

The Repeater

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WX4BCA 147.285 + (131.8)

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County



Jackson, GA



USA

First GA ARES SKILLS DAY

Georgia Public Safety Training Center



L>R: Melvin Mosier, Mark Clark, Nancy Phillips, Elaine Stachowiak, Glenn Wyatt, Chris Southerland, Robert Swanson, Buzz Kutcher, Jeffrey LeMaster, and Dan Darsey enjoyed such classes as Cables & Connectors, Feedlines, AREDN Mesh Networking, DStar, WinLink Theory & Practical, Digital Net Control, and Soldering.

Skills Day was produced by Renee Conaway KK4LOJ, ADEC Northeast GA ARES PIO.

Great job, Renee!

Photo courtesy of Buzz Kutcher

Nancy Phillips

Editor

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**SEPTEMBER
2019**

Vol 7, No 9

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County**September 9, 2019****Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Darlene Ragon, Secretary ARCBC****Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds - Jackson, Georgia****Meeting Called to Order at 1900****Meeting Concluded at 2050**

Attendance at Meeting: Mark Austin; David Burnham; Mark Clark; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; Chuck McCord; Melvin Mosier; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; Chris Southerland; Elaine Stachowiak; Ken Wallis; Glenn Wyatt; Curt Williams

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis We held 4 nets in August with an average participation of 7 weekly check ins. Ken asked members to volunteer for Net Control positions, Elaine Stachowiak volunteered to act as Net Control for November 2019. Ken suggested trying other ICS forms to help familiarize members with their use. There is a mobile command vehicle being assembled which will need 4 volunteers to staff it when deployed. Consider volunteering to man this important addition to Butts County's Emergency Response capabilities.

VE Team: Dan Darsey There will be a VE testing session on September 19, 2019 at the conclusion of the General Class instructions.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Representative not in attendance this evening.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak Elaine reminded members that September is peak season for hurricanes.

Hospital Team: Dan Darsey August's Georgia Hospital Net went well and we were able to make contacts in all requested bands/methods. Sylvan Grove Hospital will be offering flu shots at our November monthly meeting.

Public Health Department Team: Ken Wallis Health Dept. team covered all 5 weekly net check ins in August. Remember to keep your software updated and working well as volunteers will need to use their personal laptops while checking in to this net.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway Representative not in attendance this evening.

Field Day Committee: Nancy Phillips

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips Nancy shared that we have 36 members in our Club.

Public Information Officer: Buzz Kutcher Newspaper and local radio coverage of our Club news is ongoing. Thanks to Buzz for keeping Ham Radio in the local media.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher: Our Club has 27 ARES members; our contributions in education/activities in August were of 215.5 hours of service resulting in a value of \$5419.00.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb Representative not in attendance this evening.

Club Old Business: Ken scheduled the continuing survey of outlying areas of Butts County for Saturday September 28, 2019. He will be mapping zone 7, the largest zone in this effort. All members are encouraged to participate if at all possible. Buzz Kutcher won the special 'Candy Bar' award for the most points in watching/working the special event held in remembrance of Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW - Founder of the ARRL. Buzz made 350 QSO's resulting in 2166 points. Congratulations Buzz!

Club New Business: Club members were reminded to register for the Skills Day event being held at GSPTC on Saturday September 14, 2019. Send GSPTC an email to register for this event.

Elaine suggested hosting a "fox hunt" demonstration at the Bluebird Festival spring of 2020. A discussion of this activity could be held during our Tech Saturday meeting in October.

Members are encouraged to offer suggestions and/or teach an educational program for our Tech Saturday meetings.

Coming Events: Hungry Hams held on September 21, 2019 at the I-75 Huddle House. Afterwards there will be a VE testing session at Fire Station #7.

Makers Fair will be held at Turner Field/GA State Stadium on Saturday and Sunday September 28 & 29, 2019 from 1000 to 1700 each day. This event is sponsored by "Make" magazine.

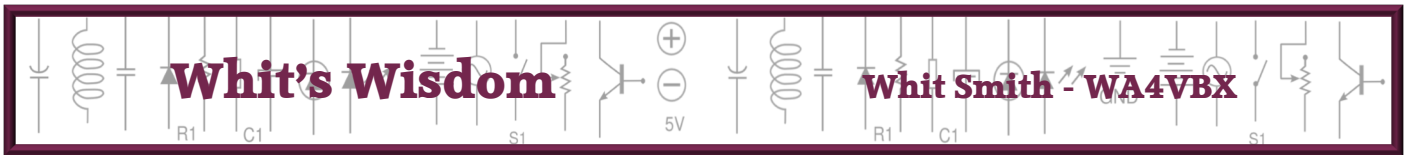
October 19, 2019 is our Club's Tech Saturday activity. Hungry Hams meal will be held before this event.

October 20, 2019 is Spin for Kids in Covington. This event is a fund raiser for Twin Lakes Camp for handicapped children and their families.

October 26, 2019 is the Jackson Fall Festival. Our Club will not be participating this year. Chamber of Commerce fee of \$50.00 for a booth set up was required. Buzz suggested pooling CERT and Ham Radio information to secure a free spot in 2020.

November 2nd and 3rd, 2019 Stone Mountain Hamfest. Event hours are 0800 to 1400 each day.

MINUTES continued on page 10



Crowbar Circuit

What is the purpose of a crowbar circuit? It is to limit the voltage output from your power supply to a safe level if the regulating part of the power supply malfunctions and the voltage to your equipment rises to an unsafe level. Depending on the design of your power supply, this unsafe voltage can be from approximately 15 volts to 24 volts. This over voltage condition need to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Small power supplies, that deliver 1 to 3 amps of current, have built-in regulation. These are done with chips such as LM317, 7812, and others. Some of these regulators are fixed voltage and others can be operated in either fixed voltage or variable voltage arrangement. These do an excellent job of voltage regulation with only a few parts. However, these power supplies need some sort of crowbar circuit to guard against an over voltage situation.

If you have a small to medium size power supply, a crowbar circuit can be made with a fuse and a Zener diode. When the regulating circuit malfunctions, the voltage tends to rise. However, the Zener diode keeps the voltage at a safe level. One drawback of this arrangement is, that while keeping the voltage at a proper level, the fuse is blown and the Zener diode is usually destroyed. The regulating part of the circuit will need to be repaired. The fuse and the Zener diode will need to be replaced before the unit can be placed back into service. Care should be taken in selecting the values of the Zener diode and resistors. These components need to be capable of taking enough current during the failure process so as to blow the fuse. The fuse should be a fast blow type. A few of these repairs can be made by anyone who is handy with a soldering iron and replacing various parts. However the remaining repair work is not for the first time project.

Another type of crowbar circuit can be made with relays. An over voltage sensing circuit, when activated, disconnects the power, by opening relay contacts and thereby removing the over voltage condition, from the rest of the circuit. This arrangement doesn't necessarily need a fast blow fuse. However, the fuse would be an extra level of protection.

A larger capacity power supply uses a different style of crowbar circuit. A higher than normal voltage triggers a SCR, or some other device, which shorts the output and blows the fuse. However, the SCR is generally not damaged. After the regulating part of the circuit is repaired, the supply is ready to put back into service. There are many different arrangements for a voltage sensing circuit as well as there are many variations of the above circuits with some different components. The repair for this power supply is not for the first time project.

There are some power supplies on the market that do a great job of voltage regulation, but they have no over voltage protection. Some sort of over voltage protection could be added to the circuit inside the power supply or it could be added externally. Be sure when you get a regulated power supply to verify what type of crowbar circuit, if any, is inside the cabinet. If you could not find out about the built-in crowbar circuit, you could still add one externally. While using the power supply with the added over voltage protection circuit it operates thereby protecting your equipment, it will take a little more time to trouble shoot because of the added circuits. Each of these schemes have plus and minus features.

_ WS

ANOTHER ANTENNA

_ JEFF PHILLIPS KN4FRG

My last antenna, a G5RV, sat nestled in a group of trees close to my house. The location presents a very good situation for a short run of coax and generally out of the way from the main entrance/driveway leading to the house. Even though the location presents some excellent attributes, it has led to my replacing several antennas over the last two plus years. In the mid-west, here in Missouri, we often experience high winds along with severe storms. During these storms or winds, I usually lower my antenna to protect it, but on three occasions tree limbs were the nemesis for my antennas. In each of the antenna loses, during storms, a tree limb(s) fell onto the lowered, or sometimes not lowered, antenna and caused it to break due to the sheer weight of the limb. After the first instance, I looked to improve on the previous antenna, but first a little history.

I purchased my first G5RV from Associated Radio (located in Kansas City, MO) during a HamFest in Joplin, MO along with several other related items when I was getting started in the hobby. Louis Varney back in 1946 invented the original G5RV after leaving the military as a means to get on the air after the WWII ban on amateur radio. The original intent of Mr. Varney's design was to make an antenna that would work all bands and fit into his small yard in England. You must remember back in that time period, amateurs had a few bands [no World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) bands – 30, 17, and 12 meters] to operate. His design, a variation of a dipole, 102 feet long (three half-wavelengths at 14MHz) with a 34-foot feeder constructed of 450 ohm ladder line that behaved as a matching device became folklore after, in 1958, RSGB Bulletin published an article, "An Effective Multi-band Aerial of Simple Construction," on his antenna. Since that time, amateurs have continued to argue about its abilities.

The first G5RV from Associated Radio met the originally designed antenna, but the dipole portion consisted of 18 AWG wire, so, as a means to strengthen the antenna, I used #12 AWG insulated wire in my construction of the G5RV. I used some of the salvage parts from the original (insulators and ladder line) and soldered the connections. After the construction and adding the 70' of coax, I was back on the air. The G5RV did very well across most of the bands with just the use of my radio's internal antenna tuner. Without a tuner, the antenna itself does OK on 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters, especially in the data portion of the bands maintaining usually below a 3:1 SWR. I do not have an antenna analyzer, but my radio will do SWR readouts allowing me to see the good and bad. The original design of the G5RV usually works the best on 20 meters, though. Adding an antenna tuner to the mix allowed me to work the WARC bands while protecting my radio from reflected power.

In the next couple of builds due to other tree limbs, I reviewed and found a more flexible wire that could, maybe, withstand the next thunderstorm. After reviewing several wire types, I came upon a name brand called Flex-Weave. Flex-Weave is a hybrid aerial wire providing rope lay construction strength and flexibility. The wire is so flexible, you can tie and untie it into knots. Flex-Weave will not kink or rust as will copper-clad wire. The next constructed antenna, I used Flex-Weave #12, sometimes referred as wire rope. You can usually get #12 or #14 wire from several dealers (Wireman, Davis RF, etc.). It will cost a little bit more though. The 102 feet of Flex-Weave was very easy to handle and allowed me to tie the ends (knotted) of the wire length to the insulators and really had no wire memory (a roll of wire may remember it was rolled, requiring you to unroll and straighten it first – no kinks)

ANTENNAS continued on page 6

NOTES FROM THE BACK ACRE

_ Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK

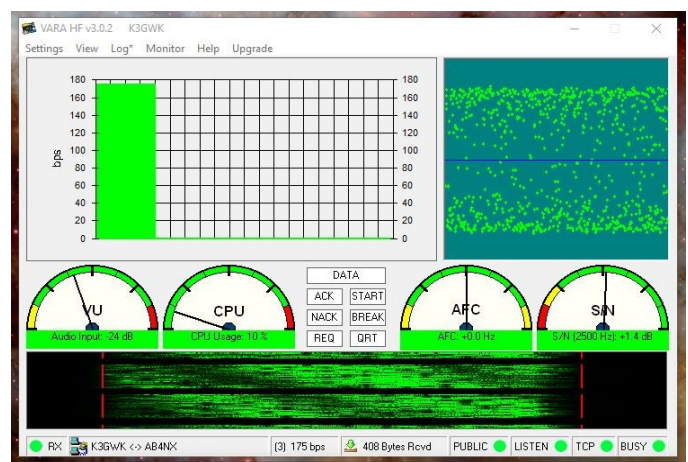


August and September have been busy months here on Patrick Circle. In August, Mark Clark, NI2Y and I took a road trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. That's a great Hamfest, lots of stuff in the bone yard, ham radio dealers from all over and some really super forums. With the Huntsville community (Rocket Scientists) to draw from, there are many subject matter experts available plus some well known, national ham celebrities. Mark and I attended two excellent forums on lightning theory and lightning protection. There was a heavy emphasis on Lightning Rule #1: **Lightning always wins**. Mark and I also attended Bob Heil's forum on received audio. Saturday evening we attended the Alabama DX Association's banquet; they ran out of food. Never offer a buffet to a ham radio banquet. ARCBC had a good representation at Huntsville: KK4GNO, W4DED, AJ4GU, NI2Y and K3GWK. Chattanooga anyone?

Closer to home there was the first annual, Ham Radio Skills Day held at the GPSTC facility in Forsyth. It was a regular smorgasbord of ham radio subjects. Several of the sessions featured **WINLINK 2000**. I consider Winlink (WL2K) one of the most important digital tools we hams have at our disposal. WL2K is a worldwide radio email service. It uses two-way radio (ham and non-ham) and the Internet to store and forward email messages and other similar chunks of data for use by stations around the world. It is capable of sending and receiving messages sent to Internet addresses or WL2K email addresses. Even though it uses the Internet cloud, the redundancy is impressive. There are five Central Message Servers located on three continents. At the local level there are hun-

dreds of Radio Message Servers (Gateways) where messages are received from and made available to end users like you and me. Recent statistics claim over 12,000 radio users with monthly traffic of over 100,000 messages. (<https://winlink.org>)

The end user hams (you and I) have many ways to interact with the WL2K system. Quick and dirty is the Telnet Winlink mode. Telnet is an all Internet mode; it is very fast but totally infrastructure dependent. On the HF frequencies there are several modes available: Pactor, Winmor, VARA. VARA is a relatively new mode (to me anyway) and seems to be much faster than good old Winmor. I'm not going to get into the weeds here but ... Pactor uses special modems, some of which are beyond the radio budget here on The Backacre. It is fast and reliable but the modems are expensive. Winmor Winlink is the HF mode most of us are familiar with. When I checked today there were 449 active Winmor RMS stations on the air. VARA Winlink is a newer mode that operates similar to Winmor. There are also FM Packet Winmor and Packet VARA Winmor stations available. Winmor and



HF VARA Modem Screen

BACK ACRE continued on page 9

ANTENNAS continued from page 4

after its receipt. Ladder line can also have this same effect. After completing its construction, I enjoyed the longest period of use before another thunderstorm and tree limb decided to take another one out.

For this antenna replacement, I decided to try a store bought antenna, a slightly modified G5RV. There are other dipole choices similar to the original G5RV that potentially could work better. Based on the recommendation of a fellow Ham, Mike Crowe AJ4GU, Nancy and I bought a modified G5RV antenna for the house there in Jackson. We bought the ZS6BKW multiband antenna for use with the ICOM IC-7100. In the mid-1980s, a man named Brian Austin (ZS6BKW) ran computer analysis to develop an antenna system that would match the maximum number of HF bands possible without an antenna tuner, using 50-ohm coax cable as the main feed line. His ZS6BKW multiband antenna took the original G5RV and adjusted the length of the radiators (92 feet) and ladder line (40 feet) matching section. This antenna boast reasonable matches on 40, 20, 17, 12, and 10 meters without a tuner. So, since the antenna there in Jackson works fairly well, I bought one for the setup in Missouri. The only issue is height of the ladder line.

The center of the G5RV with centered insulator sits about 35 feet, the maximum height of my antenna. I needed to raise the antenna slightly to enable the extended ladder line of the ZS6BKW to flow and not touch the ground. You could angle it away from its center, but instead, I purchased an antenna mast to support the center of the antenna and potentially allow me to raise and lower the antenna more easily during the next storm. Now, I need to research antenna masts. I found several brands, but focused on Rohn and Channelmaster. These brands received good reviews and offered several heights with needed accessories. Ultimately after reviewing, I chose the Rohn H50 antenna mast. The mast when

extends to a height of 43 feet. The main issue is the shipping cost for these items. Shipping usually costs more than the actual mast. I did find that Walmart and Home Depot offer Channelmaster masts with free shipping, but higher in cost. Instead, I went to Associated Radio again, since they would haul the mast to the Joplin HamFest free of charge.

After I picked up the mast, I fashioned a PVC mount with a pulley system to attach to the top of the mast to allow me to raise and lower the antenna. I replaced all support lines and affixed a mounting location for the mast. With support from a friend, we raised the mast and antenna. After complete setup and attaching the coax, I checked the SWR of the antenna. The antenna, as stated, did really well on 40 meters, and pretty good on 20, 17, 12, and 10 meters with minimal tuning. I did notice a little more noise from the antenna as compared to the normal G5RV, but no more than an S-unit.

All-in all, this antenna is doing very well. I did notice a rise in signal strength with the same power output while doing FT4 and FT8 compared to the G5RV, but it could be due to propagation. I hope this antenna will fare better than the last few, time and the next thunderstorm will tell us its outcome. Is there anything good that came out of the whole process? Well yes. I explored other avenues of the hobby. I began to learn to and build my own antennas – end fed, dipoles, and others along with baluns. I learned to solder – it can be difficult and is a whole different skill. I explored the many different types of wire for radiators. I built a slingshot antenna launcher – still learning to use it, but I did get a new line up on one side of the antenna. Finally, I found out more about masts. The whole ordeal is a learning experience, but it strengthen my knowledge within this vast hobby. Everyone's antenna positioning is different -- it requires a lot of forethought before you raise it!

_JP

190901 BCHD Report

We got chk'd into 5 outta 5 GA Health Dept Nets last month, GREAT job Team!! One of our 7 BCHD Response Team (RT) operators chk's in every Thurs AM at 0830 to the Ga DPH D-Star Net fm the KW4BHD station at the BCHD office.

Reminder: if you're D-Star equipped, ANY of you in the ARCoBC might wanna just listen in, or even try chk'g in fm home or your mobile station, as there is usually about 5-10 min at the end of the net, just before 9AM where it's kinda quiet. Just tell 'em you're 'off site' and representing the Butts Co Health Dept in Jackson, GA, District 4. If you need help finding the repeaterz we use, gimme a holler and I'll give you a list or the file we use in our K4SGH or KW4BHD radio programs. If you're interested in helpin' us out over there, pls contact Ken, KM4HOS, for more details.

Reminder: Would be beneficial if ALL the RT operators could make sure they have 'up to date' FLDigi/FL Msg, and WinLink Express (w/ UZ7HO's 'Sound Modem' program) on their laptops so we're able to go 'digital' if the Health Dept staff needs us to. We don't have a 'station' laptop at the Health Dept. so we're gonna have to use our own if needed. The 'station' has a Signalink and all the cables needed to hook up to your laptop, and the Pkt WL freq's are already loaded into the 2820, so all you'd need is your laptop for an 'event'. Be advised, the wkly GA DPH Net chk-ins DON'T need a laptop, it's just a voice chk-in.

Remember to BE CAREFUL how you handle the IC-2820H radio if you have to move/repo it WHILE IT'S ON, so you don't press the buttons on the bottom of the front faceplate.

The 'Butts Co Health Dept Radio Club' documents (mbrs, charter, by-laws, license, etc.) are on the groups.io page, under 'files', 'Butts Co Health Dept' and in the KW4BHD station notebook, if anybody wants to know anything about that club.

Thx fer yer support ...

Ken, KM4HOS

yer friendly, neighborhood HD rep

190901 Net Mgr Report

We held 4 ARCoBC Trng Nets in August, averaging 7 voice chk-in's per wk, 3 on MT-63, and 8 on WL. Participation wuz up a little fm July on voice & WL, but I'm beginnin' to seriously wonder about our groups digital skill levels, as well any depth as far as our Net Controllers goes.

As always, the ARCoBC still needs Net Controllers for our weekly Trng net. Buzz is gonna handle September for us, but we still need to fill the October & following months.

Y'all don't be bashful, this is a TRAINING Net (for NCS's too), and myself or sumbuddy else is almost always on the Net that can help you out as NCS if needed. The 'Preamble' (script) is posted on the groups.io 'files' pages and I'll be more than happy to send you my macros for FLDigi and show you how to use 'em. Please lemme know if yer interested.

As a **REMINDER**... we need to start sendin' some of the other ICS 'forms' (like Severe WX, Hospital Bed Availability, WX rpts, etc) available on FLDigi/FLMsg and WL Express to familiarize ourselves with 'em, know how to fill 'em out, and where to find 'em afterwards if needed. Also, remember to Preface & end 'em with 'THIS IS A DRILL'. Any questions, gimme a holler, 678-313-1659.

Again, with **ol' Yeller** (the Mobile Command Vehicle) we'll soon have ANOTHER fully equipped (semi-permanent) Response Team site (#4) to 'staff-up'. I got NO earthly idea WHO we have to man it that ISN'T ALREADY tagged for another RT or two. With 2 Ham radio positions in the back of it, we REALLY NEED a couple more operators that are FAMILIAR enuf w/ FLDigi and WinLink (HF & Pkt), and also FAMILIAR enuf with NCS'g voice & digital Nets, to cover our responsibilities if we have an 'event' and the County EMA calls the ARCoBC for comms support.

FAMILIAR enuf = With our recent history of LOW digital participation in our weekly Training Nets and lack of support for the monthly Trng Net NCS position, I doubt we'll be able to do much more than 'herd some cats' or 'rope some goats' for Butts Co's EMA during the 1st hour or so after we're call'd out.

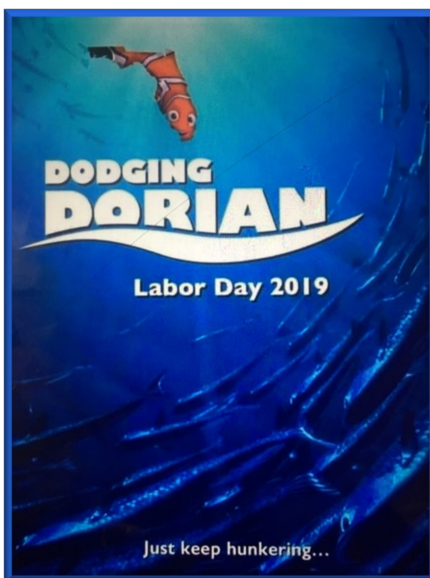
"...we gotta be able to DO what we SAY we can do."

BUTTS CO EP SURVEY _Ken Wallis KM4HOS**190901**

... brought to you this month by 'Skywarn' and Hurricane Dorian, for those of us who like placing bets (spell dat losin' \$\$\$) on the track this thing's gonna finally take. Think my front yard is gonna look like Atlanta Motor Speedway (Jr.) next week w/ alotta kids & grandkids comin' up.

We had another successful outing last Saturday in sunny Butts Co and cover'd Zone 7. Elaine & Melvin explored the scenic 'other' side of High Falls Lake fm Mel's house, Mark play'd referee fm the 'not so scenic' 911 Ctr, Dan & Nancy acted as a Relay site high atop the hill across fm the Exit 201 Truckstops (GREAT view and that smell of fresh diesel), and I stay'd 'Lost in Butts County' most of the time. Glad I was 'solo', if I had a robot in the right seat, he'd a been hollerin' "DANGER, DANGER, Will Wallis" the whole time, hope we don't get called out at night. Reckon I'm gonna have to buy everybodies' brkfst to get enuf folks to do Zone 8 this month, it's REALLY BIG!! It'll take alot of mobile crews coverin' alot of miles. We'll see what Dorian does, we may all have to spend the next 6 mos. of wknds savin' up & buyin' new antennas, instead of doin' these surveys, ugghhh.

... and remember, for ALL yer 'heavy WX' needs, DON'T call a Hurricane 'a simple summer rain shower w/ a nice rainbow', (and NO traffic will do jez fine.)



... until our next
Adventure into
WILD Butts Co,

Ken, KM4HOS

ARCBC
Recreational
Adventure
chairman

Got this fm my daughter Jen in Jax, FL today.

K4SGH - Sylvan Grove Hospital Net

September's Hospital Net at Sylvan Grove was brought online at 1330, with Dan Darsey W4DED, Nancy Phillips K4NEP, and Darlene Ragon KK4BKF on site. A Winlink ICS 213 was sent to W4HBS via 3.959.50 at 1433, then a DStar check-in was completed via W4AMI-T at 1448. HF conditions were poor, and after three bands were tried, a contact was completed on 3.982.5, at 1535. Station secured at 1600.

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STONE MOUNTAIN HAMFEST & ARRL STATE CONVENTION

(AKA: Lawrenceville Hamfest)
Gwinnett County Fairgrounds
2205 Sugarloaf Parkway

Saturday (2NOV) 8 AM until 4 PM

Sunday (3NOV) 8 AM until 2 PM

<http://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

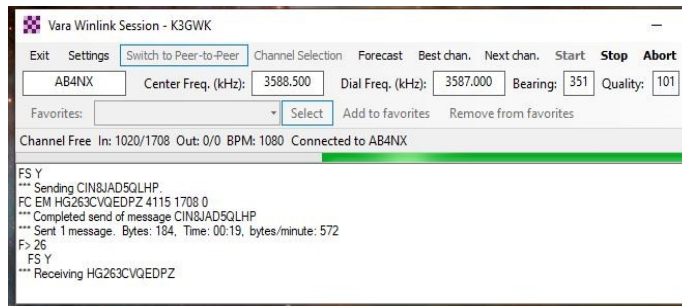
NET MGR REPORT continued from page 6

Our current ARES operators are over-booked as it is, and if some of 'em CAN'T get to their assigned RT site due to 'the event', we may not be able to cover these sites. Again, it's **CRUNCH time** (for operators), and we haven't even been 'crunched' yet ... but, stby for Dorian, (and maybe the SET??)

Appreciate all y'alls time & effort last month in support of Butts Co. HAM radio,

Thx & 73,
Ken, KM4HOS, Butts Co Net Mgr

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VARA both use soundcard modems. Most of us use an email program called RMS Express to access the WL2K network and the operation is essentially the same with each mode – Pick the mode, open a session, select the station, set the frequency on your radio and click Start. Each mode has a Channel Selector function that helps you to pick the best station according to propagation predictions.

The FM Packet modes operate much the same way and are usually good for local message handling. The RMS Express (AKA: Winlink Express) email program operates the same way with any of the modes, even Telnet. Using Telnet is a good way to practice. This is just the tip of the WL2K iceberg. There are Peer-to-Peer modes as well.

There are several experienced WL2K users in our club, if you have any questions just ask. We encourage participation in the weekly Georgia ARES Winlink2000 test by sending a text message to WX4BCA every Sunday. The net also accepts WL2K messages to GEMA via WX4GMA. A formal ICS-213 form message is preferred but just a simple “hello it’s me” message (name, location and affiliation) to those address is sufficient. It is good practice to include the mode you used in your message. If you are using some form of back-up power, include that fact also.

I hope that this whets your WL2K whistle and we see your check-in message soon.

I recently received confirmations for QSOs with ZD7VC on Saint Helena Island in the South Atlantic Ocean and CY9C on St. Paul Island in the Gulf of

Saint Lawrence, northeast of Newfoundland. That puts my DXCC total at 204 Confirmed (215 Worked). It is always a thrill to add another “All Time New One” (ATNO) to your log.

Don’t forget about the Tuesday evening FM Training Net – 19:30 Local on the WX4BCA VHF Repeater. We are always looking for participants and net controllers. The digital portion of the net gives us a chance to practice with NBEMS via Fldigi.

After many years of meetings, emails and phone calls; the WX4BCA UHF repeater is now connected to the world-wide DStar network. If you have a DStar radio and can hit the Jackson UHF repeater, give it a try. A big *thank you* goes to David Benoist (AG4ZR), Mark Clark (NI2Y), Lisa Johnson, Mark Austin (KN4KTZ) and the IT Staff from the Spalding Regional Medical Center in Griffin for their recent team effort to resolve the final network security issues and get the UHF repeater connected to the Internet. The buzzing noise you now hear on the UHF repeater is the DStar digital signal. To make that go away, turn on the DECode feature of your radio’s CTCSS. Dan Darsey (W4DED) and the Wellstar IT crew also got Winlink working on the K4SGH station computer. Bravo Zulu!

The election for the Southeast ARRL Division’s Director and Vice-Director is coming up soon. Ballots will be mailed to ARRL members in September. Information about the candidates for Division Director can be found on the club’s Facebook page.

Thanks for all you do for Amateur Radio in and around Butts County.

That’s about it from Jenkinsburg Station.
73, K3GWK

“When all else fails, ham radio works...” ♦

Tues Net NCS for October
Elaine - KW4AQ



NETS

SUNDAY:

(rev. 190722)

Metro ARES FM Net - 1st Sunday ONLY at 1600L,

WA4ASI repeater, Covington, 146.925-, 88.5 PL

KK4GQ repeater, Fayetteville, 145.210 -, 131.8 PL

KC4AQS repeater, Paulding Co, 145.805 +, 100.0 PL

GA ARES/ARCBC WL Express Net - Send an ICS-213 (or regular typed msg, if unable 213) to WX4GMA and WX4BCA by 2200Z. [1700L EST winter/1800L EDT summer.] Please use a Winlink RF gateway; Winmor packet, etc, if capable; otherwise, use Telnet.

GA ARES Digital Nets - 2100Z [1600 EST winter/1700 EDT summer] 3.583 MHz USB.

- **GA ARES PSK 'Traffic' Net** - **EVERY** mo, FLDigi, MT-63 1KS, centered 2K MHz. called by GA ARES districts, send an 'I have traffic' msg when your district is called, wait til CFD'd, then ICS-213 to WX4GMA NCS.

- **GA ARES PSK 'check-in' Net** - **Even** mos, FLDigi, BPSK -125, centered 1000Hz, just a 'text' check-ins only and runs concurrently with the PSK 'Traffic' Net.

- **GA ARES D-RATS Net** - 2130Z [1630 EST/1730 EDT]. **Odd** months, port: gaares.ratflector.com, use 'chat' to ck-in; also under 'messages', send ICS-213, if able; runs concurrently with 'Traffic' net.

GA Section HF Net - 2200Z [1630 EST/1730 EDT], 3.975 MHz LSB, voice, by callsign prefix.

SE Weather Net - 2100L, D-Rats/D-Star, on sewx.ratflector.com. D-Star Voice on REF004A.

TUESDAY:

Butts County Emergency Comm Training Net - 1930L, WX4BCA repeater, 147.285 MHz, + offset, 131.8 PL, begins with voice check-ins, followed by NBEMS Digital Net. WL Express msgs accepted if Not sent the previous Sunday, send to WX4BCA with name, callsign, location, whether on mobile or aux power.

THURSDAY:

NCRC/ARES/RACES FM Net - 2000L, WA4ASI repeater, 146.925 - & 444.800 -, 88.5 PL. WL - K4NCR. May have a 'follow on' Digital Net - MT63-2KL, centered 1500 Hz, D-Rats on gaares.ratflector.com.

*** For other training opportunities, see the ARCBC Group.io website, and/or the GA ARES website for other Nets w/ days, times, freqs, protocols, etc, for your training convenience.***

MINUTES continued from page 2

Our Clubs' October meeting program will be a DMR demonstration.

Monthly Program: Buzz Kutcher presented a super DVD documentary of the activities before, during and afterwards of the rare Ham Radio event held on Navassa Island in 2015. The island is located between Jamaica and Cuba and restricted access to this island doesn't give many opportunities to work this area. Thanks Buzz for the super peek inside a real DX outing!

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

FYI: Video presentations from the 2019 Dayton Hamvention are available for viewing on the ARRL's You Tube channel. Information covered was; the new FCC-ARRL Volunteer Monitor program; Amateur Radio's role in disaster and emergency communications and how to bring radio into the classroom. This is just a few of the great learning opportunities offered for those of us unable to attend the actual Hamvention. Thanks ARRL.

_DR

Congratulations !

~ New GENERALS ~

Alfred McClure KN4AUD

Chris Southerland KJ4PLJ

Pete Acevedo KM4PVY

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The VE session also produced a new  
Amateur Extra:  
Chad Sims KN4YFO

## CHANGE IN MORSE CODE CLASS

Class has been modified to Thursdays only,  
6:30 - 7:30 PM, 26 Sept through 14 Nov.

To sign up and get info on the equipment  
needed for class, call Nancy 573-528-0697.

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER 2019

**5, 12, 19 - GENERAL** course, FS #7, 1830-2030  
**9 - Group Dinner** - Brickery (2nd/Mimosa), 1730  
**9 - Monthly Mtg - DXpedition to Navassa Island** - 7PM, Jackson FGs  
**14 - Skills Day** - GEMA, Forsyth  
**21 - Hungry Hams** - Huddle House (I-75/16) - 0730  
**21 - VE Session** - 0830, FS #7, 144 Colwell Rd  
**26 - Morse Code I**, 1830-1930, FS #7

### OCTOBER 2019

**3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Morse Code I**, 1830- 1930, 144 Colwell Rd  
**7 - Group Dinner** - Brickery (2nd/Mimosa), 1730  
**7 - Monthly Meeting - DMR** - 7PM, Jackson FGs  
**19 - Hungry Hams** - Huddle House (I-75/16) - 0730  
**19 - Tech Saturday** - 0830, FS #7, 144 Colwell Rd

### NOVEMBER 2019

**4 - Group Dinner** - Brickery (2nd/Mimosa), 1730  
**4 - Monthly Meeting - Flu Shots** - 7PM, Jackson FGs  
**7, 14 - Morse Code I**, 1830-1930, 144 Colwell  
**16 - Hungry Hams** - Huddle House (I-75/16) - 0730  
**16 - VE Session** - 0830, FS #7, 144 Colwell Rd

### DECEMBER 2019

**6 - 9th Anniv Family Christmas Dinner** - 6:30 PM  
 Buckner's, 1168 Bucksnot Rd, Jackson  
**21 - Hungry Hams** - Huddle House (I-75/16) - 0730  
**21 - Tech Saturday** - 0830, FS #7, 144 Colwell Rd  
**25 - Merry Christmas!**

### JANUARY 2020

**6 - Monthly Meeting** - 7PM, Jackson FGs  
 GA ARES meeting - GPSTC, Forsyth  
 GARS Tech Fest - tba

## CONTACT INFO

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