

Georgia on My Mind - End of the Year 2019

I hope your holidays have been going well and you got a lot of new toys you really wanted. I got a couple and have had very limited opportunity to play with them. But that's coming. Still there is a busy January coming up with the State ARES meeting and Techfest and then in February there's the Dalton Hamfest.

GoMM Highlights:

- What does that knob do?
- Are you holding an Amateur license training class?
- FEMA holding monthly interagency and Amateur nets
- State ARES Badge training requirements are changing
- News Letters from around the state
- Just over the horizon
- Registration for State ARES meeting

====> What Does That Knob Do?

Look at the front of any of the popular stationary transceivers and you'll probably find at least one button or knob that you're not sure what it does. This makes a great starting point for an engaging, entertaining, and educational club meeting presentation!

Brad Bitzkowski, KM4QHI, of the North Georgia Amateur Radio Club is often up to some new and interesting project, so the club vice president asked Brad to give a presentation at the November meeting. Brad had been learning what one of those strange knobs – the IF Shift knob – actually does, so he put together a presentation on it that our club members agreed was one of the best presentations for the year.

Brad started with the history of IF Shift knobs on receivers, and showed a few diagrams that detail how the IF Shift works. A couple of the club Elmers piped in to share how they have used IF Shift in making successful QSOs.

Looking at the front on my Yaesu FT-2000, I think we're going to have plenty of presentations in the upcoming year on all those knobs and buttons!

Presentations on the functions of the various knobs and buttons are an easy and effective way to encourage newer club members to get involved in club meetings. The basic presentation outline is:

- The name of the knob or button - including a definition of it's feature or function.
- How long has this feature or function been available on transmitters and receivers?
- Present a chart, diagram, or illustration of how the function works.
- Tell the story of a successful QSO made using the function.
- Ask the club Elmers to add any insights on using the function.

Let us know if your club does a presentation on one of those mysterious knobs or buttons!

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Renee Conaway
KK4LOJ
ADEC Northeast GA ARES
PIO, Georgia Section

==> Publish Your Club or Group's Radio Licensing Classes

We are going to publish, and maintain, a list of upcoming amateur radio license classes to be offered around the state on the arrl-ga.org site.

In order to gather the initial information and to keep it current, please send information about upcoming classes including the following information:

City of class
Sponsoring organization name
Address of class, including zipcode
Date/Time of class
How many sessions and length of each session
Is there a cost to the student? If so, how much?
Do you have a required book or study guide used for your class?
Contact to register for class

If this is a regular class, that is one that your group offers on a monthly or quarterly basis, please specify that so we can renew your listing in the calendar. We will list the classes by city so a person could find a class that is in a nearby town in case there are none in their home area.

Also, if you do classes on a "demand" basis, let us know about that and perhaps we can help promote your class to improve attendance.

Please send the requested info to:

Barry Kanne, W4TGA
w4tga@arrl.net
My cell number is: (404) 550-5050

==> FEMA Region 10 Monthly Communications Exercise (COMMEX)

FEMA Region 10 will conduct monthly communications exercises (COMMEX) on the third Wednesday of each month, starting on January 16, 1730 – 1900 UTC. Amateur Radio operators are invited to take part. The intent of these exercises is to test and exercise interoperable communication (federal/state/local/tribal/Amateur Radio) during a major disaster in which the communication infrastructure is significantly damaged or destroyed.

FEMA Region 10 will use the call sign WGY910. Other stations associated with agencies and organizations that provide response support in accordance with the National Response Framework are encouraged to participate.

The COMDEX will use these “dial” or “window” frequencies on 60 meters — including 5,330.5 kHz, 5,346.5 kHz, 5,357.0 kHz, 5,371.5 kHz, and 5,403.5 kHz — as part of the exercise. The area of operation is the continental US.

Recurrence is Every month on the third Wednesday

Haven't tried the MARS digital application yet? Go here for downloading the MARS digital application:

MIL-STD 188-110 Serial PSK Software for Amateur Radio operators

<http://www.dodmars.org>

Download the:

M110 Terminal Program

X-86 MS-DMT application

read-me files.

Go here to download the virtual terminal program:

Used to virtually connect the two MARS applications

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/com0com/>

Need Help getting installed and configured?

Contact Tom Holcomb K5AES, DEC for Army MARS

H: 770 938 2650

C: 770 853 2652

This application was successfully used by a number of Georgia Amateurs during the mid-December Communications Exercise that started off the monthly FEMA exercises and during the SET in November.

==> Requirements for the State ARES Badge will be changing in 2020.

The State ARES Badge has historically been issued to ARES members who have demonstrated that they have completed the 100, 200, 700, and 800 ICS FEMA courses, the ARRL EC-001, or, the Georgia ARES Basic Emergency Communications test, and demonstrate that they can pass a recognized credible background check. This will change beginning January of 2020 to align with the updated training requirements in the ARRL ARES plan.

This change will involve the removal of the Georgia ARES Basic Emergency Communications test and require the ARRL EC-001 training course and complete the updated versions of the 100, 200, 700, and 800 ICS courses.

Those that have received their State ARES Badge previously will not immediately be required to have the EC-001 training or update the ICS courses but will need to update when their Badge expires (usually at their Amateur license renewal date). New applicants will be required to take the ARRL EC-001 training course beginning January 2020.

The EC-001 course is offered by ARRL at no cost. One simply has to register for the course and follow through. Applicants are mentored during the course and can get assistance if needed. Our experience shows that most have no difficulty completing the EC-001 course.

Link for EC-001 course: <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>

In addition, new applicants and renewals will require the latest ICS Courses (as of this writing).

IS-100.c

Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100 (6/25/2018)

IS-200.c

Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response (3/11/2019)

IS-700.b

An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
(6/25/2018)

IS-800.c

National Response Framework, an Introduction (3/27/2018)

Completion of the courses for the ARES Badge places members at ARRL's Level II as listing on page 5 of the the ARES Plan

(<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARES%20Plan%20-%20rev%2001-30%20-19.pdf>).

The only additional requirement is being able to demonstrate a clear background check. Badges printed after 2020 will indicate on the badge that the member has met ARRL Level II training. Current ARES badge holders can update if they originally completed the EC-001 course in prior years (there is a minimal cost for the badge materials).

For those ARES members that have or are about to complete Level III ARRL ARES Plan requirements (EC-016) may also update or apply for an ARES Badge that indicates the member has completed Level III training requirements and/or the Position Task Book (PTB). Level III and Position Task Book completions are separate listings on the badge. Please be aware that in all cases where an update is requested for an existing State ARES Badge, it must also include current background check documentation.

==> Newsletters from Georgia Clubs Around the State

>From the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fOXSyKYUWXB9k193FqAtTi7KVq_eQ7DD

>From The Amateur Radio Club of Butts County

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-BSvnPWsVNeq7XZhOxSrnU-yEs_Otf8-

>From the Gwinnett County Amateur Radio Society

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qPvPeGpg88WKNXKXELIP4TXe7ZX60qpJ>

Does your Club, ARES Group, Gathering, etc. generate a newsletter? If so, how about sharing it with your fellow Amateurs in the rest of the State of Georgia. I probably receive more comments and request that I publish what other clubs and groups are doing around the state. It doesn't have to be fancy, formal, or in PDF form. It can be something as simple as an E-mail sent to your members. It just needs to tell us about your activities, accomplishments, testing activity (if your group holds testing sessions), community contributions, projects that your group have been doing (I.E. antennas, field day activity, FT8, JS8Call, Winlink, digital, a training class your group has held, etc. etc. etc.).

Include me in your mailing list (ag4zr@arrl.net) or E-mail it to me separately. Please include some contact information in case I need to get some additional information or a possible correction. I'll put it in the next Georgia on My Mind newsletter like those above.

====> Significant Events on the Horizon:

- That State ARES Meeting - January 11th
- Techfest - January 18th <http://www.techfest.info/>
- Orlando Hamcation - February 7-9 <https://www.hamcation.com/>
- Dalton Hamfest - February 22nd <http://www.w4drc.com>
- Digital training in Central District - mid 2020
- ARES Connect Training around the state
- Public Health Communications Exercise - Late March

====> Registration for the State ARES Meeting in January

Here is the link for the State ARES Meeting on January 11, 2020. To register with GEMA, attendees must have a TRS profile to be able to sign up on TRS with this link.

You can still attend the State ARES meeting (and we encourage everyone to do so) even if you are not registered with GEMA. As in the past, you will have to sign in on the GPSTC attendance roster but will not receive GEMA credit for attending the meeting.

We have added the following offering to the GEMA schedule.

State ARES Annual Convention(ARES100-2)
January 11, 2020 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Forsyth, GA 31029
GPSTC, Auditorium, 1000 Indian Springs Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

To register directly for this offering, please click on the hyperlink below.

To establish a GEMA Training Registration System (TRS) profile (if you don't already have one), go to: <https://training.gema.ga.gov/TRS/>
Click on "Create Account Now" and follow the prompts.

To receive GEMA credit for attending the ARES Meeting goto to this link:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftraining.gema.ga.gov%2FTRS%2FbroadcastInvite.do%3FbiCofId%3D35177&data=02%7C01%7C%7C7ea226af3b6e4f15e6ce08d762b9bea9%7Ccb7bd255afe241feacc13254484e732f%7C0%7C0%7C637086422220300706&data=zqHP6vTthBdQNVP3fH18O7SFew4xuutAFDvXMtMJZlo%3D&reserved=0>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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ARRL Georgia Section
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ag4zr@arrl.org

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<http://p1k.arrl.org/oo/015a9b616c27d11773f991e14425c4b5>

