

Butts County Georgia Amateur Radio Club

September 10, 2018

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1900 Called to order by: Elaine Stachowiak Meeting Concluded at 2030

Attendance at Meeting: Mark Baker; David Burnahm; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Chuck McCord; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Randy Wise; David Lenning.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Please check the Yahoo Group Files for the latest Net Monthly Reports. Ken reminded members that the Club is in dire need of volunteers to act as Net Control Operator for our weekly Nets. He also requested if anyone is interested in assisting him by being the Winlink Net Logger please contact him for training.

The Club needs our ARES members to be active Net Control Operators so their skills are improved for use in an emergency.

VE Team: Dan Darsey There will be a VE session held on Saturday September 15, 2018 at Fire Station #7 with testing to begin at 0900. Breakfast will be held prior to the VE session at the Lunch Box in Jackson at 0700.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Mike reminds us that our Hospital Station is still in need of Internet access which is to be provided by the Hospital.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Elaine reminded everyone to be mindful of the approaching Hurricane Florence. Everyone needs to double check your home and radio equipment for emergency preparedness.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis Hospital Team had good success with HF voice and digital communications for this month's Georgia Hospital Net. Ken reported that all five Thursday nets were covered and successful. The new and improved antenna set up is working just great; thanks to all who assisted with that! Ken also reported that W8XC, Winford Barnes, has volunteered to serve on the Health Department Team. Thank you so much Winford!

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway No report tonight as David Ridgeway was not in attendance.

Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips Nancy Phillips generously volunteered to be Committee Chairman for our Club's Field Day Activities for 2019. Nancy you are greatly appreciated for the service you give to our Club!

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips The Club has 41 members at present.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher Buzz reported that he is sending information about all meetings, educational opportunities and Ham Licensing testing to the local radio station and local newspaper.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Saturday October 6, 2018 will be the SET activity this year. Club members are invited to gather for an early breakfast at the Lunch Box in Jackson at 0730 that morning. We can expect the exercise to last from 0830 to 1300 that day. The focus will be on message handling via Winlink and Fldigi. The Hospital Team will also be involved in the days' exercise as the monthly Hospital Net will be held on that Saturday as well. Club members may be assigned a remote location or function at their QTH as needed for the exercise. There will be an AAR meeting at 1330 at Fresh Air Barbeque.

Buzz informed Club members that all 31 ARES members have had their information relayed to the new tracking system, ARES Connect. Only 16 members have responded to the invitation to register with ARES Connect and fill out their profile information. The Georgia ARES database will soon become obsolete so it is very important that members register so they can track their service hours.

The ARES Connect requirement of course ARES EC01 is the Gwinnett ARES course that most of our members have completed, check your database at ARES Connect to be sure you have given yourself credit for that training.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb Only the total funds in both accounts was available tonight: \$3091.83.

Club Old Business: There was further discussion on the mapping of Butts County by Ken Wallis. Ken has created a map of the county and 10 zones have been created for the county using the Fire Stations as hub central. Ken informed us that the map and information he has created is available to download onto your personal computer via a USB stick. Get with Ken to download this information. Thanks go out to Ken and those who assisted him with this important work! John Lipscomb updated us on the progress of the power hub he intends to construct; the hub is still in conception phase as of this date.

Club New Business: Dan Darsey handed out copies of the 2019 activities calendar to members in attendance. Since the Club has had mixed results from the presentation of Technician Classes prior to testing it has been decided to return to offering a Ham Cram for this license level. The next Ham Cram will be held Saturday January 4, 2019 at Fire Station #7; more information to follow.

There was some discussion as to whether our Club would participate in the Butts County Fair this year. The Club has had very poor results from the great effort required to man a booth at the County Fair. An invitation to participate in the Jackson Fall Festival has been extended to our Club.

Buzz Kutcher made a motion that our Club participate in the Jackson Fall Festival and Dan Darsey seconded the motion. It was passed by all in attendance.

Mike Crowe made a motion that the Club not participate in the County Fair this year and Buzz Kutcher seconded the motion. It was passed by all in attendance.

Dana Persells shared with Club members that there will be a Newton County Hamfest held at Berry's Christmas Tree Farm on September 29, 2018 from 0900 to 1300

Coming Events: As mentioned in the minutes earlier.

Monthly Program: Buzz Kutcher gave an excellent class on Message Handling in preparation for the SET exercise coming up in October. The ICS forms handed out and the slide presentation were very educational for all in attendance. Buzz the Club is very grateful for all you do for the membership to further our service to the community!

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$20.00 tonight for the Repeater Fund.