

## Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary

August 3, 2015

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

**Attendance at Meeting:** David Burnham; John Bingham; Lee Dale; Ed Hoard; Buzz Kutcher; Monica Ladson; Dan Darsey; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Greg Reule; Elaine Stachowiak; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Dennis Wagner.

**Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens** CERT class will be held the second and fourth Monday nights at 1830 at Fire Station #7. First class starts August 10, 2015. Contact David Ridgeway or Glen for details and to register. Past graduates are welcome to take it as a refresher course to keep their skills up.

**Net Manager's Report: Ed Hoard** Net Control Operators are signed up to cover the position through December 2015.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** We had 10 attendees at the Ham Cram and VE Session that was held on July 18, 2015. Nine of the 10 testing passed the examinations, congratulations to all! Unfortunately, the Post Office has lost the paperwork that is sent into national. Dan has contacted them and is in the process of creating the documentation needed to award these students their licenses and upgrades.

There will be a VE Session held on September 19, 2015 at the Butts County Recreational facility. Contact Dan Darsey for registration.

Newton County will be holding a VE Session on September 26, 2015 and will need the assistance of some of our VE to hold this event.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Mike reports that he hears a 'hum' on our repeater and thinks that the PL tone needs to be decreased.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Monitor the Club Repeater or McDonough Repeater anytime a Severe Weather Watch is issued.

**Field Day Committee: David Burnahm & Randy Beacham**

**Membership Chairman: Randy Beacham**

**Public Information Officer: Ed Hoard** The latest issue of "The Repeater" has hit the stands; get it while they are still available. Many thanks to Ed for his hard work to produce such a fine newsletter!

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Anthony and Brent Strite completed the Gwinnett Basic ARES course and Glenn Wyatt turned in his certificate of completion on the ICS-100 class. Congratulations to them for working on upgrading their skills and understanding of ARES service.

**Treasurers' Report:** General Funds \$854.51 Repeater Funds \$680.00 Total Funds \$1534.51

**Club Old Business:** Audit Committee- Dan Darsey and John Lipscomb plan to meet after our meeting tonight to work on the Club audit.

The state-wide SET (Simulated Emergency Test) will be held in November 2015, exact date still to be determined and announced.

**Club New Business:** D-Star and DRATS training will be held on Saturday August 29, 2015 in the Education Building on the campus of Henry County Regional Hospital from 0900 to 1200. We will break for a short lunch and return to the classrooms for an 'Fldigi tune-up' class. Bring your laptops with you that day.

DRATS software can be downloaded from the Internet and install to use on your laptops.

Pursuant to last month's brief discussion on where to hold our Club Christmas Dinner, Mike Crowe made a motion that the dinner continue to be held at Buckner's Restaurant. Dan Darsey seconded the motion, it was brought before the membership for discussion and then a vote was held. All members voted 'Yes' to continue the dinner tradition at Buckner's Restaurant. The motion was passed with no dissension.

Mike Crowe gave a brief report on the service rendered to the Newton County ARES group in providing communications for the Covington Century Bike Race.

The topic of changing the name of the Club was briefly mentioned and our President informed us that the change would probably require us to alter the Club's By-Laws. As the By-Laws are due for assessment and/or revisions the topic was postponed at this time.

No mention or request has come to our Club to assist with the Jackson 5K Labor Day Race that we served at last year.

**Coming Events:** "Newbie Night" will be held for the recent students passing VE testing on Thursday night August 13, 2015 at the Fire Station #7. Please volunteer your assistance to Ed Hoard who is spear heading this worthy cause.

The "Hungry Hams" breakfast will be held on Saturday August 15, 2015 at 0730 at the Lunch Box in Jackson, Ga. There will not be an 'Elmer Session' following this breakfast.

The 'Spin for Kids' Race will be held in Morgan County on Sunday October 18, 2015. The ARES group assisting with communications for this race is very small and any assistance our Club can render in this effort will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mike Crowe to volunteer or for further details.

The Huntsville, Alabama Hamfest will take place on August 15-16, 2015.

The Stone Mountain/Lawrenceville Hamfest will take place on November 7-8, 2015

**Monthly Program:** Buzz Kutcher presented a very informative PowerPoint presentation on batteries; covering how to estimate the amps required in a battery to power ones' Ham Station on back-up power for a specified length of time; how to properly maintain the charge on your back-up batteries and a lively discussion ensued on this topic. Mike Crowe provided testing equipment to assess the remaining life span of two different batteries and how well they function. Everyone agreed this was a much needed topic which will spur members to assess their own particular needs for grid down radio power.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** Raffle funds raised at this meeting were \$61.00 Members were encouraged to donate to the 'Box' containing raffle items. Many thanks to those who brought items to raffle off tonight.