

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

July 02, 2018

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1909

Meeting Concluded at 2100

Attendance at Meeting: Winford Barnes; David Burnham; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; Neil Martin; Melvin Mosier; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Elaine Stachowiak; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Ken has placed a new preamble to our weekly net which can be found in the Yahoo Group Files. Participation has been very low during our weekly net; please try to participate as often as you can so we can keep our skills up. Darlene Ragon volunteered to be Net Control for August and Elaine Stachowiak will cover September's Net Control position.

VE Team: Dan Darsey A VE Session will be held on Saturday July 21, 2018 at Fire Station #7 beginning at 0900. Please contact Dan Darsey to register. **Please note this is a time change due to the cancellation of the Technician License Classes.**

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe The Hospital Station is still waiting for their dedicated internet connection to be installed.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Thankfully no severe storms in our region recently but we still have a long hurricane season ahead of us.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis The Health Department Team participated in all four scheduled nets. Our Club is in need of more operators willing to serve on this team. Please contact Ken Wallis for information or to volunteer. The Hospital Team was able to check in on all scheduled frequencies on the Georgia Hospital Net yesterday, July 1, 2018. Band conditions continue to be quite challenging for operations.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway David spoke with Glen Goens recently and no CERT training classes are scheduled at this time. David queried as to how many Club members would be interested in becoming CERT Trainers. Several members showed interest.

Field Day Committee:

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips Our Club has 37 members at present.

Public Information Officer: Mark Clark resigned his position of PIO effective immediately.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Our Club lost two members recently due to the relocation of said members to another state; Ed Hoard and Lee Dale.

Volunteer services and training of our Club for the month of June resulted in 812 hours of service valued at \$20,000.00. There are major changes coming to ARES certification to match up with NIMS requirements; additional training will be required and there will be 3 levels of participation for ARES volunteers. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Buzz strongly suggested that members print out a copy of the new "Hands Free Georgia" law as it shows provisions for the use of Amateur Radio in a moving vehicle. Keep this in your car in case you are stopped by law enforcement. A copy of the law has been placed in the Files section of the Yahoo Group.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb No report tonight; representative unavailable.

Club Old Business: The survey of low lying areas of Butts county for possible compromised communications and solutions to correct that weakness is on hold at the present time.

Dana Persells made a motion that our Club accepts the new logo presented by Nancy Phillips for display on Club wearing apparel. Neil Martin seconded the motion and members voted to accept this new logo.

Club New Business: Ken Wallis brought up the fact that operators are having difficulties reaching the Stone Mountain repeater from the Health Department station. Ken thinks the location needs a taller mast to place the antenna on and suggested raising the present height of 24 feet to 28 feet.

Mike Crowe offered to bring his mast and increase it in increments to see exactly what height will allow for good comms with Stone Mountain.

Dan Darsey mentioned that a bean antenna with a rotor would greatly improve communications IF the Health Department will find funds to assist with the cost. It was also discussed that a single new run of coax be used rather than the pieced run presently in use.

The Public Information Officer position is vacant now and a volunteer is needed. Buzz Kutcher volunteered to perform these duties temporarily until a permanent volunteer is found.

Nancy Phillips volunteered to coordinate the publication of our monthly newsletter and Melvin Mosier volunteered to take over the duties of the Raffle Coordinator to relieve Buzz of that duty.

Nancy requested that members please help by sending anything of interest for publication in the newsletter.

Buzz Kutcher said he had been thinking of changing our Yahoo Group to another site called group.io and wanted to know how Club members felt about the change. No objections were voiced.

Buzz also wanted to get some feed back as to how members would feel about going back to Fire Station #7 for our monthly meetings. Our attendance has dropped for some time now and the Fire Station has access to technology that is difficult to replicate at the Fairgrounds meeting room; such as Wi-Fi and a projector. Once again no objections were voiced.

Ken Wallis asked if it was possible to register the Hospital Station with Winlink to make the sign in process easier and could the needed funds come from Club General Funds?

Coming Events: With the lengthy discussion on Field Day tonight I think we forgot to mention any immediately upcoming activities.

The Technician License Classes have been cancelled at this time due to no one registering to attend.

Monthly Program: Our program tonight was a discussion of how things went at the most recent Field Day exercise. Listed below are some points that were discussed.

1. There needs to be a sign up sheet to schedule operators' time to work the bands. This assures that everyone gets a chance to work on the radios.
2. John Lipscomb volunteered to build a plate with plug-ins to help decrease the mess of electrical wiring and extension cords spread all over the floor.
3. Mike Crowe said there should be a \$5.00 charge for anyone using a commercial plug-in rather than 12volts for powering equipment.
4. Buzz wanted it read into the minutes that he purchased the light bulbs used in the string of lightening donated by Neil Martin.
5. We learned that we absolutely must have a Field Day Chairman and Band Captains for Field Day to run smoother.
6. We need all radios outfitted with battery back-up power sources.
7. All computers used for Field Day activities need to be synchronized with the same time showing.
8. It was suggested that all computers being used be meshed/tied together before Field Day activities begin.
9. If a problem with the Logging software occurs, stop contacts immediately and diagnose and repair the malfunction.
10. The Digital Station needs a dedicated antenna for improved reception. Ken Wallis encouraged giving Digital communications priority as all club members need more experience working digital communications.
11. Mike Crow said we seriously need to consider spreading out the stations further apart to decrease interference between stations.
12. The vertical antenna served us well during the exercise.
13. Filters must be used on all antennas to decrease interference.
14. The earlier we can decided on how many stations and CW positions we will use for Field Day the better we can prepare.
15. It was discussed that moving the stations physically apart in the pavilion or even using the other pavilion at the park would decrease interference with band communications.

16. It was suggested that 40m and 80m be used for CW communications.

With the excitement of the conversation showing how important a Field Day Committee is, the following people volunteered tonight to serve in the following capacity:

Rudy Williams volunteered to be 20m Band Captain.

Elaine Stachowiak volunteered to be 40m Band Captain.

Mike Crowe volunteered to head up the antennas used and to coordinate their installation.

Dan Darsey volunteered to serve as Safety Coordinator again.

Buzz volunteered to coordinate the GOTA station again next year.

Ken Wallis volunteered to be the Digital Station Captain.

The Club needs an 80m Band Captain.

The Club needs someone to organize, set up, mesh together the computer network and be available for troubleshooting the Field Day activities.

Melvin Mosier volunteered to serve in any capacity needed on the Field Day Committee.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$43.00 at tonight's raffle for the repeater fund.