

## Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

July 7, 2014

### Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County, Georgia

**Attendance at Meeting:** Randy Beacham, David Burnham, Mike Crowe, Dan Darsey, Ed Hoard, Buzz Kutcher, Monica Ladson, John Lipscomb, Claude Maddox, Melvin Mosier, Mark Olden, Jess Porter, Darlene Ragon, David Ridgeway, Chuck Sims, Whit Smith, Elaine Stachowiak, Glenn Wyatt, Brent Strite, Anthony Strite.

**Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens** A CERT training class is being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month for those interested in obtaining CERT certification. Contact Glen Goens for further information.

**Net Manager's Report: Ed Hoard** Ed requested a volunteer to be Net Control for September 2014 and Elaine Stachowiak volunteered.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** Ham Cram will be held on July 19, 2014 at BCFD Station #7 at 0830; following will be our VE session for testing at 1600.

Dan also mentioned the Newton County Hamfest to be held on July 26, 2014.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Mike and Buzz plan to remove the pre-amplifier to see if this will decrease the static we are experiencing during Nets.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** No significant report.

**Field Day Committee: David Burnham & Randy Beacham** No report.

**Membership Chairman: Randy Beacham** Club dues for the 2014/2015 membership are past due as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** We have 24 ARES members in our group; 9 operations were held in the month of June 2014 for a total of 522 hours of service.

Buzz encouraged members needing assistance to use and/or become comfortable with Winlink communication to ask for help.

He reminded those who check in at 1600 on the first Sunday of the month Metro ARES Net to be sure he is notified of your participation.

Members were also instructed to check their page on the GA ARES Database to be sure all information is current and up to date.

**Treasurers' Report:** Club funds balance is \$1123.37

**Club Old Business:** The Audit Committee plans to meet again to attempt to finish working on the annual audit.

The Extra Study Class continues meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 1900 at Fire Station #7.

Randy & David Burnham gave a brief rundown of our Club's Field Day accomplishments.: We had a total of 657 contacts; 139 on 80m, 178 on 40m and 340 on 20m for a score of 1314. Our bonus points of 870 gave our club a grand total of 2184 points. Field Day 2015 will be held the weekend of June 27-28, 2015. We are planning on adding a digital station to our activities.

Ed Hoard, newsletter editor, is in need of articles of interest to our group. Please assist him if you possibly can.

Buzz purchased a 30x72 banner and two 24x18 yard signs which were a great addition to our Field Day equipment, and we drew in many visitors from these signs on the roadside. He will need to be reimbursed for his outlay of \$104.16.

Many thanks to Buzz for taking the time to have these created for the Clubs' use!

The annual Christmas Dinner for Club members will be held at Buckner's Restaurant on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1800. Please mark your calendars as this is a great time for fellowship with members and their families.

**Club New Business:** There has been no progress in the UHF/VHF 'wish list' of equipment submitted to Sylvan Grove Hospital to assist them with communications. HF equipment for same is on hold at present time.

Glenn Wyatt has resigned as Club Treasurer, John Lipscomb will serve the rest of the term as Treasurer.

**Club New Business Continued:** The radio equipment for the Mobile Command Vehicle for Butts County was ordered on June 25, 2015. Equipment consists of a D-Star station, HF station and antennas.

**Coming Events:** Our August 2014 training session topic will be Logging and DX Clusters.

The September training session will be finalizing our preparations to participate in the October SET exercise.

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to be held on October 4, 2014

October training session topic will be Part 97 of the FCC Rules and ARRL "Official Observer" Program presented by Rich Turner WB4A.

Ham Cram and VE Session July 19, 2014 beginning at 0830 with testing to follow at 1600. Those wishing to become Volunteer Examiners to assist with testing may download an instructional manual and testing materials on the ARRL.org website.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with the Newton County 100 mile Bike Ride on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 please contact Mike Crowe.

Our Club is participating in the Butts County Fair by hosting a booth with information about Ham Radio and ARES activities. Please contact David Ridgeway to volunteer. It was suggested that we create a photo collage of our Clubs' activities as one of the display items.

Suggestions are welcomed for training for the month of November 2014: contact Buzz with suggestions.

**Monthly Program:** Mike and Buzz assisted members with a "Digital Tune-Up" of their laptops and associated software programs that our Club uses for communications.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** Members raised \$53.00 for the Repeater Fund through raffle ticket sales tonight. Please consider donating useful items for raffle, they do not have to be Ham radio specific items. David Ridgeway donated 2 large bags of fresh corn that was much sought after by members.