takes a lot of effort to present such an excellent newsletter each month. Consider writing a short article about something you are working on to improve your skills or shack equipment. Everyone has 'something' to share and members would definitely be interested to read about your experiences!

Elaine was thoughtful and shared several resources that Ed is looking into for sharing with our Club; thanks Elaine, you are always willing to step up and give of your talents and time. We are grateful!

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Buzz Kutcher reminded members again of the importance of completing the ICS online classes.

There will be a tornado drill exercise Wednesday February 8, 2017 for Georgia Severe Weather Week. Station assignments are: Sylvan Grove Hospital: Ed Hoard & Darlene Ragon; 911 Center: Elaine Stachowiak, Mark Clark, Buzz Kutcher; Public Health Department: Ken Wallis-he will be acting as Net Control for the exercise.

**Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb** General Fund \$688.38 Repeater Fund \$1515.45 Total Funds: \$2203.83

**Club Old Business:** A motion was made by Mark Clark that the Club accept the changes/additions to the By-Laws as read to a quorum of members in January. Ed Hoard seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee announced Ed Hoard as running for President of our Club; the position of Vice-President is still open. Voting on Club officers will be held at the March 6, 2017 meeting.

**Club New Business:** The Club is in dire need of suggestions or volunteers for monthly programs for the upcoming year. Please consider teaching a short class on a subject you are interested in or sharing a skill you have. We all have something to offer to one another.

A new meeting location is being sought as we are out growing our present location. If you know of a free meeting location that will fill our needs, please contact Buzz with the information.

A motion was made by Ed Hoard for the Club to reimburse Dan Darsey for the purchase of an ICOM 880H he acquired in anticipation of it being positioned in the Public Health Department. The Health Department was awaiting funds and the radio has been discontinued by ICOM and is selling out quickly. The motion was seconded by Mark Baker and passed by all in attendance. Dan will be reimbursed in the amount of \$320.95 from General Club funds.

Our Club is in need of additional team members for the Sylvan Grove Hospital team; contact Dan Darsey for more information.

Excellent training information on the operation of the Yaesu FT-450D radio used at the Hospital station is on You Tube; please review these videos to help with your operating skills on this radio. Just do a search on You Tube for the Yaesu FT-450D.

**Coming Events:** The General Licensing classes are continuing for those interested in upgrading their license. Classes are held on Thursday evenings at Fire Station #7 beginning at 1830-2100. There will also be a Saturday session held on February 18, 2017 at 0900.

Dalton Hamfest on February 25, 2017; event opens at 0800.

VE Session to be held on March 18, 2017 at the Ernst Biles Recreation Center in Jackson, Ga.

**Monthly Program:** Our group had a very interesting lecture from Paul Newberry, N4PN, on Contesting.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** Our group raised \$45.00 tonight for the Repeater Fund. Don't forget to donate useful items for the raffle; it does go for a good cause.