

Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

March 06, 2017

Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1850

Meeting Concluded at 2100

Attendance at Meeting: Peter Acevedo; Mark Baker; David Burnham; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Lee Dale; Dan Darsey; Ed Hoard; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Elaine Stachowiak; Erion Starker; Brent Strite; Anthony Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; David Benoist; Rosemarie Darsey; Tom Rauch.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Remember to inform Ken of any digital nets you checked into in the week just past on an ICS-213 form sent via Winmor Winlink preferred. We need to practice the 'hard stuff' to be ready when called into service.

Should there be a problem with the Jackson Repeater during a Net, remember to switch over to the McDonough Repeater, frequency 146.715 as our Club back-up.

Neil Martin has volunteered to be Net Control for the month of March, thank you Neil for your willingness to serve!

VE Team: Dan Darsey There will be a VE Session on Saturday March 18, 2017 at the Biles Recreation Center. Contact Dan for further information or to register.

Dan shared with the Club that he had attended a class with Gordon West for new Hams. Dan hopes that our Club can begin to offer this 2 day course for educating those interested in obtaining their Technician license. The class would be offered in January and July. He plans to offer the first class of this type on July 8th and 15th. Dan will need volunteer teachers to help with training. Those interested in teaching can find instructor materials at Haminstructor.com or W5YI's website. A power point presentation for the class is available for download.

Hospital and Public Health Department: Dan Darsey or Ken Wallis The Georgia Hospital Net went well this past Sunday March 5, 2017. We checked in on Voice 80m and Digital using Winmor Winlink connections. A meeting is scheduled Monday March 13, 2017 at 1800 with Christy at the Public Health Department for a presentation on what Amateur Radio can do to help during an event. Equipment the Health Department will need to establish a working station will be discussed.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Our Club Repeater has been installed inside a cabinet making the station area neater in appearance as well as cutting down on the noise while working the station. Many Thanks to those who assisted with this effort!

D-Star or analog machine purchase is in the works to assist the Public Health Department.

Mike stressed how important it is that our Hospital Station be connected to the Internet as soon as possible.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Elaine reminded us that Tornado season is approaching soon; check your plans and equipment at your home to be as ready as possible to shelter in place.

The Tornado Exercise held on February 8, 2017 went well.

Elaine is planning a tour of the Peachtree Weather Station to be held sometime this summer; most likely on a Saturday after Field Day Activities.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway A new CERT class will begin on Tuesday March 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm located at Fire Station #7. Contact David for further information.

Field Day Committee: Mark Clark No new information tonight.

Membership Chairman: Ken Wallis Membership stands at 49 members; 16 guest memberships for new Hams.

Public Information Officer: Ed Hoard The March issue of the "Repeater" Newsletter is now out; remember to share with family and friends.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Our Club had good participation in the MARS/ARES Exercise held on February 26, 2017. Thanks to those who participated!
Buzz reminded members of the importance of completion of the required ICS courses and that ICS-802 had been added to the basic courses needed.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$411.43 Repeater Fund \$1062.45 Total Funds \$1473.88

Club Old Business: Nominations for 2017 to 2019 Officers in our Club were opened to the membership; no additional nominations were presented. The list of members to serve is: Ed Hoard, President; Elaine Stachowiak, Vice President; Secretary, Darlene Ragon; Treasurer, John Lipscomb.

David Ridgeway made a motion to close the nominations and accept the officers as presented above.

JD VanSickle seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Our guest speaker, Dave Benoist, assisted with the installation of the new Officers.

Jackson High School 5K Race, hosted by the Jackson Football Team Alumni is scheduled for May 6, 2017. Mark Clark is Coordinating with the group for our assistance in this activity. Final details coming soon but add this to your calendar as it is a great opportunity to serve the Jackson community.

Our Club is planning to participate again in the Bluebird & Bluegrass Festival to be held on Saturday April 22, 2017. This exercise will count as our First Quarter Drill and we will be hosting a Special Station Event. Elaine hopes that members attending will attempt to make 20 radio contacts each. The special event will be posted on E Ham so we should get good participation; we are hoping to acquire a special call sign for the festival. Event station equipment set up will begin at 0900 April 22, 2017.

Club New Business: Dan Darsey made a motion to make Jess Porter, a founding member of Butts County ARES, a Lifetime Member of our Club with non dues paying benefit.

David Ridgeway seconded the motion and all members in attendance gladly passed the motion.

Nancy Phillips, K4NEP, volunteered to create a special certificate to present to Jess.

Coming Events: General License Classes continue until March 16, 2017 at Fire Station #7.

Next Field Day planning meeting will be held Saturday March 18, 2017 after the VE Session at the Biles Recreation Center.

Monthly Program: David Benoist, AG4ZR, Georgia ARRL Section Manager gave an Introduction to Georgia's ARRL and ARES.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: Raffle Funds raised for the Repeater Fund were \$43.00 tonight.