

Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary
March 4, 2013
Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County Georgia

Attendance at Meeting

Randy Beacham; David Burnham; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Glen Goens; Buzz Kutcher; Monica Landson; John Lipscomb IV; Jess Porter; Darlene Ragon; Elaine Stachowiak; Glenn Wyatt

The meeting was called to order by Buzz Kutcher, acting President of the Butts County ARES group. The meeting agenda as prepared by B. Kutcher was followed for the club meeting.

Office of Homeland Security Report: Director Glen Goens

Glenn announced that 10 students graduated from the recent CERT class he taught, 4/5 of the graduates are members of our ARES group.

Glenn reminded us of the Butts County COAD planning meeting to be held at Lizzy Berry Baptist Church on March 12, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Net Manager's Report: Dan Darsey

Dan mentioned we have had a low turnout for our Sunday afternoon Net Check In's and encouraged us to make the effort to tune in. Also we were reminded to turn our clocks forward one hour on March 9, 2013 for the start of Daylight Savings Time.

Dan also requested and received volunteers for Net Control Operators for months that weren't covered.

VE Team: Jess Porter

A VE session will be held at Station #7 on March 16, 2013 and a Ham Cram is scheduled for July 20, 2013 with VE testing to follow.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe

The Club's duplexer will be operational this Thursday, March 7th.

Field Day: Franklin Cook & Randy Beacham

116 Days till until Field Day

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher

March 16, 2013 National Weather Service, Skywarn Council

Elaine Stachowiak was appointed as Butt County Skywarn Coordinator.

March 23, 2013 Local ARES Emergency Drill 911 failure in Butts County. Exercise will last 2-3 hours.

Buzz announced that educational classes were still needed for the yearly calendar for July; August & November.

Other information and club business discussed is contained in the attached Agenda from this meeting.

Training: Buzz Kutcher & Mike Crowe

Club members discussed Near Vertical Incident Skywave Antennas (NIVS) & Go-Kit Stations.

NIVS signals are broadcast in a narrow area, approximate coverage 200 miles. The signals are sent out in a vertical beam, hit the ionosphere and bounce back to earth in a cone shape. NVIS antennas were first used in WWII and the Army still uses them today.

Keep the simple dipole antenna height at about 15 feet for best results; no repeater use needed; noise & interference of the signal is decreased; works well on low power propagation; land terrain/building mass does not affect quality of signal.

Antenna needs to be .1 to .25 wavelength, inverted V formation; 5-10 feet above the ground. 40m dipole at 10 feet. DX Engineering offers a NIVS antenna kit that several members have obtained. Yahoo Groups has a forum for NIVS users to chat on.

Fundraising and Donations for the Repeater Fund

\$ 41.00 were raised from raffle items

\$ 25.00 donation was given to the repeater fund