

Georgia on My Mind for Mid-August 2018

Near Future Events::

Huntsville Hamfest - August 18th and 19th

<http://www.hamfest.org> <-- This Saturday/Sunday

Dalton 2018 Swapfest - September 8th

<http://w4drc.com/event/swapfest.html>

Byron Hamfest - September 15th

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/byron-hamfest>

Covington Hamfest - September 29th

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/covington-hamfest-3>

SET - October 6th

LaGrange Hamfest - October 27th

<http://www.lagrangeradioclub.org>

Atlanta Maker Faire - October 27th & 28th

Stone Mountain Hamfest - November 3rd & 4th

<http://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

HamJam - November 10th

<http://hamjam.info/>

====> IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD::

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ruth-willet-km4lao-is-2018-hiram-percy-maxim-memorial-award-recipient>

====> CLUB RECHARGE::

Public Service Events

As I am preparing volunteers from several clubs in my district to once again work the 100-mile bike ride through the mountains that we have supported for over 20 years now, I thought an article on why public service events like this are important was in order.

Part 97 of the FCC Rules for Amateur Radio state that the first of five basic principles on the basis and purpose of amateur radio is, "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary, noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications [97.1(a)]"

Essentially, we are to show the public what we can do while practicing for emergencies. Groovy.

But why?

We are always looking for more club members. Other volunteers at events like races, rides, and runs see up close what we do and how we do it, and that peaks their interest. The volunteer who strikes up a conversation about how your radio works and why you don't need a bigger antenna is a perfect candidate for a new ham.

Events that have been happening for a long time also have regular volunteers who are hams but may have drifted away from the club. This a great opportunity to reel them back in with the new Club Recharge activities your club is implementing. It has certainly worked for my

club!

The most significant benefit of public service events is the opportunity to put emergency communication skills to work in a real-life scenario. In the best-case scenario, we are communicating the needs of the rest-stops which would be similar to the supplies requests made by shelters in an emergency. Not the most exciting thing, but valuable practice! Consider sending rest-stop requests on ICS 213 forms by Winlink to add to the skills being practiced.

In the not-so-best-case-scenario, public service events give us the opportunity to provide communications for actual emergencies. When you get a few hundred eager athletes together and turn them loose on a course, accidents and injuries happen. Learning what to communicate to Net Control, how to communicate it, and to practice so you can do so calmly is critically important in a major emergency.

So how does your club get involved in these events?

Start by asking your club members what other organizations they are involved in and if there are any events that could use communications assistance.

Have a page on your club website that explains what communication services your club can provide and who to contact.

Your area civic clubs are often sponsors of such events or their members are involved, and they need program speakers just like we do for our club meetings. Prepare a talk on amateur radio's public service mission. Then call the meeting chairs of the civic clubs and offer to give the presentation at an upcoming meeting. Be sure to shake hands and collect business cards!

Not every event needs communications help, so be selective. Look for events with geographical challenges for cell phones. We can get signals in and out of many places where cell phones don't work. Look for events with large numbers of participants and several rest-stops. This puts a larger demand on the communications abilities that radio operators can handle much better than cell phones.

Coordinate with local public safety departments. Police and fire departments often use large public events as drills. Find out who will be in charge of the activities on the day of the event and ask how to be of service.

When you are asked to participate in a public service event, make a plan. There are many ICS forms to help coordinate volunteers and equipment. Practice the plan and test all equipment prior to the day of the event. And don't forget to have a little fun!

Renee Conaway
Public Information Officer, Georgia Section

====> COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE ARES STRATEGIC PLAN::

The ARRL Board is seeking comment on the ARES Strategic Plan. If you

are an ARES member or officer, consider reading and then commenting on the plan. Go here to see read the plan (14 pages).

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Media%20&%20PR/ARES/ARES%20Strategic%20Plan%20-%20final%20-%20PSC.pdf>

If you want to respond with comments, please send them to the Section Manager, David Benoist AG4ZR at ag4zr@arrl.net or the Section Emergency Coordinator, Frank Dean K4SJR at k4sjr@arrl.net. Comments will be compiled and sent to the ARRL Board. Comment on specific issues (as opposed to complaints) explaining why certain content or policy is a problem and suggest alternatives, another approach, or other options.

====> SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER REPORT::

GEORGIA SECTION
JULY 2018

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR)
K4GK 110
Station Activity Report (Traffic)
K4GK 114, K4BAI 8

Section Nets

Georgia SSB ARES Net - 3975 KHz 2200 UTC Sunday K4GK Net Manager
QNI 388 QTC 3 Sessions 4
Georgia Digital ARES Net - 3582.5 KHz 2100 UTC Sunday K4GO Net Manager
QNI 182 QTC 35 Sessions 4
Georgia SSB Net - 3975 KHz 7 PM Daily KN4QJ Net Manager
QNI 1788 QTC 7 Sessions 31
Georgia Traffic and Emergency - 7:15 PM Daily KI4NGD Net Manager
QNI 968 QTC 13 Sessions 31
Georgia Cracker Net - 7 AM Mon-Sa & 8 AM Sunday AFTXZ Net Manager
QNI 622 QTC 7 Sessions 31
Georgia Training Net - 9 AM Daily Slow CW WE4GA Net Manager
QNI 155 QTC 6 Sessions 31
Georgia State Net - 7 PM & 10 PM Daily K4GK Net Manager
QNI 416 QTC 49 Sessions 62

Charles Pennington, K4GK
Section Traffic Manager
Georgia Section
chask4gk@aol.com

====> JULY SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR REPORT::

Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters
ARRL Section: Georgia Month: JULY Year: 2018

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: 1268, since last month= +12

of DECs/ECs reporting this month: 63,

of ARES nets active: 380,

with NTS liaison: 15

Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: see below

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month:

818 Person hours: 3011
Number of public service events this month:
18 Person hours: 706
Number of emergency operations this month:
43 Person hours: 141
Total number of ARES operations this month:
879 Person hours: 3858

Comments: see below

Signature: Thomas Fuller Call sign: KE4QCM

* 1268 members reported, 1256 from last report, with +12 reported by EC's

ASECs/DECs/ECs reporting

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, DEC Central/WB4NKU, DEC Civil Air Patrol/N4TAW, DEC Digital Comm/K4TLG, DEC East Central/K4BR, DEC GEMA/K5AES, DEC Handiham/N0FBV, DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, DEC National Weather Service/Jacksonville/W4WDT, ADEC National Weather Service/Peachtree City/KG4PZI, DEC Northwest/AF4DN, ASEC Education and Validation/AC4MG

ECs:

Central:

Bibb/W4JMB, Crawford/WB4NKU, Dodge/KG4WQZ, Greene/KM4LFT, Houston/WB4EEL, Jasper/KM4JEX, Jones/N5BI, Lamar/N5FBI, Laurens/K4DBN, Macon/KI4BEO, Monroe/KK4TLG, Peach/KK4WTO, Putnam/AF4MM, Taylor/KK4RQB, Upson/KT4YP, Washington/K4GK, Wilkinson/WB4FNG

East Central:

Burke/K4BR, Jenkins/W4EIZ, Richmond/NY3Y

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Clayton/AJ4GT, Clayton/Henry/AJ4GT, Cobb/KT4ED, Coweta/N9GQA, Fayette/KN4YZ, Gwinnett/W4IGE, Newton/WA4UJC, North Fulton/KK4PCR, Paulding/K4DMF, Rockdale/WN4JC

Northeast:

Clarke/N4ZRA, Forsyth/KI4SHP, Hall/AF4GT, Towns/KF5TPQ, Walton/KJ4NMO, White/KR4AE

Northwest:

Bartow/KC4DGX, Fannin/KK4NTE, Floyd/KA5QFI, Gilmer/KK4NTC, Gordon/AF4DN, Polk/WB4LCW

South Central:

Appling/W4WDT

Southeast:

Chatham/K4SDJ, Evans/KJ4VIG, Liberty/K4YPM

Southwest:

Dougherty/W4AYK

West Central:

Meriwether/KM4DRR, Troup/KD4NTS

Comments:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, The quarterly Communications Exercise (COMEX) is planned for the last part of August. Details are preliminary and not releasable but documents indicate it will be very similar to previous ones with requests from the amateur community for WX observations and county status reports. The exercise should run several days with only a few ours each day to simulate sustained operations during a disaster. This MARS COMEX is a good reminder for everyone to test their emergency power capability. We are still in need of new members. 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/WB4NKU, This was a very slow month on the ARES Activity. Too many activities on the family and personal side to be real active as DEC. Illnesses and the loss of engine in my personal Pick Up put me at a loss of time for ARES. I stayed in touch by cell phone. For info the engine in my PU exploded.

DEC Digital Comm/K4TLG, PSK TRAFFIC NET 73 CHECK INS. 97% COMPLIANCE WITH ICS 213 No D rats checks were reported to me this month PSK Central District 16 Check ins. This net discontinued due to lack of participation

DEC East Central/K4BR, Fortunately, July was a very slow month for ARES. Our ARES station at Burke Medical Center is fully operational with all antennas working well. The only problem is that we still have no computer to use in our radio room..

DEC Handiham/N0FBV, N0FBV in contact with one and looking for more. Have a nice month.

DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, Our meeting program in July was Winlink Training.

DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, Participated in 4 Regular ARES Nets and 4 GA Health Nets along with 1 GA Hospital Net I also activated 2 Weather Net (Skywarn) in Chatham and Effingham for storms that passed through during the month. I also worked at programming the radios at Memorial Hospital Savannah.

DEC National Weather Service/Jacksonville/W4WDT, Met with Winston Miller the South Central DEC at the Appling County EMA. Good meeting with allot of resource info exchanged!

ADEC National Weather Service/Peachtree City/KG4PZI, Skywarn was not activated for July 2018. They were are few days of interesting weather, but not enough to warrant activation.

DEC Northwest/AF4DN, Digital net continues with Winlink messages sent using IC 213. This net is every Tuesday at 7:30 PM local time. Messages are sent to W4NWG. Returned messages contain possible tasks to be sent back the following week Repeater net on the 146.805 is at 8 PM local time. A training session follows the check-in portion. All are welcome. Preparation to provide communications for the GA Jewel foot race is in progress. This is a 100, 50, 35, and 17 mile race across the Pinhoti Trail in Whitfield and Walker counties.

ASEC Education and Validation/AC4MG, 1. Print and Mail 8 ID Cards. Total Active GA ARES ID Cards = 278. 2. Monthly Cabinet Meeting

ECs:

Central:

Bibb/W4JMB, We made multiple repairs due to lightning strike and also installed backup batteries on all repeaters with chargers. Also installed backup batteries in the radios in the radio room. No regardless of generator power we can continue to operate for a short time on emergency power.

Crawford/WB4NKU, See my DEC comments for info. Thanks KJ4DFP, KN4MFM, KM4HOZ, N1JDF KK4BHS, K4RAD, K4BCO, W1LQJ

Dodge/KG4WQZ, Mel refreshed the go kit at the EMA office. Six people attended the Three Rivers Club mtg and discussed possible ways to increase participation on the local repeater. John Fickler discussed his digital equipment. Chris and Teri both were NCS for various nets through the month. Most members were involved with family matters and vacationing during the month. (Chris is a member of Dodge and Laurens ARES so he decides which activities to report to which County.)

Greene/KM4LFT, Noteworthy events in July: Volumes of paperwork required in the 2018 Field Day submission. Decision on Putnam General and Oconee Regional to VHF relay the hospital NET check-in to Athens Regional in Region E

Houston/WB4EEL, The monthly Tri-County meeting was held July 26 Five members from Houston County were present. The new three levels of participation were discussed. Most present were level two having completed the present recommended training. Of interest were the times required for ICS 300 (18 hrs) and 400 (14 hrs). These are taught in a classroom only with limited offerings. Work continued on getting the Perry hospital antenna evaluated and repaired. It should be complete before the next hospital net. There were no special drills or public service events.

Jones/N5BI, Slow month due to vacations and family operations..Thanks to everyone for the work you do.

Lamar/N5FBI, Slow month, nothing new to report.

Laurens/K4DBN, Not much to report this month. We had thunderstorms almost daily, but very little damage over the county. None of our members have reported the loss of any equipment due to lightening or any antennas due to wind. Considering the fierceness of some of the storms we were very fortunate.

Peach/KK4WTO, Thanks to the Peach Co. ARES members who operated the Peach Co Hospital radios during the monthly Hospital net. WA4RG Rick Gunderman, AEC Peach Co. WA4NKU Sonny Gilbert DEC Central Dist. WA4JGH John Hughes AEC Peach Co. and KK4WTO Floyd Malone EC Peach.

Upton/KT4YP, Operated Hospital Net at URMC, Attended Area 4 EMA Meeting, VE at Spalding Hospital Test Session, Coordinated Ham Cram at Upton EMA Office for Sept. 29th

Wilkinson/WB4FNG, Is your emergency plan in place? Have you made provision for emergency power.....There is more to ARES than checking into a net!

East Central:

Burke/K4BR, Fortunately, July was a very slow month for ARES. Our ARES station at Burke Medical Center is fully operational with all antennas working well. The only problem is that we still have no computer to use in our radio room..

Jenkins/W4EIZ, Not a lot of changes this month. Still trudging along

Richmond/NY3Y, Need to establish nets on Wrens repeater. Many operators attended ARES presentation in Jun at the Columbia County EOC. - look forward to more training in the future. Many Ares operators participated in the June Field day - July did not have much external activity. Richmond county ARES membership continues to be updated to reflect current status/supporting documents are being uploaded. Emails to be sent to inactive members notifying them of the intent to be placed on inactive status or removed if minimum training requirements are not met.

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Monthly meeting topic was a Field Day Hot Wash. Five voice nets, five WL2K nets and five NBEMS training sessions. The Sylvan Grove Hospital Response Team activated the station for the monthly hospital net (KK4BKF, KM4HOS, KM4NRP, W4DED). Congrats to Randy Wise, KK4UDN, who passed the Amateur Extra test at our July VE Session (AK4EM, K3GWK, K4TXA, KA8LAD, KI4NWD, W4DED). Six members of our ARES team assisted with the Covington Century (AJ4GU, K3GWK, KK4QJR, KM4HOS, KW4AQ, W4DED). Our team continues to support the county's Public Health office by participating in the weekly D-STAR net. Current Membership: 12 ACTIVE, 8 PENDING, 10 DEPLOYABLE. Butts County ARES has begun registering with ARES Connect. Value of July volunteer hours \$3,315.00 HAPPY 228TH

ANNIVERSARY TO THE US COAST GUARD, 04AUG1790 - SEMPER PARATUS!

Clayton/AJ4GT, Five nets and one general monthly training meeting (18 Man hrs), one meeting with Southern Regional Hospital for a planning and training sessions (8 man hrs), two Skywarn nets (5 man hrs), Record keeping for new VE test and new testing and training material for hospitals and schools (4 man hrs)

Clayton/Henry/AJ4GT, Nets and General Ham Radio Monthly training meeting for 18 man hrs, 1.5 hours for hospital nets set up, two Skywarn nets for 5 man hrs, and Southern Regional Hospital meeting and ham training planning for 8 man hours, record keeping and VE setup 2.5 man hours

Cobb/KT4ED, Training plans for August: Winlink.

Coweta/N9GQA, Public Service Events: Cystic Fibrosis Cycle For Life Event Planning and Newnan, GA Rotary Club July Fireworks Event.

Fayette/KN4YZ, July saw four of our members helping out with the Peachtree Road Race. Thanks to WD4GTY, Lewis; AI4RT, John; KI4ASK, Joe; and KI4HHI, MC. W8BYH, Brian signed up to be an Army MARS operator. AI4RT, John helped out with the Georgia 400 bike ride. KN4APA, Boyce and KN4YZ, Lynn met with AMC South hospital to see about installing a Ham station there. Several of us, led by our Section Manager AG4ZR, David, have been working to justify our presence on a State-owned tower in Fayetteville. David has put a LOT of effort into this project. We are hopeful the State agency will see things our way. We had the usual section level meetings for AG4ZR and KN4YZ and the usual nets.

Gwinnett/W4IGE, Our meeting program in July was Winlink Training.

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. We have changed our meets from once each month to once a quarter. April will be the first quarterly meeting. This month we provided communications for the Covington Century Bike Ride.

North Fulton/KK4PCR, Work on our normal digital training this month focusing on FLDIGI & FLMSG 213. Assisted emergency communications for Sandy Springs fire works on July 4th. Work communications for the GA400 bike race

Paulding/K4DMF, A rather quiet month with only routine nets conducted. Thankfully, we have not had much severe weather to contend with this year and our activations have been minimal. We hope to continue to be the Maytag repairman in this category of service! We participated in one meeting with Paulding EMA to discuss Electrical Safety with Georgia Power. Looking forward to the various Hamfests on the calendar and the fall GA ARES meeting.

Northeast:

Clarke/N4ZRA,

Forsyth/KI4SHP, This month the Forsyth County ARES Team assisted the Forsyth County CERT Team with the Fourth of July family and fireworks event at the Cumming fairgrounds. The ARES Team provided continuous communications for members of the CERT Team during the event which lasted from 9Am 11PM. The ARES Team also hosted a class on building a roll-up J-Pole style antenna for emergency field operations. The Team also attended a joint training section with the Forsyth County CERT Team. The training covered General Event Security and was taught by a member of the Forsyth County Sheriff's office SWAT Team. Respectfully, Pete Sabella KI4SHP

Hall/AF4GT, Hall County ARES discussed plans for participating in two upcoming exercises: the GHA Region B Full Scale Exercise (FSE) in August, and the Personal and Family Readiness Fair in September. Other topics presented at the July 2018 meeting included updates on transferring the Yahoo Group to Groups.io, ARES Connect, and FirstNet. Following the business meeting, the group moved to the EOC radio room to install the new IC-7300 transceiver provided by Hall County EMA. The weekly training net meets on the last Wednesday of each month on the alternate repeater, W4TL, 145.31 (-) tone 123.

Towns/KF5TPQ, Our major milestone this month was the installation of the HF, VHF, DSTAR equipment at Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiawassee. We are still waiting on the Hospital for antenna and coax infrastructure installation. Next steps are confirming actual team members for the hospital ARES, training and familiarization with new equipment and operations - ongoing.....

Walton/KJ4NMO, We did not have any ARES activities or events the month of July other than five nets and an ARES meeting.

Northwest:

Fannin/KK4NTE, The group has been performing some needed maintenance and upgrades on our repeaters. The 2M repeater will now have a voice controller and be more robust for users. We replaced a bad pre-amp and added an output amp for better coverage. Bret Smith continues with the Hospital Nets and working with the operators for the hospitals across the state. Our group is looking forward to the Georgia Jewel coming up in September. Preparations are underway to have all areas covered during the event. Looking forward to the planning meeting on August 11. 73!

Floyd/KA5QFI, Attended and participated in Floyd County Local Emergency planning committee. Checked in to various nets throughout the month.

Gilmer/KK4NTC, 7/21 Storm; 7/25 CERT FD radio op's.

Gordon/AF4DN, Normal activities in July. Preparation for 2 public service events coming up this fall

South Central:

Appling/W4WDT, Meet with my DEC for the South Central District and the Red Cross to sign an MOU between Appling County ARES and the Red Cross. Also was advised by my EMA Director to get a price to completely equip

our EOC with amateur radio equipment.

Southeast:

Chatham/K4SDJ, The KK4SGC Server has now been reprogrammed and will be back on the air as soon as the internet service problem has been resolved. My thanks to John Davis WB4QDX, for assisting in the installation of the new SSD drive and reprogramming.

Evans/KJ4VIG, Evans County ARES net is done through repeater linking by Echolink . To TeamRadioGa ARES Net Tuesday 1900 hours -146.745 pl 97.4 / Echolink 738635

Liberty/K4YPM, No local net this month, only checked in to those nets listed.

Southwest:

Dougherty/W4AYK,

West Central:

Meriwether/KM4DRR, KM4DRR conducted a meeting with the warm Springs Medical Center Director of Emergency Preparedness, Milo to discuss plans to activate the Warm Springs Medical Center Radio Station. N4VPI attended the monthly EMA partners meeting for Meriwether County.

Troup/KD4NTS, The Troup County ARES have three nets each week. The local 2m FM net on Monday evening at 9:00 pm local, The PSK Digital Net, NCS KA4BKD(COOPER) at 9:25PM Local time on 3583Khz, 1500 offset, and DStar Net on reflector 030B, NCS (N4VPI) through the Warm Springs Repeater, at 8:30 pm local time. KA4BKD, KD4HJD, N4VPI participated in the Hospital Net with 100% reporting on the modes. KE4GAK(GREG) and KD4HJD(TOM) conducted a test of the District Four Department of Public Health radio station. Total numbers on net are as follows: Dstar.....76 month total PSK.....32 month total FM.....107 month total

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