

**Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary**

**September 18, 2017**

**Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia**

**Meeting Began at 1900 Meeting Concluded at 2050**

**Attendance at Meeting:** Pete Acevedo; David Burnahm; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Ed Hoard; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Randy Parker; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Michelle Burnahm.

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

**Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis** Ken has said he will serve as Net Control for our weekly voice/digital nets until we work the 'bugs' out of the transition from the Sunday net to Tuesday evenings.

Members please continue to check in on Sunday to WX4BCA and WX4GMA via Winlink Telnet/Winmor between 1500-1830 local time.

Darlene Ragon made a suggestion for GA ARES to simplify their posting of which mode they want ARES members to check in on each month of the year; several other members find it confusing as well.

Brent Strite made a motion that we respectfully ask ARES to simply the monthly email so it is easier to understand which mode we are practicing on in that month. Nancy Phillips seconded the motion and it was passed by all in attendance.

Our Club is in need of more members to volunteer to be on the Hospital Team. It was all too apparent during the recent hurricane activation that we did not have enough people to properly man the station. Ken encouraged members to complete the ICS courses; send in your weekly digital activity on Sunday's and **please do not send any further digital traffic to Ken's call sign. KM4HOS.**

There is a form to assist you in reporting your digital activity in the Files section of our Yahoo Group. Using this format will help Ken to more quickly compile his information to report to ARES.

Ken Wallis requested that he would like to be released from his position of Net Control Manager and voiced a request for volunteers to assume that job.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** Dan reported that the VE Session held on September 16, 2017 resulted in 5 new Technicians and 2 students that upgraded to General License. Congratulations to all.

The next VE Session will be held on November 18, 2017 at 0900 at the Butts County Recreation Center. Contact Dan for registration.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Mike shared that we need a 'dedicated server' for the Hospital Station. During the Hurricane Irma event the D-Star reflector was lost and there was no other backup reflector available. Our many thanks go out to Colquitt County EMC for donating a VHF repeater to our Club.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Elaine encouraged members to feel comfortable starting/running a Skywarn net if needed until she could function as Skywarn Net Control. During the hurricane Elaine had to leave her station as conditions weren't safe for her to remain at home. She sheltered with a kind neighbor but said any member may act as Net Control if conditions warrant Skywarn activation.

A preamble for Skywarn Nets is on the Yahoo Group under the files section for anyone activating a Net.

**Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis** Dan and Ken discussed the events leading up to and during their activation at the Sylvan Grove Hospital Station, K4SGH.

Saturday September 09, 2017 Our Club was asked to man the Hospital Station beginning Monday at 0800

Monday September 10, 2017 Station activated/manned. Sylvan Grove Hospital lost power at 0930 and Hospital backup generators went on line. Conditions were very noisy in the Station area but volunteers were able to make all required contacts. Our Club will coordinate with Sylvan Grove Hospital about the noise level in the Hospital's Station for future activations.

Tuesday September 11, 2017 Hospital Station secured, activation over and commercial power restored to the Hospital. Georgia ARES reported 54 operators served during the event with a total of 903 hours logged.

**CERT Activities: David Ridgeway** Shelter training class to be conducted by the Red Cross has been postponed for now due to Hurricane Irma.

**Field Day Committee: Mark Clark** No report expected at this time.

**Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips** Nancy reported that we have 2 new members to our Club but still have members that are in arrears with 2016 Club dues.

**Public Information Officer: Mark Clark** No report tonight as Mark is participating in the Butts County Citizens' Police Academy for the next several weeks. We congratulate him on his willingness to learn more about how local law enforcement works.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Our Club members volunteered a total of 202 hours in August for a monetary value of \$4270.00 to the benefit of the community. Thanks to all members for their service!

**Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb** General Funds: \$1065.67 Repeater Fund: 1416.45 Total Funds: \$2482.12 John Lipscomb made a motion to reimburse Ed Hoard \$49.65 for purchasing the pizza for the first session of the Technician License Class. David Ridgeway seconded the motion and it was passed by all members present.

**Club Old Business:** Secretary, Darlene Ragon, read a letter of thanks from Jess Porter, W4DNS, in appreciation for the Life Membership to our Club. Jess is sorely missed by all but are glad he is happy in his new QTH.

**Club New Business:** Several opportunities to participate in upcoming county activities were presented to the membership and voted on as to whether our Club would participate or not. Participation in the Butts County Fair was voted "No" by the membership. Participation in the Jackson Alive Festival was voted "No" by the membership. Participation in the Jenkinsburg Zombie Run to be held on October 20, 2017 was voted "Yes" by the membership. Dan Darsey made a motion that we participate in the Zombie Run; Elaine Stachowiak seconded the motion and it was passed by all in attendance. Gwinnett County ARES has begun holding an informal monthly meeting to better plan their Club activities; it was suggested that our Club may begin doing the same. If we do the meeting will be held at Fire Station #7 once permission has been obtained from them. Dan Darsey passed out copies of a tentative calendar for 2018 for members review.

**Coming Events:** October 07, 2017 SET Exercise; details to follow.  
October 10 to 14, 2017 Butts County Fair  
October 14, 2017 Barbeque in Jenkinsburg 0900-1600  
October 20, 2017 Zombie Run 5K in Jenkinsburg Begins at 1900  
October 21, 2017 Tech Saturday activities will be construction of a 'Tape Measure' Antenna.  
October 28, 2017 Jackson Alive event 0900 to 1600  
November 4-5, 2017 Stone Mountain Hamfest  
November 11, 2017 North Fulton Ham Jam  
November 18, 2017 VE Session at Butts County Recreational Center beginning at 0900  
November 26, 2017 Thanksgiving Day Atlanta Track Club Thanksgiving Day Run Contact Dan Darsey for further information.  
December 7, 2017 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Christmas Dinner to be held at Buckner's Restaurant 1830  
January 13, 2018 Annual Georgia ARES Meeting in Forsyth, Georgia

**Monthly Program:** Tonight's meeting allowed us to do a review of Hurricane Irma's activities and plan future service/educational projects.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** Anthony Strite will not be able to serve as Repeater Raffle Fund Coordinator any more. The Club is looking for someone to accept the challenge to continue his fine work in this capacity. We raised \$53.00 tonight for the Repeater Fund. Many thanks to our members for their support regarding this cause.