

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

March 4, 2019

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1908

Meeting Concluded at 2020

Attendance at Meeting: David Burnahm; Buzz Kutcher; Nancy Phillips; John Lipscomb; Brent Strite; Rudy Williams; Chris Southerland; Darlene Ragon; Glenn Wyatt; Melvin Mosier; David Ridgeway; Ken Wallis; Michelle Burnham; Pete Acevedo; Jarrod Henderson; Elaine Stachowiak; Tony Strite; Mark Clark; Dan Darsey; Winford Barnes.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Ken's monthly reports for the weekly net and Health Department net are posted on our Club Yahoo page.

Weekly participation in the voice/digital net is up this past month. We are averaging 9 voice check-ins; 5 digital check-ins and 8 Winlink check-ins.

Ken shares that he is need of a Net Controller for the month of March; especially March 5 as he is a "victim" for the Henry County CERT activity that evening.

Elaine Stachowiak volunteered to be Net Control for the month of April 2019. Thanks Elaine!

VE Team: Dan Darsey There will be a VE session held at Fire Station #7 on Saturday March 16, 2019 beginning at 0900. Dan says he has one potential test taker scheduled for that day. Contact Dan for more information or to sign up for testing. Many thanks to all of our Club VE's for their service!

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Mike was out sick tonight so Buzz volunteered to pass along his report. There is no change in the function of the D-Star repeater located at Sylvan Grove Hospital. David Benoist is working with Spalding Regional Hospital to investigate security concerns that WellStar has with ARES members using the Hospitals' internet connections. This affects all WellStar Hospitals that ARES members serve, so we are waiting for these issues to be resolved.

Buzz expressed thanks to all the Club members who attended the special D-Rats training session on February 23, 2019. Computers were updated and software installed to assist members participating in D-Rats communications.

Buzz also shared that during the recent Super Bowl event coordinators wanted to use D-Rats to communicate but very few ARES members were equipped and trained to fulfill this request. Our Club members need to work on these skills so we are able to respond to D-Rats requests from those we serve.

The EC of Metro Atlanta wanted coverage for 2 shelter locations in East Point for potential use as a hub to bring 'lost folks' to while they waited to be reunited with their event partners. Our Club provided the most ARES members response to this request; we had 7 Club members who volunteered to be on stand-by for 12 hour shifts on and 12 hour shifts off for the 3 days the event was held. This required the ARES members to be at home on call for that time period. The volunteers can rightly be proud of their service to the request of the EC.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Yesterday Elaine was in transit to her home to organize a Skywarn Net due to the severe storms moving through our region. As she turned on her mobile unit she heard that Buzz Kutcher had already begun a net with several members checking in with him. Sadly there were many tornadoes that touched down in the storm event March 3, 2019 in South Georgia as well as Alabama.

Elaine reminded us that April is the peak season for tornado events in our area and encouraged members to assess their preparations at home to shelter in place for any severe weather that might occur.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis Dan shared that the Hospital Net went well yesterday, March 3, 2019, in spite of the severe thunderstorms our area experienced during the scheduled net time. Hospital Team members; Ken Wallis, Glenn Wyatt and Winford Barnes handled the required check-ins and completed all contacts.

Ken says all 4 weekly Health Department nets were completed successfully. Many thanks for the 'early risers' that participate in that weekly net.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway David shared that Glen Goens is working on a timetable for a CERT class to be held in our area. David also said that he would like to see a quarterly refresher training session held to keep members skills updated. We thank David for his attempts to coordinate with Glen Goens in this training.

Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips Nancy said she would be contacting individual members for Field Day needs.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips **Club membership dues are due tonight; please see Nancy and John Lipscomb to pay your dues.**

It takes at least 10 paying Club members to pay for the Club insurance that we carry for Field Day activities. Please rejoin the Club in a very timely manner so we can have the funds to meet this Club need. So many members give so much of their time and personal finances to support our Club activities. If everyone helps a little the job gets done, thanks!

The Club welcomes Jarrod Henderson as a new member of the Amateur Radio Club of Butts County.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher Our thanks to Buzz and the local newspaper and radio station for their continuing support of Ham Radio in Butts County! All of our activities and community service are recorded in the local news reporting.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher The Club lost two ARES members this past month due to inactivity; we now have 29 ARES members.

ARES members are divided into 3 groups according to the educational and training requirements that ARRL now requires. Level One is a basic membership in ARES; Level Two requires the completion of the Basic ARES training class, ICS classes 100-200-700-800-802. Level Three requirements add on the following classes; EC016, ICS classes 300-400.

Our ARES group has 16 Level One members; 11 Level Two members and 2 Level Three members. There were 547 hours of service donated to the ARES database last month, a large portion comprised of the Super Bowl service. The dollar value of the Club service for February 2019 was \$14,000.00

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1555.66 Repeater Fund \$1986.00 Total Funds \$ 3541.66

Club Old Business: Mark Clark shared that our Club is now a paid member of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce. He further stated that we are the only radio club in the state of Georgia to belong to the local Chamber of Commerce; another first for our Club in our dedication to service for Butts County.

Mark stated that there were personal benefits of membership in the Chamber, such as potential insurance discounts which he will further investigate and share with the Club.

Ken Wallis said that the data recorded during the relay mapping activity last month was very useful and he is still compiling it into the county maps. Ken would like to schedule another mapping event for Saturday March 30, 2019. He expressed a real need for more volunteers; especially loggers are needed in each vehicle that is out on the routes. It is difficult to drive, manage radio communications and record who you are hearing and their location. Information loggers would make this activity much safer for members involved.

Nancy shared that she had to return the sample tee shirts to the business this week. If you are interested in a Field Day logo tee shirt please contact Nancy ASAP. A minimum of 8 tee shirts are required for the screen printing or embroidery of the Club logo to be produced. Tee shirts range in price from \$ 6.50-12.00 depending on the style. Logo embroidery is \$8.50 more.

Club New Business: Buzz Kutcher and Mark Clark have been looking into the possibility of setting up a Butts County Amateur Radio Club LOTW account. This would allow all Field Day contacts and any personal HF contacts using the Club call sign to be entered into the LOTW. Furthermore all past Field Day contacts may be added retroactively. More details to follow.

Due to the ongoing problems fulfilling security requirements associated with the D-Star repeater at Sylvan Grove Hospital, Buzz stated that David Benoist suggests our Club purchase a 'professional' quality router as well as a Raspberry pi to isolate our repeater from the Hospital's IT system. Buzz respectfully requested that the Club allocate \$300.00 for the D-Star repeater support. The funds would be used for the purchase of equipment to fulfill this need. Some of the equipment, the router, has already been purchased and the donator would need reimbursement. Winford Barnes made a motion to allocate the funds as described above and Melvin Mosier seconded the motion. The motion was passed by Club members in attendance.

Buzz said he was in the process of moving our Yahoo files and message board to **group.io**. Be on the lookout for an email inviting you to join this group. The group.io platform is much more user friendly than Yahoo with no advertisements to clutter the message board.

Our President, Elaine Stachowiak, requested that members thoughtfully submit ideas for training, monthly programs and Tech Saturday to increase interest and skills of our Club members.

Members who are not already receiving the very informative newsletter "Georgia on My Mind" may go to the ARRL website and under your account choices sign up to receive this newsletter via email.

John Lipscomb suggested holding a Club interest survey. What do as members of this Club want to learn or do? Please send your thoughts to John Lipscomb for compilation of a survey of interests.

Coming Events: 5K Jackson High School Football Race will be held on Saturday May 4, 2019. All volunteers serving in this race meet on site at 0700. A handheld 2m radio is the equipment needed to serve that day.

March 23, 2019 is the Gun Safety Class to be held at the Jackson Prison location. It is an all day class with lunch of hamburgers/hot dogs provided to attendees. Required equipment is your personal hand gun and at least 50 rounds of ammunition. Wear comfortable clothing such as jeans that day. Class begins at 0900 that day; contact Nancy Phillips to register or for further information.

March 30, 2019 is the Women's' Self Defense Class to be held at the Recreation Center in Jackson, Georgia from 0900 to 1200. It is sponsored by the Sheriffs' Department of Butts County. There are 10 spots still open for family or friends of Club members. Contact Nancy for further information or to register.

Many thanks to Winford Barnes for his donation of time and knowledge to the Morse Code Level Two Classes! Class ended this past Thursday and a graduation dinner was held that same evening. Congratulations to the students completing the training. Now get on the air and pound that keyer! ☺

Monthly Program: In lieu of a monthly program, tonight we held election of Club Officers for the next 2 year terms of service. Nominations for each Club Officer position were brought before the membership in addition to the names presented for Officer positions. No other names were submitted for consideration to any position of service by the membership.

David Ridgeway and Brent Strite first and seconded nomination of Elaine Stachowiak to serve as President of our Club. David Ridgeway and Dan Darsey first and seconded nomination of Nancy Phillips to serve as Vice President of our Club.

David Ridgeway and Dan Darsey first and seconded nomination of Darlene Ragon as Secretary of our Club.

David Ridgeway and Dan Darsey first and seconded nomination of John Lipscomb as Treasurer of our Club.

The Officers as listed above were presented individually to the membership and elected to serve for the next 2 years.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$34.00 for the repeater fund tonight in raffle items. Thanks to those that donated items and those that purchased tickets or just made a repeater donation.