

**Amateur Radio Club of Butts County**

**February 04, 2019**

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

**Meeting Began at 1904 Meeting Concluded at 2040**

**Attendance at Meeting:** Mike Crowe; David Burnham; Buzz Kutcher; Nancy Phillips; John Lipscomb; Brent Strite; Rudy Williams; Darlene Ragon; Glenn Wyatt; Mel Mosier; Ken Wallis; Michelle Burnham; Pete Acevedo; Tyson; Jarrod; Elaine Stachowiak; Tony Strite; Dan Darsey; Winford Barnes; Whit Smith.

**Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens** No report tonight as Glen wasn't in attendance.

**Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis** Five weekly Nets were held in January; Buzz Kutcher has volunteered to be Net Control for February. If you are unable to check in by voice on Tuesday evenings, try checking in using MT-63 digital. Our Club is in need of volunteers to be Net Control as well as more ARES members are needed. It will take a lot of manpower to staff 3 response sites in a real emergency. We need to train now while we can.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** Dan was pleased to announce that two new Technician Licenses resulted from the VE session held in January. Congratulations to both new Hams!

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** The Hospital Ham Station received a new computer and 2 large monitors from WellStar to assist our response team in being prepared to serve them in a time of need. Many thanks to WellStar for their continuing support.

D-Star operators were in great demand for staffing the Red Cross shelters during the Super Bowl event in Atlanta. Coordinators had requested 3 prepared operators from our Club and we provided 6 well prepared operators. If you can please equip yourself with a D-Star radio and learn to use it. Six of our members were on 'stand-by' alert until 0200 Monday morning.

Fldigi and Winlink updates have been released, so be sure to update your software on your computers.

There will be some D-Rats training coming up for our Club members as well as Winlink training on our 2m radios. Georgia EOC is encouraging volunteers to become proficient with these modes.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Elaine shared with Club members that this week was officially recognized as "Weather Preparedness" week. There will be a state wide tornado drill this coming Wednesday at 0900. Take time to assess you preparedness at home or your work place and make preparations for severe weather that might occur this spring.

**Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis** Ken reports that all 5 Health Department Nets were held successfully. The Hospital IT ream thought they had the correct ports opened for using our D-Star equipment but are still working on the problem.

Mike suggested that if any members need to erect or change their home antennas, now is the optimum time before the trees leaf out.

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

**Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips** Tonight's program will be on Field Day planning.

**Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips** Nancy shared that we have 2 new potential members referred to our Club by Dell Davis. Two gentlemen taking the CW classes are planning to join our Club as well.

**Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher** Buzz said the local newspaper gave our Club's Ham Cram good coverage to peak interest for local folks.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Congratulations to Nancy Phillips; she has completed all courses and is fully credentialed as an ARES member! Yeah for Nancy!

**Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb** General Funds: \$1435.66 Repeater Funds: \$1945.00 Total Funds: \$3380.66

**Club Old Business:** February 16, Tech Saturday, we will be working on the relay sites of distant parts of the county that Ken Wallis has been mapping out. Meet for breakfast at the Lunch Box Saturday at 0730 then gather at Fire Station #7 at 0900 for assignments.

Buzz Kutcher suggested checking all of the designated shelter sites in the county first to see if communications can be relayed from those locations.

Round two of the Morse Code class is going well.

**Club New Business:** John Lipscomb said he would follow up with Mark Clark concerning the Chamber of Commerce application for our Club to join that association.

March is election time for new officers in our Club. Our by-laws state that officers can only serve 3 terms in a position. Members can check the by-laws for a description of the duties of an office. Nancy volunteered to be the Vice President again; Darlene Ragon volunteered to continue as Secretary and John Lipscomb was willing to continue serving as Treasurer. Buzz Kutcher will coordinate the Nominating Committee.

**Coming Events:** Publix Marathon will be held March 17, 2019. Volunteers are still needed.

Hamfest in Dalton, Georgia will be held February 23, 2019.

March 23, 2019 is the hand gun training class taught by the Sheriff's Department in Butts County. Class will begin at 0900 that day; contact Nancy Phillips for registration.

March 30, 2019 is the Women's Self Defense Class sponsored by the Butts County Sheriff's Department. It will be held at the Recreation Center at 0900. Contact Nancy Phillips for registration. Many thanks to Nancy for arranging these classes!

Nancy would like to hold a short Field Day Committee meeting either before or after Tech Saturday at Fresh Air Barbeque.

Brent and Tony Strite requested anyone that can assist with a presentation/display at Jasper County High School on April 20, 2019 contact them. This is a special Science, Math, Technology and Engineering event to foster interest in the sciences to our young people. They are asking for volunteers to man the booth at the school; set up for this event is at 0800 with the actual event covering 0900-1100.

**Monthly Program:** Comments from the Field Day preparation program.

Members need to go into Field Day with a positive outlook.

Last year we were a 4A station and we plan to do the same again this year.

We will continue to have Band Captains as they have been a successful way to manage things in the past.

This year we will have 'Shift Captains' as well. Jeff Phillips will be the day shift captain and Pete Acevedo will coordinate the night shift.

We need someone to be a 'Band Scanner' to locate areas of activity we can contact.

Points are awarded for each mode of communication so we plan to have a CW station again although located some distance from voice communications to decrease interference.

Once again we need someone to erect the heavy tarps around the pavilion to protect us from thundershowers.

We need a plywood floor for the CW station area.

Nancy would like to have a 'dry run' exercise to be held at Fire Station #7 to be sure everyone providing computers has the proper software and that connections between computers can be obtained.

Nancy asked Mike Crowe if he would again provide the filters needed on the band connections.

Nancy encouraged every Club member to sign up for at least one hour on the schedule to make contacts. She encouraged us to give just 10% more this year than last year.

Every operator should have a logger to make recording contacts easier on the voice operator.

Nancy challenged all Technicians to make 10 QSO's; Generals to make 60 QSO's and Extra License to make 100 QSO's.

Nancy asked the Club to sponsor Justin, a 15 year old boy, in the CW class with radio equipment he can use to do CW on at home.

She also suggested that we give away a Technician's study handbook to someone attending the GOTA station.

Nancy has designed a special Club tee shirt for Field Day as well as for graduates of the CW classes. The price to screen print 24 shirts would be in the neighborhood of \$206.

Nancy suggested that we have a special photo taken for the Club member who make the most QSO's or the most improved member.

Pete Acevedo volunteered to be the generator captain of refueling and he and Dan Darsey will share the title of "Safety Captain".

Melvin Mosier will be designated the "Ambassador to all Visitors" for Field Day.

Mike Crowe volunteered to make the antenna arrangements.

Nancy asked that a copy of everyone's Ham Licenses be on file.

**The Family Picnic has been changed to 11:30 Saturday morning so we don't have to stop contacts to prepare the picnic later in the day.**

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** We raised \$41.00 for the Repeater Fund tonight in raffle donations.