

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

August 05, 2019

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Darlene Ragon, Secretary ARCBC

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Called to Order by Nancy Phillips at 1858

Meeting Concluded at 2026

Attendance at Meeting: David Burnahm; Michelle Burnham; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Jarrod Henderson; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; Chris Southerland; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; Ken Wallis; Glenn Wyatt; James Williams; Isaiah Foster.

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis We held 5 nets last month but participation is minimal. Ken suggested for members participating to explore some of the other ICS forms and practice sending them during our digital portion of the weekly net.

Ken reinforced how much he is need of volunteers to act as Net Control for the net; you don't have to worry about not doing things perfectly to begin with if you are inexperienced...that is what the net is for; practice among encouraging friends.

Ken also shared that our experienced members may have a real challenge staffing County facilities in case of a real time event. Works are in the plan for the Mobile Command Bus in Butts County which will feature a spot for Ham Radio operations. This Mobile Command vehicle will require two radio operators.

VE Team: Dan Darsey Dan reported that one student took and passed the recent Technician License Ham Cram, Curt Williams. Curt has joined our group and we all send congratulations to him and a big welcome to the Club. Dan also said he would require full VE team support for the VE testing scheduled on September 21, 2019. This is the first test after the finish of the General Licensing class.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe We have had some issues with the repeater recently and sadly are still waiting on the Information Technicians at Sylvan Grove to assist us with Web access.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Representative not in attendance tonight.

Hospital Team: Dan Darsey Dan reported that the Hospital Net for August was able to complete voice and digital check in but was unable to communicate on the D-Star radio due to user error. Thanks to all that attended that monthly net.

Public Health Department Team: Ken Wallis Members met with Mark Austin, Emergency Director for Spalding Regional Hospital, and he has agreed to purchase toner for the printer being used at the Health Department. Mark further reported that his immediate supervisor has resigned and Lisa Johnson will assume that position. We have worked successfully with Lisa in many instances in the past and look forward to obtaining her assistance with a few issues. The Health Department's call sign is KW4BHD.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway Representative not in attendance tonight.

Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips Nancy discussed the hot wash of Field Day as our program tonight.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips We have 36 Club members at present.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher We still have excellent support from the local newspaper and radio station publicizing our Club's activities.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Buzz attended an AxComm meeting recently which outlined changes to qualify for participation in ARES. The State has instituted a program of certification that includes a 'task booklet' listing the

requirements for each of the 3 levels of ARES participation.

This booklet can be found in the Files area of our Clubs' io.groups forum. Updated classes have been posted on the ICS training site and all members are encouraged to re-take the 100-200-700-800 classes. When you have completed the requirements for each level the information must be sent to GEMA. You will then receive an official ID card from GEMA and must have this ID card in order to serve in any capacity with GEMA. This is a nationwide federally funded program and properly credentialed persons will be covered by insurance while serving, receive mileage and a per diem for their service.

Buzz also notified members that you will need to call on the phone to register for any classes held at GSPTC. A class is being held on September 13, 2019 teaching basic skills such as building small emergency antennas; attaching connectors to coax cables, ect.

Buzz reported that the use of ARES Connect for registering for activities has been suspended for the present. Buzz will continue to record our attendance and participation in activities as he has in the past. Thank you Buzz for your service! Our Club donated 167 hours of training and service in July for a value of \$4200.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1429.50 Repeater Fund \$2185.00 Total Funds \$3614.50

Club Old Business: Buzz Kutcher made a motion for our Club to donate \$100 from Club funds to the ARRL Education Fund in memory of our recently deceased member, J.D. VanSickle. John Lipscomb 2nd the motion and it was passed by all members in attendance.

Ken is hoping to continue the mapping survey this month of outlying areas in Butts County. This month's focus will be on Zone 7. Interested parties can contact Ken for further information; the work day is scheduled for Saturday August 24, 2019.

Buzz reminded members that we are only using the groups i.o email system for Club business now.

Club New Business: Dan Darsey presented the calendar for 2020 to the Club. He stressed we note the change in May 2020 for the VE session and Club monthly meeting day change in September due to the Labor Day Holiday. The date for the October 2020 SET has not been released yet. Members were given copies of the projected calendar.

Buzz Kutcher made a motion to take up a collection in addition to the funds already designated for the J.D. VanSickle memorial donation. Funds were collected in the amount of \$105.00 and Buzz moved this money also be donated to the ARRL Educational Fund in J.D.'s memory. Dan Darsey 2nd the motion and it was passed by all in attendance.

Buzz shared that a special event will be held from August 21, 2019 to September 8, 2019 for the 150th birthday of the founder of the ARRL. The September issue of QST contains an article outlining the special event. Buzz has offered the person in our Club who has the most contacts the Grand Prize of the candy bar of his or her choice! Woo Hoo!

Coming Events: Tech Saturday will be held August 17, 2019. It has been scheduled as a planning day for Field Day 2020. Breakfast at 0700 at the Huddle House near Fire Station #7 with the meeting to follow at 0900 at the Fire Station. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Monthly Program: Comments from the discussion of Field Day 2019:

We need more operators.

We may need to ground our solar power and generator set up.

Bravo to John Lipscomb for building the power hub!

We need our Public Officials to attend our Field Day activities.

John Lipscomb expressed his appreciation to Ken Wallis for taking the time to give him one on one digital comms training. Ken helped a total of 6 people with digital training during Field Day. Many Thanks Ken, well done!!

David Burnham shared that he thought we needed to be more visible to the community.

Mike Crowe said that Elaine had already claimed the HEX beam antenna for use in 2020.

What do we want to do differently next year?

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: No raffle was held this evening.