

Georgia on My Mind for September 2017

Hope this finds you doing well and recovered from Ms. Irma. Some of us are still cutting up trees and dealing with the insurance company but hope you came through without a scratch. This Georgia on My Mind comes a little bit late because of our Irma activities. There will be another "On My Mind" report later this month with more information related to Irma and an after action report from ARES activity. Have a good weekend.

SILVER LINING FROM HURRICANE IRMA HOSPITAL ACTIVITY::

During the response to Hurricane Irma, we saw 17 Georgia hospitals in South Georgia, as well as the coastal counties, activate their hospital stations involving over 60 amateur operators. Hospital operations hours totaled over 1200 making this the largest hospital deployment in ARES history. In many cases, this was the first time that many of the hospital leaders were made aware of our involvement. In several cases, the CEOs spent a lot of time asking questions of our operators (in the middle of the night) and were extremely impressed. In every case the CEO asked the operators what they needed to perform their tasks, and, they were immediately provided with a "wish list". I was made aware that equipment was being purchased and ordered the next day.

In another case, the operators were approached by a hospital physician on the coast who was worried about her elderly parents living in South Georgia. The operators were able to communicate with the operator activated in the local hospital and were able to relay that the weather conditions were not severe with no reported loss of power. This information was able to be relayed in less than five minutes. Needless to say, the physician was both relieved and impressed. In nearly every case the hospital operators made profound impressions on hospital personnel where they were deployed.

Reported by: Bret Smith, W4HBS
Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator,
Dept. of Human Resources/Public Health
Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service
W4HBS@arrl.net

DSTAR REFLECTOR 30 CHANGES IN GEORGIA AND YOU CAN HELP::

Several lessons were learned on the statewide D-STAR repeater network during Hurricane Irma. Before the Hurricane, there were several cases disproving the idea that the Internet is not a reliable tool in the emergency communications toolbox during emergency events especially weather-related. As Hurricane and Tropical Storm Irma passed through Georgia, there were isolated outages at some D-STAR repeater sites around the state, but the Internet remained in use connecting an average of 25 D-STAR repeaters at any point during the storm and replacing HF communications during outages and CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) propagation degradation.

What was observed was that the critical Internet connection is at the REF030 reflector which ties all of the repeaters together. For the last

eight years, it has been hosted at a commercial data center in Norcross at no cost. Unfortunately, it has not had the most reliable Internet connectivity and on Sunday evening as the storm was entering Georgia, the Internet connection to the reflector in the data center became unreliable. The problem was quickly recognized and Georgia traffic was quickly moved to another reflector outside of the state and the network was back in full operation carrying the majority of the emergency traffic. For anyone operating a radio through a local repeater, the move was seamless and did not require any RF users to change anything to remain on the network. DVAP and hotspot users did have to make the change from REF030B to REF004D.

The Georgia D-STAR Network Team began to look for more reliable options and decided to move REF030 to a hosted server on Amazon Web Services. This should significantly improve the network reliability, but it comes with a cost. Our previous host did not charge for the reflector's Internet connection, but there is a cost for hosting the reflector at AWS and occasional maintenance from time to time on Georgia's DSTAR repeater system.

To assist in keeping the GEMA funded repeaters and reflector in operation for a statewide resource, a PayPal account has been set up for voluntary contributions. Everyone is welcome to use the Georgia D-STAR network at all times. If you would like to support the operation of the original GEMA funded repeaters and reflector, you can make a PayPal contribution at <http://www.paypal.me/GeorgiaDSTAR>.

Reported by John Davis, WB4QDX, ASEC Digital

COUNTY EMERGENCY COORDINATORS - ATTENTION PLEASE::

Georgia ARES County Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and responsible Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AECs), please make a special effort to do your September ARRL monthly report so we can capture and get credit for the time you and your team participated in Hurricane Irma activity. Here is the website link: <https://gaares.org/monthlyReports/>

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER REPORT::

GEORGIA SECTION
AUGUST 2017

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR)
K4GK 120; WA0CGZ 100

Station Activity Report (Traffic)
WA0CGZ 141; K4GK 117; K4BAI 9

Section Nets

Georgia ARES Statewide QNI 560; QTC 2; Sessions 4 3975 KHz 2200 UTC
Sunday K4GK Net Manager

Georgia ARES Digital QNI 124; QTC 2; Sessions 4 3583 KHz 2100
UTC Sunday K4GO Net Manager

Georgia Single Sideband Net QNI 1832; QTC 23; Sessions 31 3975 KHz 7
PM Daily KE4VPD Net Manager

Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net QNI 980; QTC 21; Sessions 31 3982.5

KHz Daily KI4NGD Net Manager
Georgia Traffic Net QNI 217 QTC 21 Sessions 27 3987.5 KHz 1:00 PM
Mon-Sa WA0CGZ Net Manger
Georgia Cracker Net QNI 870 QTC 16 Sessions 31 3995 KHz 7 AM M-Sa & 8
AM Sun AF4XZ Net Manager
Georgia Training Net (CW) QNI 138 QTC 2 Sessions 31 3549 KHz 9 PM Daily
slow CW KG4FXG Net Manager
Georgia State Net QNI 341 QTC 48 Sessions 62 3549 KHz 7 PM & 10 PM
Daily K4GK Net Manager

Reported by: Charles Pennington, K4GK
Section Traffic Manager (STM)
Georgia Section

ARES MONTHLY SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATORS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2017::

Reported by Thomas Fuller, KE4QCM, ASEC for Reporting

1. ARRL Section: Georgia
2. Month: August
3. Year: 2017
4. Total number of ARES members: 1615
5. Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month: 70
6. Number of ARES nets active: 362
7. Number of nets with NTS Liaison: 23
8. Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: Please see the list below
9. Number of exercises & training sessions this month: 840
10. Person hours: 5224
11. Number of public service events this month: 28
12. Person hours: 517
13. Number of emergency operations this month: 15
14. Person hours: 242
15. Number of Skywarn or Severe weather events: 4
16. Person hours: 9
17. Comments: Please see the list below.

Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters

ARRL Section: GA Month: AUGUST Year: 2017

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: * 1615 since last month= +40
reported (+, -, or same)
of DECs/ECs reporting this month: 70 , # of ARES nets active: 362
, # with NTS liaison: 23
Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: see below
Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month: 840 Person
hours: 5224
Number of public service events this month: 28 Person hours: 517
Number of emergency operations this month: 15 Person hours: 242
Total number of ARES operations this month: 883 Person hours: 5483

Comments: see below

Signature: Thomas Fuller

Call sign:

KE4QCM

Please send to ARRL HQ, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 by 10th of the month FSD-96 (1-04)

* 1615 members reported, 1575 from last report, with reported by EC's

ASECs/DECs/ECs reporting

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, DEC Central/WB4KNU, ASEC Digital Communications/WB4QDX, DEC East Central/K4BR, DEC GEMA/K5AES, DEC Handiham/N0FBV, DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, DEC Northwest/AF4DN, DEC Salvation Army/WA4UJC, ASEC Education and Validation/AC4MG

ECs:

Central:

Baldwin/K4DRS, Bibb/W4JMB, Crawford/WB4NKU, Dodge/KC5AVR, Dooly/KK4REG, Houston/WB4EEL, Jasper/KM4JEX, Jones/N5BI, Lamar/N5FBI, Laurens/K4DBN, Macon/KI4BEO, Monroe/KK4TLG, Peach/KK4WTO, Pulaski/N4TUA, Putnam/N0COW, Twiggs/KK4NUV, Washington/K4GK, Wheeler/KI4MNR, Wilkinson/WB4FNG

East Central:

Burke/K4BR, Columbia/K1OYQ, Jenkins/W4EIZ, Richmond/NY3Y

Metro Atlanta:

Atlanta/W2NP, Butts/K3GWK, Cherokee/KK4YQV, Clayton/AJ4GT, Cobb/KT4ED, Coweta/W1AJO, Fayette/KN4YZ, Gwinnett/W4IGE, Newton/WA4UJC, North Fulton/K4JLG, Paulding/K4DMF, Rockdale/WN4JC

Northeast:

Greene/N0COW, Hall/AF4GT, Jackson/KE4JLL, Rabun/W4WCR, Towns/W4VFZ, Walton/KJ4NMO, White/KR4AE

Northwest:

Dade/AF4DN, Fannin/KK4NTE, Floyd/KA5QFI, Gilmer/KK4NTC, Gordon/AF4DN, Pickens/K4SJR, Polk/WB4LCW, Whitfield/K4HYJ

Southeast:

Bryan/KK1JE, Bulloch/KK1JE, Chatham/K4SDJ, Effingham/KK1JE, Screven/KK1JE,

Southwest:

Seminole/K4TPD, Tift/KE4RJI

West Central:

Troup/N4VPI, Upson/KT4YP

Comments:

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, No major AF MARS events this month. A few members in sickbay and one station destroyed by lightning. If you are interested in AF MARS, contact, AFS4GA@afmarsR4.org We can also forward requests for Army MARS to them. Submitted by WB4EEL AF MARS State Director

DEC Central/WB4KNU, I spent most of my time this month working to get ECs in Upson, Jasper, Twiggs and Bleckley counties. All except Bleckley are completed, I also attended the Tri-County Meeting, The Laurens, Dodge and Bleckley meeting. I also attended the GMAG meeting in Columbus and the DEC meeting on Wednesday the 23rd. I called 5 VHF Nets with 273 check-ins.

ASEC Digital Communications/WB4QDX, 8/12 - Digital Training at Evans, GA. 8/30 - Restoration of KJ4PXY D-STAR repeater gateway for Athens. Digital nets for GA Section

DEC East Central/K4BR, Burke Medical Center personnel report that they have ordered their EMCOMM equipment will hopefully be ready to participate in the October 5 Region "G" Full-Scale Drill. Lots of meetings this month including a super training about digital modes: Winlink, Fldigi, D-Rats & D-STAR. Thanks, David Benoist, Frank Dean, John Davis, et. al. We are pretty much ready for the Region "G" Full Scale Drill and the SET two days later on October 7. Hard, organized work from our ECs and ARES® members always pays off!

DEC GEMA/K5AES, 1. Monitored GA ARES Freq 3.9750MHz for the Eclipse event. 2. Participated in ARMY MARS presentation to the GAARNG JOC at Dobbins ARB. 3. Participated in weekly SHARES HF net. 4. Participated in Special Operations monthly Webinar

DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, At our meeting this month our program was on Powerpoles by Scott Hartlage KF4PWI. We identified a location at the GMC Duluth hospital for our radio station. We continue to try and check into the hospital net from all Gwinnett Hospitals.

DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, Participated in 9 Regular Nets and 1 GA ARES Net. My HF antenna is down at the moment. We activated a Weather net 4 times this month for severe thunderstorms in the area, again operating on the CARS UHF repeater and the Effingham ARES repeater. Misc activities included a program on Skywarn for the CARS (Coastal Amateur Radio Society) and also a Hurricane article in the Region Newsletter.

DEC Northwest/AF4DN, Two members attended the District digital training this month. Made contact with the American Red Cross office in Calhoun during the eclipse. Provided contact with the N. Fulton office if needed.

DEC Salvation Army/WA4UJC, Thank you for your support of the SATERN nets each week. For information on SATERN please go to www.SATERN.org

ASEC Education and Validation/AC4MG, Processed 9 incoming ID Card requests Total Active GA ARES ID Cards = 238

ECs:

Central:

Baldwin/K4DRS, Attended the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Quarterly Meeting and had a good discussion of ARES involvement with local hospital's emergency plan. Presented at the monthly meeting of the Milledgeville ARC on the importance of training. Looking forward to more information on the upcoming SET.

Bibb/W4JMB, No activations for August. We did have a successful workday repairing our UHF/VHF antennas and finalizing our material for our startup manuals. All in all a good month.

Crawford/WB4NKU, Those participating this month were WB4NKU, K4RAD, KK4BSH, W1LQJ, K4BC), KM4MCJ, KJ4RXX, KJ4DFP, KJ4RXX, W2VP, KM4HOZ

Houston/WB4EEL, The monthly Tri-County ARES meeting was held August 24 with four Houston County members and three members from surrounding counties present. A presentation on digital modes with a "over the air" presentation was given. Two laptops were used with their internal sound cards hooked to the speakers and mics. This was like a real over the air interface, but without the transceivers antennas and QRM. The focus was on the operation of FLDigi and Winlink Express. Initial setup was not covered.

Jasper/KM4JEX, Craig Glaze, KM4JEX, was appointed on 09/02/2017 as the new EC for Jasper County. In the process of identifying members and former members of Jasper County ARES prior to appointment.

Jones/N5BI, Thanks to all of our ARES members for their unique approach to public service.

Lamar/N5FBI, HF capabilities should be functional at EOC soon.

Laurens/K4DBN, ARES in Laurens County is continuing to move along as we test our abilities and make improvements on our communications in and out of the county in preparation for the day our services will be needed.

Macon/KI4BEO, KI4BEO attended the Area 4 EMAG meeting. KI4BEO and KK4RQH attended the Macon County LEPC meeting. KI4BEO talked with DEC WB4NKU and Taylor Co. EMA Director concerning Taylor Co. ARES.

Monroe/KK4TLG, K4XRA, KM4JEX and KK4TLG presented the Mayor of Forsyth City a plaque for his support of Amateur Radio. A similar presentation was made to the Chairman of the Monroe County Commissioners by K4XRA and KM4JEX. KK4TLG continues to provide training in Digital Communications, Winlink, FLDigi, to various Amateurs that request it. KK4TLG assisted in the Digital Training Workshop in Evans, Ga. Very good Hosts and

facilities. KK4TLG attended the Region F Coalition meeting, representing Amateur Radio and Monroe County Hospital. K4XRA continues to coordinate Amateur Radio liaison with the Monroe County Hospital. This month an MOU was signed by Monroe County Hospital and Monroe County ARES. It is at the Hospital Authority for final approval. Monroe County Hospital will provide HIPPA training and hospital ID's to ARES operators that will man Hospital radios. KK4TLG along with WB4NKU attended the GEMA area 4 meeting in Columbus, Ga. KK4TLG took part in the Eclipse Operation, checking into WX4GMA, using call sign WX4MCA.

Peach/KK4WTO, Thanks to Rick Gunderman WA4RG and W4ADR Tom Sheptua for helping Boy Scout Troop 127 earn their Amateur Radio Merit Badge. Also thanks to John Huges WA4JGH and Mike Bruno N0HPU for operating the radios at the Peach co, Hospital

East Central:

Burke/K4BR, Burke Medical Center personnel report that they have ordered their EMCOMM equipment will hopefully be ready to participate in the October 5 Region "G" Full-Scale Drill. Lots of meetings this month including a super training about digital modes: Winlink, Fldigi, D-Rats & D-STAR. Thanks, David Benoit, Frank Dean, John Davis, et. al. We are pretty much ready for the Region "G" Full Scale Drill and the SET two days later on October 7. Hard, organized work from our ECs and ARES® members always pays off!

Columbia/K1OYQ, The EMA has named a new Deputy EMA, Shawn Granato. Shawn plans on obtaining his license at the next Ham Cram we put on for County Employees. Four ARES members attended the CERT "Train the Trainer" class this month. I installed a temporary VHF/UHF antenna at the EOC and it tested fine. Our DSTAR repeater KJ4PYA keeps having problems on the software side. I've contacted John Davis several times to get it up and running again. I'll keep closer tabs on it.

Jenkins/W4EIZ, Met with local hospital administrator about getting an ARES setup placed in Jenkins county medical center. Held an organizational meeting for Jenkins Co. ARES. Present at the meeting were members of ARES as well as Jenkins County EMA director and Hospital administrator. More will be planned for September. Goal is to have some sort of setup ready in time for October 5th. Drill. Currently attempting to make preparations to hopefully have some sort of functioning communications ready for the arrival of Hurricane Irma.

Richmond/NY3Y, 1. No nets heard/conducted (? change to Wrens Repeater for future nets) 2. Augusta University Hospital has the equipment, still no dedicated room or Lead Operator 3. Doctor's Hospital HF system repaired, several tests conducted... propagation poor but the station was heard... lots of RFI near hospital possible culprit. 4. Several Operators attended the Digital workshop Aug 12th

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Monthly Training was a presentation by Laura Belanger, NWS Meteorologist on Flooding. Team assisted K4NEP and AJ4GU with antenna work. EC and AEC, W4DED, met with Mark Austin, the new EC for Wellstar Spalding and Sylvan Grove hospitals. KM4HOS, KM4NRP AND W4DED staffed

the Sylvan Grove hospital station for the monthly test net. KM4HOS, NI2Y and K3GWK participated in the weekly GA DPH D-STAR net from the Butts County DPH office. AEC NI2Y completed WebEOC training. Weekly training net moves to Tuesday at 19:30 on September 5. ARES Membership: 11 Deployable, 19 Active, 5 Pending

Cherokee/KK4YQV, Cherokee ARES continues to assist with VE Test Sessions, repeater site improvements on repeater coax/antenna, maintain the site. 72 hours were volunteered for 5 drills, tests and training and 3 site visits for repeater site maintenance with 33 hours. Total man hours were 105hrs.

Clayton/AJ4GT, News from The Southern Crescent Amateur Radio Club a Division of the "Clayton Amateur Radio Emergency Services Inc." --- On October 14th and 21st, the Southern Crescent Amateur Radio Club will be holding a ham radio class at the Henry Piedmont Hospital educational building.-- Classes will begin at 9 am and last until about 4 pm on both days in classroom 'C' of the educational building located at 1133 Eagles Landing Pkwy, Stockbridge, GA.-- Testing for amateur radio technician class license will be given on October 21st. The room is limited so be sure to register before we the class fills. - Thank you - Southern Crescent Amateur Radio

Cobb/KT4ED, Cobb ARES coordinated with local EMA, public health and others to ensure readiness for any possible eclipse-related events occurred. Fortunately, no problems ensued.

Coweta/W1AJO, Communication Exercise (COMEX) Brave Shield I, Public Service Cycle For Life planning. Membership audit conducted and 10 members found who were not on the previous roster.

Fayette/KN4YZ, This month we supported the Tri-PTC triathlon. One of the big takeaways from this was a successful unified command consisting of PD, FD, ARES, and event staff. We were able to quickly work through a situation and resolve it in a timely and satisfactory manner. Our other big event was a D-Star training session led by AG4ZR and organized by W8BYH. I attended Decision Making and Problem-Solving training at GPSTC and also worked on the State ARES meeting. WD4GTU received refresher Red Cross training in advance of working with them at UGA home games. We had the usual section level meetings for AG4ZR and KN4YZ and the usual nets.

Gwinnett/W4IGE, At our meeting this month our program was on Powerpoles by Scott Hartlage KF4PWI. We identified a location at the GMC Duluth hospital for our radio station. We continue to try and check into the hospital net from all Gwinnett Hospitals.

Newton/WA4UJC, We continue to assist the Newton/Covington 911 Center by deploying several operators each week to weather siren locations and reporting to the NCS the condition of their operation. This information is forwarded to the 911 center. We have been doing this for over 5 years and as a result, the system has become more reliable.

North Fulton/K4JLG, FLDIGI training on Sunday night nets

Paulding/K4DMF, As the old 911 Center has relocated, this month we

removed all of the old equipment from the old location and are currently storing it while waiting on completion of the space we will occupy in the new 911 Center. We can currently operate from the new 911 Center in a portable mode as the permanent location is not ready for the equipment. We continue to test our Paulding Wellstar Hospital equipment by calling a net there as part of our normal net rotation. Planning continues to erect a new tower at the Water Department to get our primary repeater on 146.955 at it's permanent home. It is at a temporary location with less than optimal coverage but linked with our 440 repeater in the western part of the county, we have decent if not total coverage. The building to house the repeater is complete but the tower is not up. Our goal is to have the tower up and the repeater on the air at the new location before the end of September. Planning and preparation for the annual Labor Day GRITS (Georgia Rails into Trails Society) bicycle ride through Paulding and Polk Counties along with a small section into Alabama is complete for our support of this ride. We plan to use our MCV trailer complete with propane powered generator since we have not deployed it this year. GEMA did not perform an interop exercise (we normally participate each year) to allow us to deploy in an exercise, so this will be our first opportunity in 2017 to exercise the MCV. I will report next month on results from the GRITS ride and progress made to get our primary repeater on the air at it's new home.

Rockdale/WN4JC, Rockdale ARES is preparing for county-wide event showing off public safety and emergency preparedness. ARES has been asked to set up a booth and have a Q & A session. The event date is 09/30/2017 from 9-2pm at Rockdale Career Center. Simplex repeater should be ready for testing so we can incorporate this into our SET.

Northeast:

Hall/AF4GT, Hall County ARES participated in a GHA Region B table-top exercise (TTX) on August 2, 2017. Training for a new operator was conducted at the Northeast Georgia Health System Gainesville Hospital station during sessions held on two Saturday mornings. Attendees at the monthly meeting were briefed on final plans for the Personal and Family Readiness Fair to be held in Gainesville on September 24. The meeting agenda also included a review of the August 2 TTX. Participants from medical facilities, public safety organizations, and ARES groups discussed responses to a severe weather event with a focus on emergency operations, information sharing (communications), and medical surge. The Hall County ARES Weekly Training Net meets on the last Wednesday of each month on the alternate repeater, W4TL, 145.31, (-), tone 123.

Jackson/KE4JLL, Operated the Athens-Clarke County Interoperability van for the Union County EOC during the solar eclipse. Participated in a 20k-10k-5k charity race in Jackson County Provided communications support to the Red Cross during UGA home game.

Towns/W4VFZ, Towns Co. ARES members manned the EOC throughout the day and held frequent VHF nets to report traffic flow and any possible incidents related to the Solar Eclipse. Fortunately, the influx of traffic for the Eclipse was way over-rated, and there were no real problems or incidents related to this event.

Walton/KJ4NMO, We are preparing to operate a special event station for

the Poppy Festival celebrating Moina Michael, "The Poppy Lady" on September 23rd. The call sign is K4P. We will also provide communications for the bike ride that's part of the Poppy Festival.

Northwest:

Dade/AF4DN, Mike Tuggle, K1CSA, AEC sending this report.

Fannin/KK4NTE, On August 10, several of the Fannin County ARES members participated in the Union County Hospital Drill. This included members from Union County, Towns County and Fannin. It was a great success as this was the first and only drill of this type that we are aware of Union County performing that would include ARES. There was quite an eye-opening for their staff when "internet and phone" went down. ARES to the rescue!! Our next major event was the Solar Eclipse on August 21. Fannin County Regional Hospital called up ARES to man a station at the hospital and the Fannin County EMA called up ARES to man a station at the EOC/911 center. While it was a "non-event", we were able to show that we had communications established from Fannin to the Atlanta EOC. Another success for ARES in the NorthWest District. Our group is continuing our ongoing training for EC-01 and providing continued education on radios, antennas and emergency preparedness. Next month is the Georgia Jewel, let's hope that goes as smoothly. 73!

Floyd/KA5QFI, Activities were very low for the club in August. Although was alert for possible activation during the Eclipse; Also checked into the D Star Public Service net on Thursday mornings representing District 1-1, as well as the D Star Southeast weather net on Sunday nights.

Gilmer/KK4NTC, September 23 - Solar eclipse EOC operations

Gordon/AF4DN, Two members attended the District digital training this month. Made contact with the American Red Cross office in Calhoun during the eclipse. Provided contact with the N. Fulton office if needed.

Pickens/K4SJR, Pickens County ARES moved net night to Monday night at 8:00 pm this will give us more time for training. Pet (KG4YOL) put together a PiGate, Pi 3B & TNC-X. Pet copied the OS on a 16 GM card for me (K4SJR). Now I have a working PiGate. I put together 2 new Packet portable Digipeaters for the Ga. Jewel on September 23rd. I have 2 of my Gateways back up and running. (K4SJR -10, -11) 145.750,-11, 145.790-10. The 50.620 Gateway is running on a mag mount antenna in the shack. In September I am planning on putting up the 6-meter antenna on a tower. The next packet project for Pickens ARES will be local 70cm Gateways & Digipeaters. Michael (WD4AOG) is testing Packet Digipeater using a Signalink, no TNC. We have the old Pickens Co. Sheriff Ecom trailer for ARES. Working on getting it set up for the next public service event. It is a 28-foot travel trailer with a super slide. The front bedroom has been converted into a radio room. Not much work will be needed for it to be ready to go. I went to Augusta to the East Central District to help with Digital training. Good class, it was full. Worked as State NCS for the Eclipse from 10:00 am to 4:00pm.

Whitfield/K4HYJ, The NW District's digital training went well. We were able to solve some issues since participants brought their entire station to test on the air. We configured software for 6 different

radios, wired a Signalink soundcard for a Ten Tec rig, set the deviation for 3 TNC-X's with companion VHF radios using a different chipset in the TNC-X's, passed PSK traffic, and passed Winlink HF Winmor and VHF packet traffic. This is the first of such classes in the NW District. We will move next to the east side of the district to keep the classes close to the folks that need to attend and keep the class size small for more detailed training. Thanks to AI4ZV for teaching and preparing materials, N4JGW for securing a location in the corner of Whitfield, Walker, and Gordon counties (and building an 80 meter dipole for the class to use), KK4YLX for help with setup and troubleshooting PC issues with students, KE4ZX for being the PSK station on the "other end" at his home station, and AF4DN for setup, lending an extra hand, and one on one help for everyone. The GA Jewel is less than a month away at the time this report is filed. The race this year will be held on Sept 23 and 24 on the Pinhoti trail. There will be a 100, 50, 35, and 17-mile races. Aid station leaders are looking for volunteers!! Stay tuned to the NW GA ARES Nets on Tuesday evenings for details. AI4ZV and K4HYJ met with staff at Hamilton Medical Center to test and program their D-Star radio in hopes of getting this regional coordinating hospital connected to the state radio equipment tests on the 1st Sunday of each month. A team is being formed to support the testing and net participation each month and to resolve some of the remaining antenna issues to get HMC on HF.

Southeast:

Bryan/KK1JE, Combined county operations Bryan, Bulloch, Effingham, and Screven

Bulloch/KK1JE, Combined county operations. Bulloch, Bryan, Effingham, Screven

Chatham/K4SDJ, Chatham County ARES is now in the Hurricane Watch Mode. As I write this, we now have Irma on the horizon. She is a cat 3 storm and expected to move to a cat 4 by Sunday. It is still too early to determine the actual track of the storm but various models show it going up the east coast of the southeast or into the Gulf of Mexico. Only time will tell.

Effingham/KK1JE, Combined county operations. Bulloch, Bryan, Effingham, Screven

Screven/KK1JE, Combined county operations. Bulloch, Bryan, Effingham, Screven

Southwest:

Tift/KE4RJI, Tested radios at TRMC EOC, and worked on remote access of radio system. Club members worked on connecting peer-peer on winlink. CPARC has a new tower site that has generator backup and is in the process of testing the repeater coverage area. The test Freq is 146.940 neg offset PL 141.3hz

West Central:

Troup/N4VPI, Total check-ins for the month of August on the local VHF ARES FM new was 85. The Digital total was 32. West Central Net is on

Monday evening at 9:15 local on 3583 KHz. 1500 on the waterfall.
LaGrange Hamfest is Oct 28.

Upson/KT4YP, Coordinated use of our Repeater for upcoming Cystic
Fibrosis Bike Ride in Oct. Meeting at Upson EMA

ARRL Georgia Section
Section Manager: David B Benoist, AG4ZR
ag4zr@arrl.org

To unsubscribe from messages, go to:
<http://p1k.arrl.org/oo/cc2d7bf54cbe37de965601650d9c5642>