

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

August 06, 2018

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1903 Called to order by Nancy Phillips, VP Meeting Concluded at 2029

Attendance at Meeting: Mark Baker; Winford Barnes; David Burnham; Michelle Burnham; Mark Clark; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Neil Martin; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; John Davis.

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens No report tonight, officer not in attendance.

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Five nets were held in July.

Darlene Ragon has volunteered to be Net Control in August. Elaine Stachowiak volunteered to be Net Control in September.

Members: please step up and volunteer to assist Ken with Net Control duties. Do not be afraid to take that leadership role, you are among friends and we are all striving to improve our radio skills. Practice running a net now while it is not an emergency so that you are more comfortable doing so if called upon to deploy.

Our Club needs volunteer Net Control personnel to serve for the remainder of 2018.

VE Team: Dan Darsey Our VE team licensed one new Extra Class ham at our last VE session.

The next VE session will be held on Saturday September 15, 2018 at Fire Station #7; testing to begin at 0900.

Thanks to all the VE team members for the hard work they do in offering testing to prospective hams!

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Our Club repeater has been coordinated and authorized for another year of service.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak David Burnham initiated a Skywarn Net last week during the severe storm which passed through our area. We had 7-8 members check into that net and monitor the situation. Thanks to David for stepping up and leading the Skywarn net.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis The Hospital team was unable to check into the Ga Hospital Net using HF communication on August 5, 2018 due to very poor band conditions.

However the team did check in via D-Star radio.

Ken advises that after the antenna was raised at the Butts County Health Department we are experiencing better communication with Net Control during the weekly check in. Thanks to those members that were able to assist with the work on the antenna at the Health Department.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway No CERT training is scheduled at present, submitted by David Ridgeway.

Field Day Committee: No discussion on this topic tonight.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips We have 42 Club members at this time.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher Buzz informed us that our monthly meeting information as well as an invitation to attend our meetings were published in the local Butts County newspaper and announced on the local radio station. Thanks to Buzz for seeing that the public knows about our service to the community.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher We have 30 members in our ARES group and the dollar amount of our training and service to the community last month amounted to \$3315.00.

Please consider assisting with comms for the Covington Century Bike Race coming up soon.

There are some big changes coming to ARES soon, a new program for logging members' service called "ARES Connect". More details as the information is released. The Tech Saturday to be held on December 15th will help members to complete their registration with ARES Connect if needed. This program is intended to more efficiently track volunteer services with ARES. The new system has 3 levels of training/requirements for ARES volunteers.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1340.83 Repeater Fund \$1736.00 Total \$3026.83

Club Old Business: Mark Clark made a motion that the minutes of the July 2018 meeting be accepted as submitted; Dan Darsey seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted by all in attendance.

Please consider contributing anything of interest to our Club newsletter chaired by Nancy Phillips. Having enough interesting/useful information to fill a newsletter each month can be a real challenge for a newsletter chairman.

John Lipscomb has volunteered to build a power hub for the mesh network the Club uses at Field Day activities. Anyone interested in helping to design, donate materials and construct this very important piece of infrastructure for Club activities please contact John directly.

Club New Business: Is there any interest in holding a Winter Field Day to be held the last weekend in January 2019? The State-wide Simulated Emergency Test or SET will be held October 6, 2018. More information to be released, please mark your calendars so you can plan to help with this emergency practice session. Huntsville, AL Ham Fest will be held August 18, 2018; beware Mike Crow speeding on his way there, ha ha.

Coming Events: 'Spin for Kids' to be held in Morgan County on October 21, 2018 which raises funds for Camp Twin Lakes.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Monday September 10th, 2018. Please note this is a change of dates due to the Labour Day Holiday.

Monthly Program: Buzz Kutcher presented a very informative program on how repeaters work with special emphasis on the equipment our Club uses for our repeater. Many thanks to Buzz for helping us better understand a complex piece of equipment.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: No raffle funds were raised at this meeting as our Chairman was not in attendance.