

**Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary**  
**March 3, 2014**  
**Meeting Held at Fire Station #7 Butts County Georgia**

**Attendance at Meeting:** Randy Beacham, David Burnham, Dan Darsey, Monica Ladson, Melvin Mosier, Jess Porter, Darlene Ragon, Chuck Sims, David Ridgeway, Glen Wyatt, Elaine Stachowiak, Buzz Kutcher, Larry Yarbrough and guest, Whit Smith, WA4VBX. Whit is a retired Electrical Engineer and is living in our area now, please make him feel welcome.

**Office of Homeland Security Report: Director Glen Goens** No report tonight.

**Treasurer's Report: Glenn Wyatt** No report tonight.

**Net Manager's Report: Dan Darsey** Dan expressed his thanks to Ed Hoard for his professional handling of February Net Control Operator, everyone heartily agreed. Ed's voice is such a pleasure to listen to. Buzz Kutcher will be Net Control for March 2014. Dan is still in need of volunteers to run our Sunday Net for the months of June thru December 2014. Please consider volunteering. We had 53 voice check-ins and 30 Winlink check-ins for February. Our club also had one Simplex Roll Call with 10 check-ins.  
Due to the change to Daylight Savings Time Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday Nets will begin at 1730 DST. Please note this change on your calendars.

**VE Team: Jess Porter** There will be a VE Session March 15, 2014 at the Butts County Recreation Center, contact Jess to register.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** Unfortunately Mike is not with us tonight to share his information as he is traveling to Illinois to visit his Father who is very sick. We all send our best wishes to Mike and his wife as they are traveling in the midst of an ice storm in that area.  
There was an issue with the programming repeater controller, Buzz sent the controller back to the manufacturer in Florida. It was repaired (free of charge) and returned. It is now programmed and ready to be interfaced to the repeater by Mike.  
The cable has been replaced on the Repeater at Sylvan Grove in hopes that transmission quality will be less noisy. It maybe that the Repeater needs a bit of a warm up period before it works properly.

**Field Day: David Burnham & Randy Beachman** 117 days until Field Day Activities!

**Membership Chairman: Randy Beacham** We have 25 members on our Club Roster.  
Membership Dues are due now. They are \$20 per Individual or \$25 for a Family membership.

**Skywarn Coordinator Report: Elaine Stachowiak** Elaine will be attending a meeting March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the National Weather Service in Peachtree City. Plans are under way for a Field Trip to the NWS in May 2014.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Members, please try to find time to begin or complete the Basic ARES

and ICS Courses we need to have in order to be ARES trained. Contact Buzz Kutcher with your information when you complete a class. Also please check the ARES Database to determine if your information listed there is correct and up to date. The link to the ARES Database is in the File section at the Yahoo Group.

Our club held 2 Storm Nets during last months' Ice event. Day One we had 11 members check-in and Day Two we had 7 members check-in. If our Repeater is not working then we will use frequency 147.565 or the McDonough Repeater at frequency 146.715 for Emergency Communications.

Buzz encouraged members to download and be familiar with the workings of Echolink so that more of our members can check-in to the Metro ARES Net on Sunday afternoons at 1600. Hams can also check-in to the Metro ARES Net using WB4NWS Repeater.

Our club held 6 Nets in February; 4 FM Nets and 2 Weather related Nets. Two training sessions were held; we have 20 active members with 4 being deployable. Again, please work on those ICS classes.

**Club Old Business:** Dan Darsey is still researching the cost and feasibility of getting tee shirts for our members. Contact Dan if you are interested in acquiring a tee shirt.

The Extra Class Study Group continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights of the month at 1900 Fire Station 7. We have 7 members attending the class session who are hoping to be ready for testing in July 2014.

Club dues are now due as mentioned earlier in the minutes. Please have them paid no later than May 1. Our club is still in need of suggestions for monthly topics or someone to volunteer to teach a class on a subject they are proficient in.

Congratulations were made to Ed Hoard who published the first 'Repeater' newsletter! Everyone was thrilled with the issue and looking forward to the next newsletter. As Editor, Ed is in need of our assistance to provide news worthy articles. Please share any pertinent information or activities with him.

**Club New Business:** Buzz appointed Dan Darsey chair of the Audit Committee. The committee will consist of Dan, Ed Hoard and Darlene Ragon. Annual audits of the club accounts are required by the by-laws and will be completed during April or May.

Elaine Stachowiak proposed that our Club become involved in the Bluebird Bluegrass Festival to be held April 12, 2014 at the Dausset Trails Park in Butts County. Volunteers will be needed to man a booth from 0900 until 1600 that day. The membership agreed to support this activity and Elaine accepted the Chair to coordinate this activity.

The PC at the Butts County 911 Center that our ARES group uses needs to be replaced ASAP. Dan Darsey made a motion that our Club should replace the 911 PC with a PC that was purchased at the Orlando Ham fest, has proved itself reliable and cost \$45.00. David Ridgeway seconded the motion and the motion was passed by membership in attendance.

Would the membership consider donating useful items for raffle at our monthly meetings?

Dan Darsey presented his granddaughter with a commemorative coin he obtained celebrating the first 100 year anniversary of the ARRL. The coin was presented as a challenge to her and other youths to continue the tradition of friendship and service that being a Ham Radio Operator offers into the next 100 years of ARRL.

**Program:** Buzz Kutcher presented a power point presentation on Echolink and a discussion of how to install the software on our computers and set up the program for use.

**Raffle Funds:** Our Club raised \$43.00 for the Repeater Fund through raffle items tonight.