

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

June 03, 2019 Minutes submitted by D Ragon, Secretary of ARCOBC

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1910 **Meeting Concluded at** 2015

Attendance at Meeting: Elaine Stachowiak; Nancy Phillips; John Lipscomb; Chris Southerland; Jarrod Henderson; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Melvin Mosier; Pete Acevedo; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey.

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens No report; member not in attendance.

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis All four weekly Nets were held with an average of just under 8 voice check-ins per session. That average may increase by stopping by the Fldigi station on Field Day.

Ken mentions that he is in need of a volunteer to be Net Control for June. Please consider volunteering, remember you don't have to be perfect the first time out of the gate, just trying.

Ken also reminded everyone to keep the ARES Connect information up to date with your activities.

VE Team: Dan Darsey There will be a Han Cram and VE session on Saturday, July 20, 2019 held at Fire Station #7. Study will begin at 0900 and testing will be at 1600. Dan reminded all VE volunteers that their assistance is needed. Dan noted that the testing information should be made available on the Local radio station as well as the newspaper.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe The situation at Sylvan Grove Hospital remains unchanged; still no administrative privileges; we can't save settings, ect.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Hurricane season begins June 1st, check your preparations at home to be sure you are as prepared as you can be for storms in our area. Inventory your supplies and refresh anything out of date. Have any members checked in to the Hurricane Net frequencies; are you monitoring it? There is a potential system developing in the Gulf region so keep an eye on it.

Hospital Team: Dan Darsey Thanks go out to Dan Darsey, Ken Wallis and Glenn Wyatt for running the monthly Ga Hospital Net at Sylvan Grove. This month's efforts were frustrating as our Sound Modem program was not working; band conditions prevented hearing/checking in on the HF frequencies and even Web EOC failed to function.

Public Health Department Team: Ken Wallis All five weekly nets were covered and the new radio works great! Elaine said Buzz had taken her 911 Center badge away, so she graciously joined the DPH team. Ken shared that our new facilities at the Health Department are so small that the desk he works on does not even give him enough room for his laptop. He had to keep records holding the computer in his lap. The Department of Public Health Net/Team meets every Thursday at 0830; with the addition of Elaine Stachowiak there are now 7 operators for the DPH Team.

Ken is also working on obtaining a special call sign for the Department of Public Health station. Essentially Ken had to create a club within our Club. Elections were held resulting in Ken as President, Rudy Williams Vice President, Winford Barnes is serving as Secretary and Mark Clark is Treasurer.

Ken is considering K4BCH (Butts County Health) or K4BHD (Butts Health Department) as the special call signs.

A comment was made by Ken Wallis: "And back to Sylvan Grove Hospital for a minute, the head of the team per week in order is: Ken; Buzz; Mark; Rudy and Darlene with Winford and Nancy as alternates". This is not clear whether it refers to the Hospital or the Health Department; clarification is needed.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway No report tonight, member not in attendance.

Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips See information contained in the Program Section.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips No change in membership numbers at present. Mark Clark and David Benoist both have had recent back surgeries. Get Well cards were passed around for all members to sign.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher No report tonight, member not in attendance.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Buzz gave his report information to Elaine to share with the Club. Butts Co ARES has 28 people after losing 2 members last month. Five drills were held consisting of 43 man hours; 2 public service events

resulting in 57 man hours and 1 emergency event took place comprising 35 man hours. That resulted in 8 events for the month of May and a total of 135 man hours.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1595.66 Repeater Fund \$2138.00 Total Funds \$3733.66 As of July 1st, 2019 we officially become ARCBC for the insurance paperwork, with a bit of housekeeping needing to take place with the ARRL, ect. Nancy Phillips asked if the insurance policy covered our radio equipment in the event we experienced a lightning strike or other disaster at Field Day. John reported that it should be covered.

Club Old Business: The scheduled mapping exercise of Butts County during May did not take place due to other commitments on Ken's calendar. After realizing that Field Day was the last weekend in June, Ken announced that there would not be any mapping exercise in the month of June.

John Lipscomb reported that the Hub has been completed for Field Day activities. He will deliver the equipment to Nancy Phillips and mentioned that he had plans to attend Field Day.

Club New Business: Nancy Phillips inquired as to where she could obtain a copy of the Club Charter. Dan Darsey said that Buzz Kutcher would be the best resource for that document.

John Lipscomb brought up the subject of the lack of assistance by administration at Sylvan Grove Hospital to install the needed web connections for our radio station. The same excuses have been told to us for around 2 ½ years. He would like to see the Club turn up the heat on the Hospital and give them a 90 day deadline to have the requirements met. John reminded us that the State has mandated that all hospitals have an alternate communications system for their use. The Hospital has continually pushed our needs to the background. Our Club has put in many man hours of personal time at our own expense to operate the station at Sylvan Grove. Hospital administration has done little to assist us with vital communication needs to help them fulfill their mandate. John suggested an ultimatum; provide our Club with the needed upgrades or we will take our service elsewhere.

A discussion followed as to where the Club might relocate to operate an ARES station for the State. It was suggested that members begin looking for a suitable location to place an antenna as we cannot raise the one at the Hospital any higher and the Hospital seems unwilling to help the Club operate, for free, for their benefit. This discussion was tabled to be reopened more formally as part of another month's agenda.

Coming Events: There is a Field Day prep day scheduled on Saturday June 8, 2019 at 0900 at Fire Station #7. This is to be sure that all computers used at Field Day are synched and have software updated for logging and such.

Breakfast will be at 0730 at the Huddle House in the Shell Gas Station complex between Fire Station #7 and I-75.

Tech Saturday will be the following weekend, June 15, 2019 in the event we need to continue synching computers and other Field Day preparations. Otherwise there are several digital modes we can get further training on to be prepared for Field Day.

Emails went out to remind members that on Tuesday June 4, 2019 Mayor Pippin will be presenting a Proclamation for Amateur Radio Week. Please be in attendance at 1900 at the Municipal Building in Jackson. Members that attended were: Elaine Stachowiak; Nancy Phillips; Melvin Mosier; Ken Wallis; Glenn Wyatt and Mark Austin. Mark spoke before the City Council and honored the Club for the many hours and the dedication we have given the Hospital and the Community. He further expressed his personal appreciation of everything our Club does for the Jackson/Butts Community and Sylvan Grove Hospital.

Monthly Program: The monthly program consisted of Field Day preparations.

Our President, Elaine Stachowiak, noted that Field Day will be counted as one of our Quarterly Drills. She encouraged everyone to attend, sign in and get on the radio. Be a logger for an operator. We need as many members to participate as possible. The picnic has been moved to 11:30 Saturday morning before the start of Field Day officially begins. Darlene Ragon is in charge of food this year so expect a call or email shortly.

Mike Crowe reminded Club members that each radio will need to have a filter for whatever band they are operating on. He has sent an email to Winford Barnes for a final list of the equipment the CW operators will require and if the allotted antennas for their use is adequate.

Antenna set up will begin on Friday June 28, 2019.

Ken Wallis reminded everyone to study the digital modes and stop by the digital radio station for hands on training at Field Day.

Nancy Phillips has obtained a special call sign for Field Day use. We will use the call sign K4B and will be operating as a 4A station. Nancy is the trustee of this 1x1 call sign and has turned over the Control Operator position to Elaine, Winford and Jeff. This allows all license levels to operate during this event with our Club. There will be a posted schedule so there will be no questions as to how many people are operating at any moment.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: Raffle funds raised tonight were \$ 46.00.

