

Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

June 05, 2017

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1900 Meeting Concluded at 2100

Attendance at Meeting: David Burnham; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Ed Hoard; Buzz Kutcher; Alan Levy; Neil Martin; Melvin Mosier; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Elaine Stachowiak; Erion Starker; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Alfred McClure; Robert Ball; Cecilia Ball; Robby Ball.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis The Club is in need of volunteers to be Net Control for September and October 2017. Please consider volunteering, it is not hard and remember you are among friends as you are learning.

VE Team: Dan Darsey Our next VE session is July 15, 2017 at 1600 following the last Technician Class earlier that morning. Classes and the exam will be held at Fire Station #7.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Most likely we will remove the pre-amp on the repeater at the Hospital as it seems to be causing some interference. Hospital station is still needs port access from Hospital Administration.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak June 1st marks the beginning of Hurricane season and the NWS predicts an active season for the Southeastern USA.

Plans are continuing to come together for a fall field trip to the Peachtree City NWS for a tour of the facilities, lecture and viewing a weather balloon launch.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis The Hospital Team was unable to check in to the monthly hospital net June 4, 2017. We are uncertain whether it was band conditions or operator error.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway The graduating CERT class had 6 Ham Operators as students. Among them were Mark Baker; Nancy Phillips; Erion Starker.

Field Day Committee: Mark Clark Mark presented our Monthly Training on Field Day preparations.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips We have 49 Club members; 35 ARES members.

Public Information Officer: Mark Clark The June issue of "The Repeater" is out. Thanks to Mark for all his hard work publishing this newsletter and also to those members that contributed articles! Mark states that he is going to a redesign of our Club Facebook page so watch for upcoming changes.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher 85% of our Club members check in on the weekly Winlink net using an ICS-213 form. 60% replied to Ken's Fldigi message using Winmor and an ICS-213 form. Great work fellows; let's keep improving! Buzz once again reminded members of the need to complete the ICS online training courses so we understand how Amateur Radio volunteers fit into the Incident Command System. Please make every effort to take these classes so you will be fulfilling some of the requirements of a deployable member.

Buzz also reports that there was a good response from Georgia Hams willing to deploy if called upon to work the fire events in south Georgia.

Members can find detailed information about the ARES Mutual Aid Team on our Yahoo Group pages; if this interests you, consider volunteering.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1012.38 Repeater Fund \$1231.45 Total Funds \$2243.83 Last months' disbursements were \$200.00 for our Club's liability insurance.

Club Old Business: All monthly meeting training topics have been filled for the remainder of the calendar year. Many thanks to those offering their time!

July: ARES Mutual Aid Team

August: Flood training taught by the NWS

September: Chuck McCord will share his experiences during the "National Parks on the Air" special event.

October: Jim Reed of the Atlanta Radio Club will discuss D-Star Radio and amaze us with the technology held in the ever growing popular 'Raspberry Pi' computer. This should be a good one folks!

November: Darlene Ragon will discuss the repercussions of an EMP or CME on Ham Radio communications and Faraday Cages/Boxes.

December: Once again our Club will meet for a night of good food and fellowship at Buckner's Restaurant for our Annual Christmas Family Dinner. This dinner will be Thursday, December 7, 2017. Mark your calendars now.

Our Club will hold D-Star training on Saturday August 19, 2017. This will be our Tech Saturday activity.

Don't forget that the annual SET exercise will be held in October, date to be announced; but there will be a pre-SET exercise in July. Details to follow.

Club New Business: Buzz says that volunteer teachers for the 2 day Technician Classes are still needed. Buzz can send you the Power Point presentation ahead of time for your review; don't be afraid to volunteer as our classes are professional but casual. Contact Buzz to volunteer. The Saturday classes will begin at 0830. Remember no one person can do it all but together as Club members we can move forward.

Buzz Kutcher made a motion that the Club purchase 5 Gordon West Technician Class manuals for the teachers to have to assist with their preparations. Dan Darsey seconded the motion and it was passed by all members in attendance.

Nancy Phillips graciously volunteered to be the new Membership Chairman for our Club; thank you Nancy for your willingness to serve!

Members had a discussion about changing our weekly net from Sunday afternoon to perhaps Tuesday evenings at 1900. Sunday's are so busy will many state nets that there is little to no time for members to practice digital communication skills and trouble shoot problems they are having. This change would allow for more leisurely practice of these important digital skills. No final determination was reached at this time.

Members just learned of a scheduled LEPC, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Table Top exercise to be held on Tuesday June 27, 2017 beginning at 0730 at the Administration Building in Butts County. This is a joint exercise with Bibb and Jasper County discussing the rupture of a local dam which yields heavy flooding all the way to Macon, Georgia.

Consider attending if you can as these types of exercises teach how organizations work together in a disaster situation. Ken Wallis suggested our Club do a pre-exercise assessment of signal strength in the disasters' path so we know how effective our emergency communications will be to our served organizations.

We briefly discussed holding another NIVS antenna building Tech Saturday as we have materials still available and several new Club Hams that might be in need of such an antenna.

Coming Events: There are two proclamations being presented to our Club and we need our members dressed in Club shirts to show their support of our recognition.

The first will be Monday June 12, 2017 at the Administration Building in Jackson. Members need to assemble there promptly at 1745 to receive our Amateur Radio Week award.

The second proclamation is from the Jackson City Council and will be presented at the Municipal Court building on Tuesday June 20, 2017. Members should gather there by 1845 for the presentation. Follow the Yahoo page for further information.

Monthly Program: Mark Clark presented our program this month which was a careful rundown of activities leading up to Field Day as well as last minute requests for supplies needed. Many thanks to Mark for all the long hours of work he has volunteered to get us ready for Field Day!

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$74.00 for the Repeater Fund with our Raffle this evening; thanks to all for their generosity.