

Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

March 05, 2018

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1900 Meeting Concluded at 2030

Attendance at Meeting: Mark Baker; David Burnahm; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Steve Dillon; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Alfred McClure; Melvin Mosier; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Erion Starker; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Rita Dillon; Freedman Chandler.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis February 2018 was a good month for our BCECA; we had over 120 net check-ins, for an average of 30+ per week. I really appreciate your efforts as I know some of you have a hard time making it home from work in time for the Weekly Training Net.

VE Team: Dan Darsey The next VE testing session will be March 17, 2018 at the Butts County Recreational Center. Those testing should arrive at 0900; VE's please arrive at 0845 to set up the facility. The next Technician Class License training will be July 14 and July 21, 2018. More details to follow at a later date.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe No report tonight.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Elaine thanked members that attended the tour of the Peachtree City National Weather Service facilities on Tech Saturday. She thought this visit was more informative than the first tour our group participated in. Our Club members continue to look forward to working with the NWS as Storm Spotters.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis No report tonight.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway No report tonight.

Field Day Committee: No report tonight.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips Nancy began taking membership dues at our meeting tonight.

Public Information Officer: Mark Clark Mark said the March issue of the Repeater newsletter will be released the end of this week. Last chance to share articles for the newsletter with him. Please consider writing a small article of interest to the newsletter; we all have some memory of a ham experience worthy of sharing. Thanks to Mark for his efforts to produce such a fine newsletter.

Mark also queried was there any interest in having a Buy-Sell-Swap section in our newsletter. Contact him for further discussion or we will discuss it more at next months' meeting.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Buzz inquired about the individual certificates attendees received from the annual Georgia ARES meeting we attended in January. He created a list of those who certificates he has not yet received. Buzz is collecting that data so that it can be recorded into our personal databases on the Georgia ARES website. Please contact Buzz if you are having difficulties in obtaining proof of your attendance.

Buzz also requested that attendees of the training sessions at GPSTC please fill out the emails they are receiving containing evaluation forms so that the quality of the programs or other session concerns may be addressed and improved for next year.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb

Club Old Business: Elaine encouraged Club Members to check and be sure that they continue their membership with the ARRL; by maintaining the required percentage of members we qualify for ARRL affiliation and reasonably priced accident insurance for Club activities.

Elaine asked for an update from Ken Wallis on the mapping of Butts County for Club coverage. Ken said he was in the process of acquiring a radio powerful enough to reach most of the county. He also mentioned that he would need 2 mobile stations to assist with the mapping.

Our Club will delay offering General Class License training at this time due to lack of interest but the class would be available again after the planned Technician Class License training in July 2018.

The time for renewal of our Club membership begins in March; please forward your annual dues to Nancy Phillips, our Membership Chairman. Individual dues are \$20.00 yearly and a family membership \$25.00. It is amazing to me how much our Club accomplishes with such reasonable dues.

Nancy reminded members again that custom embroidered ARES badges are available from 'Trophy Ladies' industry as well as nice quality tee shirts. Her contact only charges \$6.00 for the nice embroidered emblems. Now is the time to order lighter weight tee shirts for the coming season.

Sylvan Grove Hospital provided a 6 foot table for the Ham Radio Station at their facility. The station has been moved from its' original location to an adjoining longer wall which gives operators more room in which to hold nets and run exercises. Many thanks to those who worked so hard in making the transition at the station.

Club New Business: Our Club President, Elaine, said the next new business was the nomination and election of a new Vice-President for our Club. Dan Darsey made the motion to elect Nancy Phillips as Club Vice-President; JD VanSickle seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the membership. Many thanks to Nancy for agreeing to serve in this capacity! If everyone does a little bit of the load, the job gets done.

The Club is in dire need of a Field Day Chairman. Mark Clark has the lists, forms and documents from last years' successful Field Day so the blueprint is in place for success again this year. We just need someone to volunteer to head up the efforts to keep us all progressing towards the final goal of a smoothly run Field Day exercise. The Club would welcome the participation of a pair of joint chairmen working together if that is something you would entertain. Please consider volunteering to help organize our Field Day event.

The event venue has already been reserved for that weekend; Ken Wallis has volunteered to be Digital communications captain; Rudy Williams volunteered to be 20m band captain and Elaine is serving as the 40m band captain.

Elaine shared with the Club a business card that had been created by a member of the Astronomy Club she attends. It gave a great first impression with a photo of a galaxy taken by an amateur astronomy photographer in the club and the internet web address of the Club for further information for those interested. Elaine thought that perhaps our Club might be interested in creating such a card for those interested in Ham Radio. This would be an effective way to give prospective hams the basic information on our Club and how to find out more about our organization and its' activities. Elaine said that we will resume having committee reports at our monthly meeting rather than uploading them to the Yahoo Group.

Buzz made a motion for the Club to purchase 2 UPS units, APC Brand; one for emergency backup power to the Hospital Ham Radio PC and the second one for our repeater located in the Hospital Ham Station. Each unit should cost approximately \$70.00 each. Elaine Stachowiak seconded the motion and it was passed by all members present.

Coming Events: The Publix Marathon, to be held on March 18, 2018, is still in great need of volunteers to help man the rest stops on the course. Please contact Buzz for further information.

There is a 100 mile Bike Race sponsored by the Atlanta Race Club and assisted by the Atlanta ARES Club to be held on May 5, 2018. If you can volunteer please contact Buzz for further information.

April 21, 2018 is the annual Bluebird Bluegrass Festival held at Dauset Trails. Our Club has participated by sponsoring an educational booth there for several years. Please consider participating in this day of fun activities, contact Elaine to volunteer as she is the Chairman for this event. The gate opens at 0900 for booth set up; with a group breakfast preceding.

Our April 2, 2018 monthly meeting will host Greg Mann to enlighten us on SDR radios. This mode is becoming popular and will be very interesting.

Monthly Program: Freedman Chandler gave a presentation on the use of the digital mode FT-8. He had a live connection with the airways and made several documented contacts while discussing the use/set up of this popular contact/DXing mode. We certainly appreciate such an informative introduction to this digital mode.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$65.00 for the Repeater Fund this evening. Please look around your ham station, tool shed or garden produce for items of use to help us raise money for the support of our Club Repeater.

Respectfully submitted by Darlene Ragon, Club Secretary March 6, 2018