

Georgia on My Mind - Second Edition January 2018

I think we are still recovering from the State ARES Meeting and Techfest. We've held our after action report meeting on the outcome of the ARES meeting in Forsyth and discussed what we are going to do (and not do) next time around. We could hardly get our breath and Techfest followed the very next weekend. Techfest is a lot of fun. It's not a Hamfest but a learning adventure for new and young Amateurs (and their parents). But it is also for those that are technically interested in the various aspects of radio technology. We're kind of coasting for the moment but prepping for the things to come this year. Next event of note is the Dalton Hamfest - February 24th.

==> EMERGENCY COORDINATORS::

If you haven't already, please complete your EC annual report. This is for the SET that you conducted or participated in this year (typically first Saturday in October). If Irma was your SET, use that. These reports not only show what your group has accomplished in terms of training and the hours you have invested but combined are reflected in the overall report for Georgia and compared with other states. Need help? Speak with your DEC, the SEC, or the Section Manager. Here's what you need and where to get the forms:
The EC annual report

2017 EC SET Report (Form A)
2017 NM SET Report (Form B)

Are due by Feb. 1, 2018

They can be located at this link:
<http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms>

==> RECHARGE YOUR CLUB::

It happens to every club sooner or later - the energy just seems to run out. Just like when our essential batteries have drained, it's time for a recharge!

A good place to start is the Active Club Primer on the ARRL website.
<http://www.arrl.org/active-club-primer>

It's a great guide for new clubs, but it also has lots of information for established clubs like program ideas and how to structure effective meetings. In future newsletters, I'll be bringing you tips and ideas from clubs around the state that have proven successful in recharging club members and sparking community interest in amateur radio.

Renee Conaway KK4LOJ
Public Information Officer
Georgia Section

==> SCOUTING UPDATE ::

February 9-11 over three thousand 14 – 21 year old Venturing and Exploring Scouts will be in Gatlinburg, TN. KK4BSA will be active on HF

from 8:30 – 4:00 on Saturday February 10th.

On February 17th Pam WB1AKQ and David W4DTR will be teaching the Radio Merit Badge at Apalalachee District Advance A Rama. The class will be at Central Gwinnett High School, Lawrenceville, GA. At times during the day KK4BSA will be active on HF and on the GARS 147.075 repeater.

Reported by Steven Back, WB2OGY

==> SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER REPORT::

GEORGIA SECTION
DECEMBER, 2017

PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL (PSHR)
K4GK 110; WA0CGZ 100; K4DRS 90

STATION ACTIVITY REPORT (SAR)
WA0CGZ 230; K4GK 110; K4BAI 12

SECTION NETS

Georgia ARES Statewide Net QNI 560 QTC 4 Sessions 4
3975 KHz 2200 UTC Sunday - K4GK Net Manager
Georgia ARES Statewide Digital Net QNI 120 QTC 14 Sessions 4
3583 KHz 2100 UTC Sunday - K4GO Net Manager
Georgia Single Sideband Net QNI 1682 QTC 32 Sessions 31
3975 KHz 6 PM Local Daily KE4VPD Net Manager
Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net QNI 990 QTC 29 Sessions 31
3982.5 KHz 7:15 PM Local Daily KI4NGD Net Manager
Georgia Cracker Net QNI 912 QTC 23 Sessions 31
3995 KHz 7 AM M-Sa & 8 M Sun AF4XZ Net Manager
Georgia Traffic Net QNI 159 QTC 21 Sessions 26
3987.5 KHz 1:00 PM Local M-Sa WA0CGZ Net Manager
Georgia Training (CW) Net QNI 124 QTC 2 Sessions 31
3549 KHz 9:00 PM Local Daily KG4FXG Net Manager
Georgia State Net (GSN) QNI 196 QTC 34 Sessions 62
3549 KHz 7 PM & 10 PM Daily K4GK Net Manager

Charles Pennington, K4GK
Section Traffic Manager
Georgia Section

==> SEC REPORT TO ARRL::

Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters
ARRL Section: GA
Month: DECEMBER
Year: 2017

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: 1533 since last month= +44 reported (+,
-, or same)
of DECs/ECs reporting this month: 76
of ARES nets active: 408
with NTS liaison: 24
Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: see below

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month: 690

Person hours: 3009

Number of public service events this month: 16

Person hours: 194

Number of emergency operations this month: 10

Person hours: 45

Total number of ARES operations this month: 716

Person hours: 3248

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)

1533 members reported, 1489 from last report, with +44 reported by EC's

ASECs/DECs/ECs reporting

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, DEC Central/WB4KNU, DEC Civil Air Patrol/N4TAW, ASEC Digital Communications/WB4QDX, DEC East Central/K4BR, DEC GEMA/K5AES, DEC Handiham/N0FBV, DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, ADEC National Weather Service/Peachtree City/KG4PZI, DEC Northwest/AF4DN, DEC

Salvation Army/WA4UJC, ASEC Section Education/AC4MG, DEC Southwest/NX4AC

ECs:

Central:

Baldwin/K4DRS, Bleckley/K4WF, Crawford/WB4NKH, Dodge/KC5AVR, Dooly/KK4REG, Houston/WB4EEL, Jasper/KM4JEX, Johnson/KM4AUG, Jones/N5BI, Lamar/N5FBI, Laurens/K4DBN, Macon/KI4BEO, Monroe/KK4TLG, Peach/KK4WTO, Pulaski/N4TUA, Putnam/AF4MM, Washington/K4GK, Wilkinson/WB4FNG

East Central:

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

Metro Atlanta:

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

Northeast:

Barrow/KJ4EX, Greene/KM4LFT, Hall/AF4GT, Jackson/KE4JLL, Rabun/W4WCR, Towns/W4VFZ, Walton/KJ4NMO, White/KR4AE

Northwest:

Bartow/KC4DGX, Fannin/KK4NTE, Floyd/KA5QFI, Gilmer/KK4NTC,
Gordon/AF4DN,
Pickens/K4SJR, Polk/WB4LCW, Whitfield/K4HYJ

Southeast:

Bryan/KK1JE, Bulloch/KD4E, Chatham/K4SDJ, Effingham/KK1JE,
Liberty/K4YPM, Screven/KD4E, Tattnall/KK4EHE, Toombs/KG4BKO

Southwest:

Colquitt/NX4AC, Dougherty/W4AYK

West Central:

Taylor/KK4RQB, Troup/N4VPI, Upson/KT4YP

Comments:

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, The new Message Center concept continues to mature and overcome the growing pains. 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/WB4KNU, Been in Newnan a lot this month with my mother. Fell and broke both bones in left arm and she had to have surgery and a metal plate put in. It was in left arm and thankfully she is right handed EC Civil Air Patrol/N4TAW, Weekly Southern Linc Test: The purpose of Central Georgia Interoperability Network is to deliver maximum communications support to all public safety agencies of Central Georgia requiring immediate fire, police, or ambulance responses in the most efficient manner when regular communication's is interrupted. Civil Air Patrol's downtown Atlanta repeater has been relocated and is now back on the air. Last year, the Santa Track net was held on 24 December from 1800Z to 2100Z on NRD. All CAP members with access to an NTIA-compliant HF radio were welcome to participate. A recording of the net was uploaded to the NORAD Santa Track website. Non-CAP friends can visit the NORAD website at: <https://www.noradsanta.org/> Also, there were three practices for the Santa Track net on 16 December, 17 December, and 23 December. The practices will be from 1800Z to 2100Z. Those practice sessions were recorded, and if propagation was terrible on 24 December, they used the best recording of one of the practice sessions for the NORAD website. Be advised that we're not allowed to mention Christmas on the net. NORAD's policy is explicit on that: NORAD wants people of all faiths to enjoy their website. So, please do not wish anyone a Merry Christmas on the air.

ASEC Digital Communications/WB4QDX, Provide communications trailer and served as one of the NCS for the CHOA Christmas Parade. Planning for

digital training for state ARES meeting.

DEC East Central/K4BR, All equipment and antennas are finally working at Burke Medical Center... Group effort to get them going. D-STAR and all reflectors now working on our 444.1 repeater. NW Digital Radio and Kent Hufford, KQ4KK, both helped us tremendously to get us going. Thanks!

DEC GEMA/K5AES, No ARES related activity in Dec other than Special Ops webinar

DEC Handiham/N0FBV, N0FBV Donald Happy New Year.

DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, No meeting in December. We took our Communications trailer to the CHOA Christmas parade to be used as the NCS station.

DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, Participated in 6 Regular ARES Nets and 2 GA Health Nets. There were no weather nets activated this month. Misc activities included a Weather article in the Region Newsletter. I participated from home for the NWS Skywarn recognition day and also was able to recruit 3 GA operators to work from the Charleston Weather Service for the event.

DEC Northwest/AF4DN, Members provided communications and security along the Calhoun Christmas parade. It was cold but all went well. Looking forward to a New Year.

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 Section Education/AC4MG, Processed 5 incoming ID Card requests. Total Active GA ARES ID Cards = 250

DEC Southwest/NX4AC, The district is gearing up for the winter season, training for use of Winlink continues. Preparations for the upcoming winter and spring weather events are underway while we hope that nothing happens, we want the district to be prepared. We are planning more Digital Universities in February/March time frame. The last one was a success and we believe we can build on that success as we move to less populated counties in the western part of the state. Support continues to be positive throughout the district for increasing the use of digital modes. Coordination of our simplex net for moving traffic from one area to another in case of power faults on our repeater sites is still in the planning stage be coming together nicely. Improvement and redevelopment of Emergency Operations / Communications Plan for the district and counties is always evolving Andy Clark NX4AC DEC Southwest GA ARES.

ECs:

Central:

Bleckley/K4WF, Quiet Month. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2018 GA State ARES Meeting. Happy New Year from Bleckley County GA.!!

Crawford/WB4NKU, Thanks to all who made this month possible. WB4NKU, KM4MCP, KK4BHS, W2VP, K4BCO, KK4BHS, KJ4R XR, KJ4PDF

Houston/WB4EEL, There was no Tri-County ARES meeting this month because of the holidays. For about 35 years the amateur community has provided extra eyes and ears to local law enforcement by observing shopping center parking lots and other areas. It has become known as the Santa Patrol. This year we were able to provide extra support to look for an Alzheimer's patient. We and local law enforcement focused on the parking lot and mall security covered the inside. She was found safely inside "shopping". Looking forward to the January statewide training session in Forsyth.

Jones/N5BI, The holidays are over, and looking forward to seeing everyone at our yearly conference. Be safe and have some fun.

Lamar/N5FBI, Local County Commissioner just received license and should have completed application for ARES & RACES in January. Several other people are interested in obtaining their licenses and we are working to get them started.

Laurens/K4DBN, This month it is with deep regret that we have to send our sincerest condolences to our friends in Dodge County. Ham Radio lost

a good man and Dodge County their Emergency Coordinator KC5AVR (Ken). Ken became a Silent Key 12-23-2017. Rest in peace, Ken, we will miss you.

Macon/KI4BEO, Happy New Year!

Monroe/KK4TLG, December was a quiet month for Monroe County ARES. Nothing much was going on other than Christmas parties and fellowship. Looking forward to the State meeting in January growing Monroe County ARES in 2018

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 Co. also KK4ZFD John Stokes for operating the radios during the winter encampment at BSA camp Ben Hawkins.

Putnam/AF4MM, Looking forward to working with all ARES officials to make this a functional part of Ga. ARES

Washington/K4GK, Working on Sanderville repeater and also installing a ham radio desk at Washington County E-911.

Wilkinson/WB4FNG, Built new repeater for Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club to replace old one hit by lightning this past summer. 146.85 no tone. Warner Robins Ga. Submitted by WB4NFG.

East Central:

Burke/K4BR, All equipment and antennas are finally working at Burke Medical Center... Group effort to get them going. D-STAR and all reflectors now working on our 444.1 repeater. NW Digital Radio and Kent Hufford, KQ4KK, both helped us tremendously to get us going. Thanks!

Columbia/K1OYQ, Everyone spent their time on the holidays I guess. Very little activity. The New Year should provide more opportunities and activities. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I predict that an SEC team will win the National Championship this year

Jenkins/W4EIZ, December was a very so month here. Sorry I missed November's report. Had alot going on. However, at the end of November myself, DEC MacDonald, and EMA director Alvin Burke did meet and continued talks on getting jenkins up and running. Jenkins EMA had purchased a trailer for mobile command and we have a slot already for us in this trailer so that as need be ARES can support this EOC anywhere. We still have heard very little from Jenkins hospital as to what or even if they are going to operate with us or by other means.

Richmond/NY3Y, 1. No nets heard/conducted (? change to Wrens Repeater for future nets) 2. Augusta University Hospital has equipment, still no dedicated room or Lead Operator 3. Doctor's Hospital D-Star 100%, staff still continues to become proficient in D-Star Operation. Busy holiday month, however Hospital staff still dedicated and present for net check-ins. Look forward to January's training Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Our ARES team celebrated its seventh anniversary with a family dinner at Buckner's Restaurant. Great turnout! We had nine nets in December, 4 FM Voice and 5 WL2K tests. We also participated in the weekly GA PSK Nets and continued our new Tuesday evening NBEMS Training Net. Our hospital team staffed the Sylvan Grove station for the monthly net: KK4BKF, KM4HOS, NI2Y and W4DED The SGH station is being re-located and the operating position expanded. The Butts County Public Health station was operated for the weekly DPH D-STAR Nets. We held a Tech Saturday session on D-STAR and the ID-5100 and ID-880h radios. AJ4GU was the instructor. Membership: Active 15, Pending 7, Deployable 8 In 2017 we held 74 training sessions (690 Hrs), 21 Public Service Events (609 Hrs), 6 Emergency Ops (134 Hrs), 28 Misc. events (1587 Hrs). Total 235 Events 4,547 Ham Hours - Volunteer Hour Value \$110,901.33 Hope everyone had a safe and happy new year. See you all at GPSTC 2018.

Cherokee/KK4YQV, 6 nets, 1 trip to repeater site for inspection.

Clayton/AJ4GT, Happy New Year. Revamping Clayton and Henry County ARES/RACES program for 2018.

Cobb/KT4ED, Routine month. Weekly net did run through the holidays

Fayette/KN4YZ, We started December with Skywarn Recognition Day at the NWS. This was very successful as we had 428 contacts, worked 34 other NWS offices and had contacts from as far away as Spain and Puerto Rico. Four of us attended the annual Integrated Warning Team workshop from the NWS. Once again, lots of good information was presented and shared by attendees. Fayette fared quite well with our snow event as most of the white stuff went north of us. We had the usual section level meetings for AG4ZR and KN4YZ and the usual nets. The temp is dropping and it looks like 2018 is off to a cold start.

Gwinnett/W4IGE, No meeting in December. We took our Communications trailer to the CHOA Christmas parade to be used as the NCS station.

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, Work on our normal digital training this month focusing on FLDIGI & FLMSG 213. Planning for the upcoming year 2018

Paulding/K4DMF, December was a bit of a slow month for us with only the usual and customary Thursday night nets. Our only event for the month was the annual appreciation breakfast sponsored by the Paulding Fire Chief to thank all his fire men and women along with ARES members who are an integral part of the Paulding EMA Team. Of course, we all ate too much and shared great fellowship with all in attendance, further enhancing our relationships. We continue to participate in the monthly Hospital nets from Paulding Wellstar Hospital reporting to our regional coordinating hospital which is Wellstar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta. We normally make contact on simplex VHF after coordinating with them for this monthly event. AEC Ron West WB3ILX is engaged in starting up communications from Douglas Wellstar Hospital in Douglasville. They have a dual band radio and antenna, but no one to operate it. Ron has been recruiting Paulding ARES members who live close to Douglasville and other hams not members to get a cadre of hams who can staff this radio for the monthly Hospital nets. It's a work in progress with trying to get all the responsible folks at the Hospital to understand what they have and why they need it. As most everyone knows, this duty at hospitals becomes collateral duty way down the list of priorities, but now that it has suddenly become a financial matter for reimbursement to the hospital to meet Medicare requirements, it is being taken more seriously. Several members are making plans to attend the training meeting at GPSTC in January to learn more about emergency communications. Unfortunately, I cannot attend due to a scheduling conflict with a Coast Guard Change of Watch Ceremony I am required to attend at the same time. Hope the scheduling works out better next year. We are making plans to participate in the Atlanta Track Club Marathon on March 18. We plan to bring our communications trailer and utilize its capability as a cross band repeater to enable communications on a part of the route that has been particularly troublesome with communications in previous years. That's it for now - have a safe and prosperous Happy New Year in 2018!

Rockdale/WN4JC, Welcome to David K4GUP and congratulations as he completes his training. RC ARES will conduct an info session for the upcoming CERT class in February.

Northeast:

Barrow/KJ4EX, Barrow County Fire and Emergency services has had all Ham Radio equipment removed from their EOC/911 center where we have operated in the past. They needed more office space. We will continue to focus support at the North Georgia Medical Center-Barrow, and other served agencies as requested. Happy New Year. es 73 de kj4ex

Hall/AF4GT, The monthly meeting for December was canceled due to holiday activities. Two operators checked into the 4 December GHA nets

on D-STAR, WinLink, and HF, using the radios at the Gainesville Hospital station, call sign NG4HS. The weekly training nets were conducted each week of the month including Christmas week. The net on the last Wednesday was held on the backup repeater, W4TL, 145.31, minus offset, tone 123.

Walton/KJ4NMO, We hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. We look forward to the new year in ARES.

Northwest:

Fannin/KK4NTE, December was a quiet month for Fannin. Other than the snow storm at the beginning of the month, everything else was business as usual. Bret Smith continues with the Hospital Nets and working with the operators for the hospitals across the state. We are looking forward to the State ARES meeting on January 13th. 73!

Floyd/KA5QFI, The holiday season caused training to be very slow.

Gilmer/KK4NTC, No unusual events. Gilmer is assembling & testing new VHF Digipeater / gateway soon to be installed.

Gordon/AF4DN, Members provided communications and security along the Calhoun Christmas parade. It was cold but all went well. Looking forward to a New Year.

Pickens/K4SJR, Monday 8:00 pm 145.370 - pl 103.5. NW-GA nets 8:00 Tuesday 146.805 + pl 100. New PC's for Packet Gateways. New antennas for Gateways. Working on PiGate for Packet. Planning for State ARES meeting. Training class.

Whitfield/K4HYJ, In December the local ARES group accomplished a major milestone with our Regional Coordinating Hospital activities. KI4IG, AI4ZV, N4JGW, and K4HYJ were able to conduct point-to-point FM voice communications between Murray Medical Center and Hamilton Medical Center. This was a very necessary goal for getting the several hospitals in our region compliant with new laws concerning back-up communication plans. There is still a lot of work to be done, but this was a major accomplishment! AI4ZV attended a National Weather Service Seminar at Georgia Tech. Rial continues to lead the Skywarn program for Whitfield County. January will have the first SORBA race on the Pinhoti Trail as part of SORBA's 1st qtr multi-race event. We began coordination of the January 13th race in regards to communications with the race director. Comms duties will be overseen by local ARES volunteers along the race course from Chattooga County all the way to Whitfield County with support from licensed SORBA volunteers. We are currently working on a new scheme using VHF simplex for a portion of the course and local repeaters for part of the course. This year we will also introduce an "incident command" station for duration of the event. Volunteers from outside Whitfield County are always appreciated since the race is in several NW GA counties. Happy New Year!

Southeast:

Bryan/KK1JE, Combined county operation Bryan and Effingham County.

Bulloch/KD4E, Weekly ARES Net (4 Hams present at EOC each Net session for training), Weekly Hospital Net, Tech Workshop at EOC, Activities related to EOC upgrades for ARES

Chatham/K4SDJ, Three of our operators have been working to remove the old HF antenna from Memorial Medical Center and install a new one. Mr. Murphy has been at work and the project is still not finished. I hope the job will be accomplished by next weekend in time for the Monthly Hospital HF Net.

Effingham/KK1JE, Combined county operations, Bryan and Effingham

Liberty/K4YPM, No local net this month, only checked in to those nets listed. New SOP Adopted. Moved Hospital HF antenna due to construction. Trained people on D-star and HF radios Screven/KD4E, Many County operations are currently combined between Bulloch & Screven. Activities listed as Screven-only include weekly check-in to Tuesday Net, Hospital Net check-ins from the Hospital, check-ins to ARES HF Net, and work on the Screven hospital (Optim) radio resources.

Toombs/KG4BKO, 3 people participated in Monthly Hospital Net on site at Meadows Regional Medical Center in Vidalia GA.

Southwest:

Colquitt/NX4AC, Adding backup power to the club repeater is a priority and the local fire/rescue team will allow us to tap into their backup generator bus. No major activities happening this month. Training continues in DIGITAL modes for ARES and Hospital Nets. Andy Clark - NX4AC

West Central:

Troup/N4VPI, The average checkins this month for the Monday night fm ARES net was 22, and for the Digital Net at 9:15pm local time on Monday night the average was 6 checkins.

Upson/KT4YP, AEC spent 1 hr at EMA Office

ARRL Georgia Section
Section Manager: David B Benoist, AG4ZR
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To unsubscribe from messages, go to:
<http://p1k.arrl.org/oo/4dbc39bd5d5d9004f1eba32e8b074016>