

*** February 2019 Georgia on My Mind Newsletter ***

==> Dalton Hamfest this Weekend - Saturday

The Dalton Hamfest takes place this coming weekend Saturday February 23.

Dalton is one of the larger hamfests in Georgia well attended with vendors, a good bone yard, and forums for learning or catching up on common activities in Georgia.

Go here for the Dalton Hamfest website:

<http://www.w4drc.com/hamfest/>

Go here for the Dalton Hamfest Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/>

==> Meet the New ASEC Digital – Aaron Conway, KK4EHJ

Aaron Conway, KK4EHJ, pursued his Technician license in September of 2011 after seeing a video on YouTube showing how ham radio saved so many lives during the Haiti Earthquake. He upgraded to General in March of 2012, and Amateur Extra in September of that same year.

By trade, Aaron designs and builds computer networks around the world. He's a high-end Cisco and Juniper guy who spends most of his time making packets go back and forth. It's a high-tech job that pairs very well with ham radio and gives him a solid understanding of the digital modes. Aaron is currently working on a packet radio project using Raspberry Pis. The new project will enable lower-cost deployments of APRS and Winlink nodes using available hardware and software.

Aaron is a member of both the Gateway Amateur Radio Club in Cleveland, GA, and the North Georgia Amateur Radio Club in Dahlonega where he currently serves as Vice President. He is ARES and Skywarn certified, and volunteers with area public service events.

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Renee Conway

KK4LOJ

ADEC Northeast GA ARES

PIO, Georgia Section

==> Georgia ARES Graphical Repeater Database Project

Efforts continue in the development of the Georgia ARES Repeater Mapping Initiative. Brian Haren, W8BYH, has been continuing to tweak and make improvements to the GIS database. One of the key objectives is to provide a web map interface for ARES to accurately identify repeater systems in Georgia that are available for emergency communications. This is particularly useful for events that are unexpected or range over an area in an unpredictable manner such as hurricanes and some weather events. Emergency Coordinators are encouraged to provide information for repeater(s) in their respective areas that are available for ARES use. Other repeaters can also be included in the initiative but will not be listed as ARES repeaters. This repeater information will also be made available in a wide variety of text formats (.csv, .txt, PDF) via the Georgia ARES website. If you have repeater information that you

think will be useful to have graphically mapped in this online geographical system, visit <https://sites.google.com/w8byh.org/gaares-repeater-database-init/>. Send comments, observations, or questions to Brian at w8byh@arrl.net.

==> Has your club tried a Skills Day yet?

Similar to how the classes were offered at the state ARES meeting, a Skills Day relies on the Elmers in your club to teach a skill they are experts in to small groups. Skills Day is not necessarily an ARES event, even though all the skills that can be taught relate to ARES operation. Keep it fun for everyone in the club!

We now hold Skill Days regularly at the North Georgia Amateur Radio Club. We have had classes on everything from soldering, antenna building, and installing Anderson power poles, to serving as Net Control for our club's weekly net, operating on solar power, and using Winlink. Our next Skills Day will include a Buddy Pole challenge - commercial versus home brew. We're going to rate the two antennas on things like ease of transport and set-up as well as seeing how many QSOs we can make with each.

Feed them and they will come! Options for food include ordering pizza, barbecue catering, or covered dish. Trust me, serving food is important as people are more likely to attend events with food.

After the food, your classes can be scheduled two ways. All the attendees can move through every class one after the other. This takes time if you offer several classes, and you may see people leaving before all the classes are done.

We scheduled three classes to run at the same time and had attendees register for the class they wanted to take during each schedule slot. This worked quite well, and people who missed a class at the last picnic will be able to pick it up when we do it again.

Noon - Lunch!

1:00 PM Sessions - Basic Soldering, Power Poles, Net Control

2:00 PM Sessions - Satellites, Fox Hunting, Learning CW

3:00 PM Sessions - Basic Soldering, Programming Your Radio, Antenna Tuning

1:00 - 3:00PM - Constructing Antennas

For a really great Skills Day, invite your neighboring clubs. Surrounding clubs are great resources for Elmers with skills your club members might not have. Also, it's always fun to meet other hams in person and put a face to the call sign!

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Renee Conaway

KK4LOJ

ADEC Northeast GA ARES

PIO, Georgia Section

====> SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER REPORT

GEORGIA SECTION
JANUARY 2019

Public Service Honor Roll
K4GK 110

Station Activity Report
K4GK 90 K4BAI 12

Section Nets

Georgia Statewide ARES Net

QNI 549 QTC 2 Sessions 4 3975 KHz 2200 UTC Sunday K4GK Net Manager

Georgia ARES Digital (PSK125)

QNI 84 QTC QRU Sessions 4 3583 KHz 2100 UTC Sunday K4GO Net Manager

Georgia Single Sideband Net

QNI 1763 QTC 6 Sessions 31 3975 KHz 6 PM Daily KN4QJ Net Manager

Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net

QNI 1021 QTC 6 Sessions 31 3983 KHz 7:15 PM Daily KI4NGD Net

Manager

Georgia Cracker Net

QNI 665 QTC 6 Sessions 31 3995 KHz & AM M-Sa & 8 AM Sun AF4XZ Net

Manager

Georgia Training Net (Slow CW)

QNI 200 QTC 2 Sessions 31 3549 KHz 9 PM Daily WE4GA Net Manager

Georgia State Net (GSN)

QNI 390 QTC 29 Sessions 62 3549 KHz 7 PM and 10 PM Daily K4GK Net

Manager

Charles Pennington, K4GK

Section Traffic Manager

Georgia Section

====> A Note to Emergency Coordinators:

If you are not using ARES Connect to collect the time your group is generating, please continue to use the Georgia reporting system to enter your hours of activity time. ARRL has extended the use of their previous reporting system to collect the hours of activity you and your participants generate. If you are using ARES Connect to account for your activity time, continue to do so. We are combining the time from these two areas for reporting to ARRL. We understand the frustration that you may be having but don't let the hours of your time and efforts go unreported.

====> Jan 2019 ARES Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report

1. ARRL Section: Georgia (This is ARRL FORM 004)

NOTE: ENTRIES LISTED BELOW WITH TWO NUMBERS REPRESENT VALUES FROM THE GEORGIA ARES REPORTING SYSTEM FOLLOWED BY VALUES FROM ARES CONNECT. Numbers in parentheses are ARES-CONNECT Totals for Georgia. #6 Total events #9 Total Event Groups and #10 Total hours "Event Participation by Group"

2. Month : January

3. Year : 2019

4. Total number of ARES members: 793
5. Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month: 48
6. Number of ARES nets active: 395 (651)
7. Number of nets with NTS Liaison: 14
8. Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: Please see the list below
9. Number of exercises & training sessions this month: 432 (748)
10. Person hours: 2928 (2323)
11. Number of public service events this month: 23
12. Person hours: 180
13. Number of emergency operations this month: 3
14. Person hours: 53
15. Number of Skywarn or Severe weather events: 0
16. Person hours: 0
17. Comments: Please see the list below.

ARRL Section: GA Month: JANUARY Year: 2019

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: 793 , since last month= -262 reported (+, -, or same)

of DECs/ECs reporting this month: (see form 004) , # of ARES nets active: (see form 004), # with NTS liaison: 14

Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: see below

See the entries for ARRL FORM 004 above

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)

* 793 members reported, 1055 from last report, with -262 reported by EC's

ASECs/DECs/ECs reporting

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, DEC GEMA/K5AES, DEC Handiham/N0FBV, DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, DEC National Weather Service/Jacksonville/W4WDT, ASEC Operations/KT4LS

ECs:

Central:

Bibb/W4JMB, Dodge/KG4WQZ, Greene/KM4LFT, Houston/WB4EEL, Jones/N5BI, Lamar/N5FBI, Laurens/K4DBN, Macon/KI4BEO, Peach/KK4WTO, Pulaski/N4TUA, Taylor/KM4AEU, Upson/KT4YP, Washington/K4GK, Wilkinson/WB4FNG

East Central:

Columbia/K1OYQ

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Cobb/KT4ED, Coweta/N9GQA, Dekalb/N4RAR, Fayette/KN4YZ, Gwinnett/W4IGE, Newton/K4DOI, North Fulton/KK4PCR, Paulding/K4DMF, Rockdale/WN4JC

Northeast:

Barrow/KJ4EX, Clarke/N4ZRA, Hall/AF4GT, Towns/KF5TPQ, Walton/KJ4NMO

Northwest:

Bartow/KC4DGX, Fannin/KK4NTE, Gilmer/KK4NTC

South Central:

Appling/W4WDT, Atkinson/KM4EYX, Coffee/KM4EYX, Lanier/KG4YUS, Telfair/Vacant, Tift/KE4RJI

Southeast:

Chatham/K4SDJ, Liberty/K4YPM

Comments:

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, We have vacancies for 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 GEMA/K5AES, 1. Participated in ARES Special Ops Webinar 2. Attended ARES conference at the GPSTC facility.

DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, We participated in Techfest this year as usual. We had an inside table and we displayed our communications trailer outside the front door. Our hospital team participated in a tabletop at the GMC Duluth. We had 15 of our members attend the state ARES meeting.

DEC National Weather Service/Charleston/KB1WEI, Participated in 4 Regular ARES Nets and 5 GA Health Nets. It was a quiet month weather wise which is always a good thing! I also participated in Winter Field day, a good training opportunity

DEC National Weather Service/Jacksonville/W4WDT, Looking forward to rescheduling our Skywarn Storm Spotter class for Appling County.

ASEC Operations/KT4LS, The monthly Special Operations called included 14 attendees. Topics of discussion included the GA ARES State Meeting held on Jan 12 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, repeater coverage in N. GA for possible support for GA State Defense Force, and results of survey sent to group members.

ECs:

Central:

Bibb/W4JMB, We have completed all diagnostics and repairs needed to make all comms from Navicent Medical Center. The hospital net on Feb 3 was a total success. The reports back from Net Control and Brett Smith was that our signal was the strongest received that day. We have also added two new members who have completed or are completing their NIMS training and we have named new AEC's to fill those that were vacated recently. Macon/Bibb continues to grow and we are very happy about that.

Greene/KM4LFT, Noteworthy events in January: 1) Club participated in Winter Field Day, scoring 20,754 points! Let's see if there's any club in Georgia can top that. 2) Four club members participated in ARRL RTTY Roundup. Great chance to practice our FT8. 3) Doug Barker, K4EGA, scored 2nd in Georgia in the FT8 Roundup, and was presented with a certificate from that organization.

Houston/WB4EEL, The monthly Tri-County meeting was held January 24 with 8 members in attendance, 6 from Houston County. The entire meeting was devoted to establishing ARES Connect accounts for everyone, registering and entering time for the meeting. Eventually everything was accomplished with a clean up in a day or two. There was a team who participated in the Winter Field day. Attendance was recorded and that time was also entered. The time for all of the various nets was to be entered by the event owners.

Jones/N5BI, Great month and a great way to begin the new year. Thanks to all who volunteer their time and stations to our worthy cause.

Lamar/N5FBI, New project to renovate the emergency response communication trailer.

Laurens/K4DBN, Happy New Year !

Macon/KI4BEO, KI4BEO and KJ4MYT attended the Ga ARES meeting at GPSTC in Forsyth.

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, VE at Testing Session at Spalding County Hospital.

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Monthly training was a presentation on "Dealing With Active Shooters" by BCSD Captain Matt Garrison. A successful HamCram and VE session was held, new hams KN4RXL and KN4RXM. The Morse Code Class (Phase Two) continues with seven students: W8XC (INST), AJ4GU, K4NEP, KN4FRG, KW4AQ, KM4HOS, KA8LAD. We pitched in to help AJ4GU install a new beam antenna. The Sylvan Grove Hospital team operated the station for the monthly Hospital Net and our DPH radio team continues to operate the Butts County office station during the weekly net. Membership: Active 13, Deployable 13, Pending 5. TOTAL HAM HOURS: 248.5 (Value \$6,250)

Cobb/KT4ED, Cobb ARES began planning for 2019 Fishing Fro Freedom event and our group participation in Field Day 2019. More practical training is in the works for monthly meetings in order to help newer hams come up to speed on emcomm.

Coweta/N9GQA, (1) Coweta County ARES Simplex Net. Annual GA ARES Meeting at Forsyth, GA

Dekalb/N4RAR, Dekalb ARES meeting held at annual Statewide GA ARES meeting on 1/12/2019-several Dekalb Co. ARES members attended the Statewide GA ARES meeting.

Fayette/KN4YZ, January saw great attendance at the State ARES meeting. In attendance were: AG4ZR, KN4YZ, AI4RT, KI4NGD, N4FLT, WD4GTY, AI4UW, KM4HBI, and KK4BCH. W8BYH continues his MARS work. He also is instrumental in keeping our website up to date. AI4RT continues to run a weekly ARES training net on the 145.210 repeater every Tuesday night at 2030L. KN4YZ spent a LOT of time planning for the upcoming State ARES meeting. KN4YZ also continues to work a couple of shifts each month in the County 911 center. We conducted a monthly ARES meeting via webinar. We had the usual section level meetings for AG4ZR and KN4YZ and the usual nets.

Gwinnett/W4IGE, We participated in Techfest this year as usual. We had an inside table and we displayed our communications trailer outside the front door. Our hospital team participated in a tabletop at the GMC Duluth. We had 15 of our members attend the state ARES meeting.

Newton/K4DOI, 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 6 years and as a result the system has become more reliable. We have moved to a new location for our monthly meetings. We are now at the Covington Municipal Airport.

North Fulton/KK4PCR, Work on our normal digital training this month focusing on FLDIGI & FLMSG 213. & extra emphasis on sending and receiving packet radio messages both VHF & HF winlink as well as telnet.

Paulding/K4DMF, Continuing to check in with the monthly Hospital nets. We continue to practice checking in to our nets via Winlink/Winmor telnet and packet VHF/HF along with D Rats and D Star. Just starting to build a new station with VHF/UHF/D Star/HF and digital modes at our EOC after receiving funding for antennas and a cabinet to house our existing radios. This move is more than a year after the 911 Center / EOC moved to the new location. Hope to have it on the air before the end of February.

Northeast:

Barrow/KJ4EX, Happy New Year. Quiet month. Crew did complete the installation of an MFJ-1836H Cobweb antenna at the QTH of K4YK. We also have tentative plans to operate the 2019 ARRL IDX SSB, to introduce the

Group/Club members to contesting. Want to hone your operating skills? 73 de KJ4EX

Hall/AF4GT, Four Hall ARES members attended the Georgia ARES convention at GPSTC. The EC attended three weather briefings at the Hall County EOC in preparation for the forecasted Winter Weather Advisory issued by the NWS. ARES participated in Winter Field Day 2019 the last weekend in January. Members received training in operating the radios in the EOC amateur radio station and in cold weather operations. NE4T set up his equipment in the EOC parking lot and erected a temporary dipole antenna. A portable station with temporary dipole antenna was also set up in the EOC building lobby that was operated by Hall ARES members and Lanierland Amateur radio Club members. Several guest operators from surrounding areas also participated. The weekly training net meets on the last Wednesday of the month on the alternate repeater, W4TL, 145.31 MHz (-), tone 123.

Towns/KF5TPQ, We have had all our active ARES members in Towns County register for ARES Connect. We will actively use ARES Connect and provide feedback to Bob Garza.....

Walton/KJ4NMO, This month was pretty quiet in Walton County. We are planning on an Emergency Power presentation for our quarterly ARES meeting in February.

Northwest:

Bartow/KC4DGX, 50.5 hrs was for winter field

Fannin/KK4NTE, We had 6 members of Fannin ARES attend the State Meeting in Forsyth, GA. The event went well and all learned something new. The new EOC is starting to come together as the equipment rolls in and we start setting it up with programming, cabling and testing. It should be completed in February 2019. Additional equipment was installed and tested at the Fannin Regional Hospital. The TNC-X is not quite right and we are working through the tweaking of that component for packet operations. This month we will begin preparation for the Georgia Death Race at the end of March. It should be another great training opportunity! Bret Smith continues with the Hospital Nets and working with the operators for the hospitals across the state. 73 from Fannin County!

Gilmer/KK4NTC, Winter Field Day participation

South Central:

Appling/W4WDT, Planing a new local net for Appling County in the near future. Hopefully there will be good participation.

Atkinson/KM4EYX, Activity report: ADEC South Central Planning fox hunt with DEC for the District at General Coffee State Park for Feb. 23 also met with the Douglas Area ARC discussing ARES and the upcoming fox hunt.

Coffee/KM4EYX, Activity report: ADEC South Central Planning fox hunt with DEC for the District at General Coffee State Park for Feb. 23 also

met with the Douglas Area ARC discussing ARES and the upcoming fox hunt.

Lanier/KG4YUS, SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT New EC and AEC on-boarded for Telfair and Cook Counties. Upcoming District wide Fox Hunt training event on FEB 23 at General Coffee State Park.

Telfair/Vacant, Telfair ARES is just getting started. Look forward to more to report next month.

Tift/KE4RJI, Had normal net check ins, Update digital software on all computers for ARES

Southeast:

Liberty/K4YPM, re started local net this month, only checked in to those nets listed. Repeater maintenance day

ARRL Georgia Section
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