

## Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

November 05, 2018

### Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1902 Meeting Concluded at 2021

**Attendance at Meeting:** Pete Acevedo; Mark Baker; Winford Barnes; David Burnham; Michelle Burnham; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; Elaine Stachowiak; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Robert Swanson; Andrew Rogers; Ed Jernigan.

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

**Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis** Our Club held 5 nets this past month. **When you send a Winmor check in please denote in the message that you are using WINMOR; otherwise I can't tell if the message was sent via Winmor or Telnet.** Buzz and Darlene volunteered to share the Net Control Operator position for November. The Club still needs someone to volunteer for the December nets.

**Members; if you are hesitant to volunteer for net control duty, WHY?** This is a perfect opportunity to get over any jitters about speaking on the radio, you are among some of the nicest friends you have. We are here to help one another perfect our skills. Please consider volunteering as Net Control Operator, contact Ken to volunteer.

Ken also reminded members that we still need to increase our active ARES membership to be able to staff our operations in the event of a disaster or need.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** There will be a VE Session held on Saturday November 17, 2018 beginning at 0900 at Fire Station #7 in Butts County. John Reynolds will be covering for Dan Darsey as he is unavailable for testing on that day. VE volunteers add this to your calendar and many thanks for your support!

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Mike says that the D-Star Repeater at Spalding Regional Hospital is working well.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Elaine reminded members that we have the possibility of severe weather moving through our area tomorrow and to monitor the situation. She also handed out copies of the script for beginning and running a Skywarn net. Any member may begin a Skywarn net if conditions warrant it and we are encouraged to do so.

Fort Valley is sponsoring a Skywarn Class Thursday November 8, 2018. Contact Elaine for details.

**Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis** Ken informed the Club that 6 Club members staffed the 4 weekly nets held at the Health Department. We could really use more volunteers to staff that net; please consider volunteering.

The monthly Georgia Hospital Net was held yesterday, November 4, 2018. We were able to check in successfully via D-Star; HF voice; Web EOC and Winmor. Dan sends his thanks to everyone for their dedication in staffing that net!

**CERT Activities: David Ridgeway** No report tonight; Chairman unavailable.

However Robert Swanson told our members that Henry County CERT was beginning a class that our members were welcome to attend. Training begins on January 15, 2018 and runs for 8 weeks. Classes will be held at the Henry County EOC facility from 1900 to 2100 each Tuesday for the 8 week session. To register or receive more information contact Robert Swanson at 470-409-5936 or via email at [rswanon@co.henry.ga.us](mailto:rswanon@co.henry.ga.us) Thanks for sharing that opportunity with our Club Robert.

**Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips** Regular meetings to organize the 2019 Field Day activities will begin after the first of the year.

**Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips** We have 43 members in our Club. We are glad to have Robert Swanson rejoin our Club, welcome Robert!

**Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher** Buzz is still having our Club activities announced on the local radio station and published in the local newspaper. Our Club appreciates the local media helping us spread the word about Amateur Radio Communications.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Octobers' activities consisted of our annual SET; a Skywarn net and the Jackson Fall Festival exhibit. Between activities and training our Club donated 321.25 hours last month for a value of \$7900.00 to the community.

Buzz happily reported that an original member, Bart Smith, has rejoined our Club and that Winford Barnes has completed the needed requirements to be classified as a deployable Ham Operator. Congratulations Winford! And welcome back Bart!

Buzz stressed that we need to add to our ARES membership to be able to cover the needs of Butts County. He suggested that perhaps the Club might interest younger members by coordinating with the Jackson ROTC activities at the High School.

Buzz queried the membership as to the possibility of holding a quarterly workshop/training specifically for ARES members.

The Butts County EMA personally requested that our Club activate a Skywarn net on October 10, 2018 due to severe weather passing through our area. The net began at 1715, members were notified via email and on the repeater. At 1900 Elaine took over as net control operator and the net ran in a relaxed mode until 0130 October 11, 2018. Anyone needing a copy of the Skywarn net script check the Yahoo Group files; Elaine also passed out several scripts to interested members at tonight's meeting; thanks Elaine for having copies of the script ready to go!

There have been some problems with the new ARES Connect system, such as several of our members' accounts disappearing. The problem seems to be corrected at present but contact Buzz if anything out of the ordinary occurs.

**Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb** General \$1355.83 Repeater \$1840.00 Total Funds \$3195.83

**Club Old Business:** Ken Wallis is continuing to map Butts County for coverage by our Club.

Please consider contributing something of value to our newsletter. Nancy works hard on it and does a great job but is always looking for interesting articles or even a cute cartoon to include.

John Lipscomb is still in the design phase of the power hub for use at Field Day.

Elaine reminded us that if we were interested in holding a Winter Field Day the scheduled weekend for that activity is January 26-27, 2019.

**Club New Business:** Darlene Ragon, Christmas Party Chairman, informed the membership that due to Buckner's Restaurant closing at 1600 on Thursday evenings now that we would need to change our reservation to 1800 on Friday December 7, 2018. Members in attendance voiced no complaints with the change.

**Coming Events:** Most activities mentioned in the sections of their topic.

**Monthly Program:** Mike Crowe and David Burnahm kindly brought several pieces of testing equipment for our program tonight. Members measured the accuracy of the frequency that our HT's were transmitting on. Thanks to them for stepping in at the last minute with training for our members. Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend this evening.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** Our Club raised \$53.00 for the Repeater fund tonight. Thanks to everyone for their support!