The Repeater

-/ . . . ./ . / . - . /. /. - - . /. /. - /- /. /. - . //

WX4BCA 147.285 + (131.8)

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

Jackson, GA

USA

2018 SET After Action Report

Net Control Station at the Butts County 911 Center

1. The 911 Center ham station was activated as SET Net Control at 08:45 by Primary Operator, Mark (NI2Y); Observer, Rudy (KA8LAD); Logger, Buzz (K3GWK)

2. Local Net was opened on the WX4BCA VHF Repeater at 09:00 and closed at 12:00

3. Stations Active:
   a. K4SGH (SYLVAN GROVE) - HF
      1. W4DED
      2. KK4BKF
      3. KK4GNO
      4. KM4NRP
      5. W8XC
   b. KK4HOS (PORTABLE) - HF
   c. KN4FRG (HOME) - HF
   d. K4NEP (EVENT LOGGER)
   e. KW4AQ (HOME) - HF
   f. AK4EM (HOME) - HF
   g. KK44QJR (HOME) - HF
   h. WX4BCA (VOICE & NBEMS NET COTROL)
      i. NI2Y (NCS OPERATOR)
      ii. K3GWK (NCS LOGGER)
      Iii. KA8LAD (OBSERVER)

4. Messages Transmitted
   a. 01 – EOC Operational (Also sent to WX4GMA and K4SJR)
   b. 02 – ICS Log
   c. 03 – SGH Bed Count Request
   d. 04 – ENDEX

5. Issues:
   a. There were no issues with the 911 radio station equipment or access. Activation was welcomed by the 911 Director and staff.
   b. Station PC is no longer connected to a LAN connection, a personal HotSpot was used.
   c. WL2K software would not update so it was removed and reinstalled.
   d. 911 Ham Station needs to be exercised regularly – quarterly?
   e. Net Control authority must be respected.
   f. Using voice to manage message traffic worked well.
   g. Simplex and the UHF Repeater were not used.
   h. Our group needs more members with Go-Kit capabilities.
   i. The 911 PC needs to have GHA911 WebEOC set up.

6. Remarks: The exercise went well. The alternate EOC at BCFD Station 7 and the DPH station were not activated during this exercise. The Butts County EMA/HS was not involved in the exercise. GHA911 WebEOC was used by the K4SGH station.

Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK

Nancy Phillips
Editor
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OCTOBER 2018

Vol 5, No 10

Whit's Wisdom

Whit Smith - WA4VBX

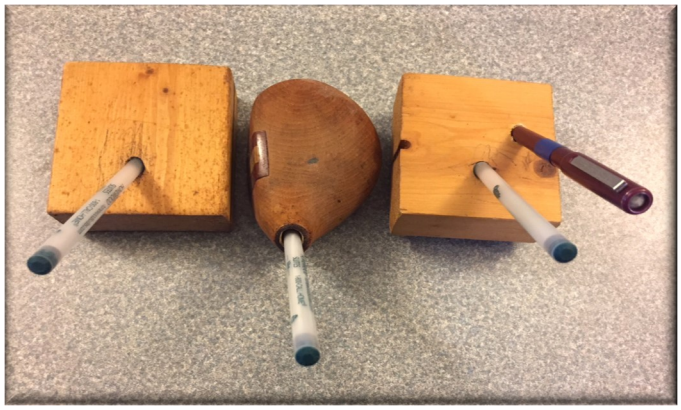
Inexpensive Pen Holder

Here is a project that will not take long to build and it can be used almost anywhere. Use a scrap piece of wood (2X4X4'' long), or an old golf club, or a cross section of a tree about 3-4 inches in diameter, or some other material of most any shape. Size is not critical but it should be large enough to be stable while using. The angle used in the picture shown is about 60 degrees. However, most any angle from about 40 degrees to about 70 degrees will be fine.

Drill a hole about 1 and 1/4" to 1 and 1/2" deep depending on the pen you select to use. Be sure not to drill to deeply. Use a drill bit slightly smaller that the pen to be used. Then take a ream with a small amount of taper and enlarge the hole so that the pen fits nicely.

Finish the holder with a clear spray or with whatever finish you want. Adding a pencil holder to a pen holder is relatively simple (see picture). Placement of pen and pencil holes is not critical.

To the bottom of the holder add a piece of cork, or cardboard. Instead, you can use 3 rubber feet with one foot toward the front and two feet toward the back. Now you will always be able to find your pen.



Morse Code Course is a GO!

The Morse Code Course will begin Nov 6th, and run Tuesday and Thursday evenings through Dec 13th. There will be no class held on Thurs, Nov 22nd [Thanksgiving], or Thurs, Dec 6th [our Christmas Dinner gathering.]

Classes run 7 PM - 8 PM, and will be held at Fire Station # 7, 144 Colwell Rd, off Hwy 16, near I-75.

Winford Barnes W8XC is the instructor. The course is free, but a Morse Code Oscillator and a Morse Code Key are required. If you have any questions about the course or the requirements, you can contact Winford at 248-421-0822 or winfordb@att.net.

ZOMBIE FUN RUN

Our 2nd Zombie Fun Run was a big success. Five teams of runners completed the course successfully, despite the attack of several zombies hiding throughout the route.

Ham radio operators kept a close eye on the runners, and all made it safely to the finish line. The only emergency situation was a girl who needed a Bandaid on a small cut. (Good thing the Run had CERT-trained personnel available to save her from the zombie apocalypse.)

NOTES FROM THE BACK ACRE

_ Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK

Buzz needs a little time off to recover from eye surgery, so hopefully we'll see his article back in next month's edition. Get well soon, Buzz.

ARES Emergency Coordinator, Butts County

Total ARES Membership: 31
Deployable: 11 (Just added Winford, W8XC)
Active: 12
Pending: 8
ARES Connect Registrations: 20

Total Ham Hours: 139 (Includes Nets)
Value: $3,432.00
Nets: 8 (43 Hours)
Drills, Tests and Training: 7 (54 Hours)
Public Service Events: 2 (42 Hours)
Emergency Operations: 0
Miscellaneous: 0

GROUNDING

_ with Mike Crowe

Buzz Kutcher & Mark Clark with Mark Austin & Dan Darsey listening to Mike Crowe's *Grounding* program. 2 Oct 2010

Photos by Jeff Phillips KN4FRG

Safety First! Always! There is a difference in Grounding your station, and Bonding your station. Grounding helps keeps the power surges from damaging your equipment. Bonding is a systematic layout of the grounding that allows the power surges to rise and fall equally within the pieces of equipment without damaging one or the other. 20ga braided straps are one of the best choices, but 14ga copper wire is good. A roll of flat copper, 1"-6" wide is a very good option.

Next, you want to follow Code for your area. This could be an AHJ - *authority having jurisdiction*, or it could be the NEC - National Electric Code. Be sure to use 3rd-wire-ground wiring (green for the ground). Outside, use 8' long, 5/8" copper rods, placed 6'+ apart. Use 16ga copper wire between rods, with Harger clamps and Morgan surge arrestors for lightning protection. Bond all earth connections together. The antenna ground rod needs to connect to the electrical panel ground.

Lightning is going to go where lightning wants to go, but you can *steer* it in a path around your station. Inductance is more important than resistance. Use a wireless modem and keep it away from the laptop. Bond each station piece to a copper pipe, and bond the pipe to the ground rod. If you have a mast, run grounding lines to additional rods set out from the antenna.

Everything in your station can generate RF. Keep your cables short. Minimize loop areas. A single, solid grounding system of heavy, short, direct connections satisfies all safety requirements. _MP

"Practices & Procedures for Lightning" - FAA doc. 6950.19A.

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

October 02, 2018

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1901 Meeting Concluded at 2056

Meeting Conducted by: Elaine Stachowiak

Attendance at Meeting: Mark Austin; Mark Baker; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; Melvin Mosier; Dana Persells; Jeff Phillips; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Elaine Stachowiak; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams.

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens Representative not available tonight.

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Ken told our group that we currently have 6 operators for the Health Department Weekly nets; we need 8-10 total operators to decrease the demand on those presently involved. It may be that in the near future the weekly Health Department net will change to every 2 weeks or once monthly. Please consider volunteering if you can.

Ken also shared that our member participation in our weekly Club net is down a good bit. Please make an effort to check into our weekly net, it is the first line of training for our members to be prepared to serve our communities need for communications in an emergency.

Buzz Kutcher volunteered to be Net Control for October 2018; we need volunteers for the remaining of 2018 to serve as Net Control operators.

Ken also reveals there is an opening for a Winlink Net Control Operator for our weekly nets. This is a good opportunity to serve and decrease the load Ken bears for our Club as Net Control Manager.

The Club needs volunteers to assist with manning the Hospital, Health Department, 911 Center and ancillary locations during the upcoming SET this weekend. Please contact Buzz to volunteer.

VE Team: Dan Darsey Dan was sorry to report that somehow our Club did not receive timely notification/invitation to serve at the Covington Hamfest recently. November 17, 2018 there will be a VE Session held at Fire Station #7. Testing will begin at 0900 with an early breakfast for VE team members starting at 0730 at the Lunch Box.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe We are still waiting on Internet installation at Sylvan Grove Hospital.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Our area was not impacted by Hurricane Florence so we did not need to activate a Skywarn Net. Please remember residents in North and South Carolina in your prayers as they recover from the devastation of the storm.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis Hospital Team members please be at Sylvan Grove Hospital a little before 0900 for the SET. Mark Austin, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Sylvan Grove & Spalding Regional says our Club should have new PC monitors and printers for the Hospital Station this coming week. Our Stations' dedicated Internet connection is scheduled for Wednesday October 10, 2018. There will be a phone call to finalize the installation then.

On November 14, 2018 there will be a Region F drill held; Sylvan Grove has requested we activate our Hospital Team to participate in this drill. The scenario is a 6 hour tornado swarm.

December 7, 2018 there will be an 'Active Shooter' exercise to be held in Griffin, Ga. at Spalding Regional Hospital. The active shooter will be at Southern Crescent Technical College; EMS, Fire Department, Law Enforcement and film crews will be on hand to participate as well. Students at the college will be made up to appear as victims of the shooter.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway David shares that we may be able to sponsor a 'Stop Bleeding' class soon.

Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips Nancy hopes to have the first planning meeting with Buzz; Dan; Mike and Ken soon.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips Nancy shared that we have 42 Club members at present.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher Buzz is continuing to share Club activities and learning opportunities with the local newspaper and radio station.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Buzz informed members that he is taking a 6 week leave of absence from his position as County Emergency Coordinator to recover from his recent emergency eye surgery. Take care of yourself Buzz and let that eye heal.

Our Club volunteered 85 hours of service/training time to Butts County in September. We have 31 ARES members in our Club; 11 active; 13 deployable; 7 pending. 31 names were submitted to ARES Connect but we still have 12 ARES members who need to register with ARES Connect. We have 18 Level One members; 7 Level Two members and 3 Level Three members at present.

Minutes - con't on page 5

A Little Bit About the Geritol Net (3.995 MHz) _ with Melvin Mosier KK4QJR

Geritol tonic was first marketed in the 40's, and on into the 50's via television. It was supposed to make you feel better by replenishing vitamins and iron in your body. These days, one does not have to be in need of this tonic to sign into the Geritol Net.

Operating Monday through Saturday, 0900 to 0930 or so, on 3.995 MHz, any General or higher licensee may participate in this Net. There are no dues, no officers, just the tradition that Round 1 chat holds to 2 minutes or less. You'll be called on when it's your turn.

George Prager was NCS for awhile. He's a Silent Key now. George went to GA Tech and was a German Jew who served in WWII on the American side. You can read some of his legendary stories on the GA Tech website. Today, Charles Pennington K4GK is NCS. Charles also handles the GA ARES Net on Sunday nights at 6 PM on 3.975 MHz, but Melvin is at the helm temporarily for Charles for the Geritol Net.

Forums are wide open. You may talk about anything. Currently, the group hears from hams all over GA, and from as far away as WV and FL.

Geritol Net is open to everyone, and the group varies from about 4 to about 28 active hams. They meet 3-4 times a year for an 'Eyeball QSO'. Their next meeting is at Blue Willow in Social Circle, GA, on Dec 2, from 1100 - 1130 AM. Everyone is invited. You'll find them in the Louis Grizzard Room.

Melvin appreciates Buzz Kutcher K3GWK for introducing him to the Geritol Net. Through that, he's had the pleasure of meeting other such lively characters as Lee Dale K4JAO, Ed Hoard WX4ED, and Dana Persells WJ4Z. Tune them in sometime! _№

Meeting Minutes, continued from page 4

All Club activities are listed on the ARES Connect calendar through November; don't forget to register for activities as the time draws near. Health Department weekly nets are also listed on ARES Connect, be sure to sign up so you receive your points for participation.
Buzz reminded Club members to go to the Georgia ARES website and print out any certificates or training information there in your database.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb Treasurer not in attendance tonight. Total Club Funds $3151.83

Club Old Business: Ken Wallis and David Burnham have been working hard on the relay site work for county positions on a map. Thanks go out to them for their hard work!
Continuing to query on any interest on a Winter Field Day to be held on January 26, 2019.

Club New Business: There will be a Morse Code Class taught by Club member Winford Barnes beginning November 6, 2018 through December 13, 2018. Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday evening at Fire Station #7 in Butts County. Contact Nancy Phillips for details. **This class is full at this point.**

Coming Events: North Fulton Amateur Radio Club Ham Jam will be held on November 10, 2018.
Jackson Fall Festival will be held on October 20, 2018 from 0900 to 1500. Our Club will be hosting a booth on the Jackson Square. Contact Ken Wallis for details.

Stone Mountain Hamfest will be held on November 3, 2018 from 1100 to 1500. This Hamfest has a history of offering great ARES forums.

Spin For Kids will be held on October 21, 2018 to raise money for Camp Twin Lake. Contact Mike Crowe to volunteer.

Monthly Program: Mike Crowe gave a wonderful class presentation on Grounding Stations and equipment. He presented two very useful reference books for raffle items as well. Thanks for all the visual aids and hands on equipment items Mike brought to illustrate proper materials to use.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised $44.00 for the repeater fund tonight. ❖

YAESU FT-2980 2 METER RADIO REVIEW

_ Jeff Phillips, KN4FRG

YAESU

FT-2980
2M Base
Station

I recently purchased a Yaesu FT-2980 as a replacement 2-meter radio to use for base station operations replacing my aging Alinco DR-140 (50 watts). I reviewed and researched for a replacement radio meeting several criteria. The radio requires a little extra power (over normal 50w) – for Simplex use and when the repeaters go down, large display, easy to program without the use of software, good price, WX channels, backlit hand mike, hand mike has menu access, and others. As stated, after my research and with a good price point ($160), I purchased the FT-2980 as a replacement for the Alinco. After 30-days of use, I am providing a review of the radio including its specifications and my experiences so far.

The Yaesu FT-2980 replaced the FT-2900 as their base analog 2-meter radio and the upgrade came with slightly more power and a few more features. The improved FT-2980 has 80 watts of high power output versus the 75 watts with the FT-2900. It requires no cooling fan, it has a very easy to read display, and includes the one-touch WIRES™ Internet Linking Access capability. The radio is just a big heatsink, a beast of a radio. The FT-2980R provides a total of 221 memory channels, including 200 “regular” memories, ten pairs of band-limit memories, and an instant-recall “Home” channel you can dedicate to a frequently-used repeater or Simplex like the National Calling Frequency. The memories can store repeater shift information, CTCSS/DCS data, power output level, scanning status (“Skip”), and channel naming with good receiver specifications.

Based upon Yaesu’s testing, the FT-2980R’s receiver front end features Yaesu’s renowned Advanced Track Tuning RF input filtering, affording outstanding protection from Intermodulation distortion (IMD). The radio has a special 10-channel Weather Band memory bank allowing quick access to NOAA weather broadcasts along with a WX alert function. It has four selectable power output levels providing selection for these levels – 80/30/10/5 Watts, more than others. The power selection may be stored into memory, allowing you to conserve power while using strong local repeaters. The radio’s frequency range for RX is 136 – 174 and for TX is 144 – 148 MHz. Allowing operators the ability to listen to other emergency communications. What are the pros and cons of the radio?

The radio in itself is very heavy-duty and solidly built with high output power, pretty good audio (3watt), nice big display, very easy to program, and use. The manual programming is excellent compared to my mobile rig – IC-2730a. The Yaesu instruction manual is easier to follow compared to the IC-2730a manual, especially for repeater operations. Having never used a Yaesu before I found the system was easy to program requiring far less menu selections ranging from

FT-2980, continued on page 7

181001 Net Manager Report

Elaine, KW4AQ held 4 ARCoBC Trng Nets last month, great job. We averaged 7 voice chk-in's per wk, 2 on MT-63, w/ WinLinks at 9+ weekly, up a little fm Aug, but we went down for voice & digital chk-ins, still need more participation, esp FLDigi.

We're still in need of Net Controllers, reckon I got it for October, but still need NCS's for next month and the rest of the year. We're purty flexible here, so if something comes up where an NCS can't make a Net, give me a call and we'll cover it, no problem. Our Net 'Preamble' (NCS script) is in the Yahoo grp files and my FLDigi 'Trng Net' macros are avail on request. I'll be more than happy to show you how to use 'em.

Also, if anybody is interested in becoming a WinLink Net Logger for our Nets, lemme know and I'll be glad show you how it's done.

Another shameless 'monthly' plug for ARES... Requires time & effort to get qual'd and to stay current (not to mention proficient) BUT, we are still in need of some more folks who are willin' to volunteer for this important program. Net participation is down fm last yr. We STILL have VACANT slots at our county ARES 'Response Team' sites and we've got heavy weather comin' and NEED to be READY if our communities need some EmComm support. The new 'ARESConnect' Program goes a long way towards makin' the EC's job alot easier by lettin' him know, BY OPERATOR, who's got what CAPABILITIES, who's PROFICIENT in what MODES, i.e. - mobile, HT's, portable, FLDigi, WinLink, etc. Gonna help Buzz know who & where to DEPLOY us if needed, so if yer an ARES operator, participate in the Nets & ARES Connect, if not, think about it, sign up, we need more redundancy.

All for now from yer favorite 'broken record',

Ken, KM4HOS, Butts Co Net Mgr

NET NCS for October -- **Buzz Kutcher**

FT-2980, continued from page 6

entering frequency, selected offset for repeater operation, inputting tone, saving it to memory, and finally naming the memory channel. After a few memory inputs, I got the hang of it and entered 25 channels in very short period. So far the radio is meeting my criterion, but it does have some issues or annoyances.

The radio's 80 watts definitely gave me an extra boost adding several new repeaters and increasing my range on Simplex, but using Simplex or running a net does cause the radio to get hot. The radio as a heatsink, in itself, is a good idea, but for long conversations and/or a lot of usage, expect the radio to get hot to the touch. The radio did provide me the means to check the temperature of the radio and it was within its specifications. Another issue or annoyance with the build of the radio is there is framework that covers the SO-239 or coax connector along with ext. speaker plug-in, see below.

It is a slight process to mount the coax to the connector on the radio, but it could provide protection for the connection if the operator drops it. For someone thinking about using the radio for mobile operations, ensure you connect the coax along with an external speaker, as needed, before you finalize the mounting process. It would be hard to do after mounting. All the radio's knobs (volume, squelch, and for tuning) are built stiff

FT-2980, continued on page 8

NETS

SUNDAY: (rev. 181001)

Metro ARES FM Net - 1st Sunday ONLY at 1600L,
WA4ASI repeater, Covington, 146.925-, 88.5 PL
KK4GQ repeater, Fayetteville, 145.210 -, 131.8 PL
KC4AQS repeater, Paulding Co, 145.805 +, 100.0 PL

GA ARES/BCECA WL Express Net - Send an ICS-213 (or regular typed msg, if unable 213)to WX4GMA and WX4BCA by 2200Z. [1700L EST, winter/1800L, EDT, summer.] Please use a Winlink RF gateway; Winmore packet, etc, if capable; otherwise, use Telnet.

GA ARES Digital Net - 210Z [1600 EST, winter/1700 EDT, summer.] 3.583 MHz USB.

GA ARES PSK 'Traffic' Net - send an ICS-213 to WX4GMA NCS, centered on 1500 MHz.

GA ARES PSK 'check-in' Net - **Even** numbered months, center on 1000Hz, 'text' check-ins only and will run concurrently with the PSK 'Traffic' Net.

GA ARES D-RATS Net - 2130Z [1630 EST/1730 EDT]. Odd months, port: gaares.ratflector.com.

GA Section HF Net - 2200Z [1700 EST/1800 EDT], 3.975 MHz LSB, voice, by callsign prefix.

SE Weather Net - 2100L, D-Rats/D-Star, on sewx.ratflector.com. D-Star Voice on REF004A.

TUESDAY:

Butts County Emergency Comm Training Net - 1930L, WX4BCA repeater, 147.285 MHz, + offset, 131.8 PL, begins with voice check-ins, followed by an NBEMS Digital Net. WL Express msgs accepted if Not sent the previous Sunday, send to WX4BCA with name, callsign, location, and whether you are on mobile or aux power.

THURSDAY:

NCRC/ARES/RACES FM Net - 2000L, WA4ASI repeater, 146.925 - & 444.800 -, 88.5 PL. WL - K4NCR. May have a 'follow on' Digital Net - MT63-2KL, centered 1500 Hz, D-Rats on gaares.ratflector.com.

*** For numerous other training opportunities, see the BCECA Yahoo Group website, and/or the GA ARES website for other Nets w/ days, times, freqs, protocols, etc, for your training convenience.***

FT-2980, continued from page 7

(different feel), I have no real issues with this, but others could. I feel it is related to the toughness of the radio. The build of the radio is solid, but it does get hot after long periods of use.

Operating the radio is a breeze, much like any other 2 meter transceiver. There is not much difference here between other radios (Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, etc.) other than there is always a learning curve with a new radio from a manufacturer you are not familiar. Another consideration or annoyance for some is the inability to separate the head unit from the base unit of the radio, so, mobile mounting could be an issue – large radio and hard to find a place to mount. The display is large and can be viewed from a distance and could be a plus for mobile ops or for base station use. The scanning feature (3 different types) is slow, my Kenwood handheld/IC-2730 runs circles compared to it, but it does offer many types of scanning.

Overall this radio met my criteria at a good price. It provided increased repeater connectivity and extended my Simplex range. It is very easy to operate, program, and view the display. The audio is generally loud and could be heard during mobile over and above any engine noise, FM radio, etc. It is very easy to program power settings into a memory channel allowing me to operate for those close or strong repeaters (lower power with 4 different levels) without changing settings – less work for those operating mobile. It could be a process to mount the system mobile and definitely requires some forethought before the final install. In any case, operating in a base or mobile configuration, the radio will get hot to the touch during long ragchew sessions, but cools down pretty well after use. As in any other case, every operator should do some research after determining their criteria before buying it. Most analog 2-meter radios can range in price from $135 to over $200 and I would apply some consideration before just buying any radio. All in all, a good radio, but with its own quirks. ❖ _JP

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

20 - Hungry Hams - Lunch Box - 0730

20 - Jackson Fall Festival - Parade begins at 9 AM

21 - *'Spin for Kids'* - Morgan Co, Need HTs & Mobiles

NOVEMBER

3-4 - Stone Mountain HamFest, Gwinnett Co FG. 2405 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Lawrenceville. Sat 8-4, Sun 8-2

5 - Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Fairgrounds.

Flu Shots, EMA Update - Glen Goens, KJ4TVO

6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 27, 29 - Morse Code, 7-8 PM, FS #7.

17 - Hungry Hams - Lunch Box - 0730

17 - VE Session - FS #7 - 0900

DECEMBER

4, 11, 13 - Morse Code, 7-8 PM, FS #7

6 - 8th Anniv Family Christmas Dinner, Buckner's Family Restaurant, 6:30 PM

15 - Hungry Hams - Lunch Box - 0730

15 - Tech Saturday - FS #7 - 0900

JANUARY 2019

7 - Monthly Meeting, SGH Volunteer Review

12 - GA ARES Meeting, GPSTC

19 - Hungry Hams - Lunch Box - 0730

26 - HamCram - 0900 FS #7. VE following.

FEBRUARY 2019

4 - Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Fairgrounds

16 - Tech Saturday

……

2019 FIELD DAY

June 28-30, Kersey Pavilion

CONTACT INFO

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