

Greetings from the land of Amateur Radio...

====> TECHFEST This Saturday <====

A place to introduce the young and young at heart to Amateur Radio, technology, education, and the future.

Scheduled to have exhibits/forums at Techfest Saturday January 26th in Lawrenceville - 9am - 2pm

For your GPS:
Gwinnett Medical Resource Center
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120)
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Hope to see everyone there. This is an inside event with plenty of parking. Rain, Snow or shine!

More Info and Raffle Tickets go here: www.techfest.info

EXHIBITS:

Alford Memorial Radio Club
AMSAT
ARRL
Atlanta Radio Club
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
Gwinnett ARES
Decatur Makers
DMR
D-STAR
Icom America
Fldigi, etc.
CW Ops
McConnell Middle School Radio Club
Heavy Metal RTTY
SE DX Club
SOTA
North Fulton Amateur Radio League
North Georgia QRP
New Hams-David Harden

FORUMS:

10:00am

Portable Operations by Ryan Kovacs

11:00am - INTRO TO DMR and DMR ADVANCED TOPICS

Presented by Ken Bryant

DMR portable repeater

K1DMR 443.0375+, CC 15, ATLANTA METRO Time Slot 1 Talk Group 8
K4USD Network

1:00pm

Lightening Protection and Grounding
By Greg Abernathy

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Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

==> ARES Connect – The Good, The Bad, and the Weird <==

If you've been to hamfest or paid much attention to the various amateur radio newsletters this past year, you've probably at least heard of ARES Connect. It's the new paperless reporting system the ARRL wants to use to report volunteer and training hours accumulated by radio operators that is now available nationwide.

Here's the Good –

You do not have to be an ARES or ARRL member to register for an account. Just be a ham operator interested in participating in community service and emergency communication.

Once you've registered for an ARES Connect account, you can then select events that you plan to participate in, get credit for your hours and accumulate points for participation. The points take the place of Public Service Points under the old system. Points will be used for recognition for what you have accomplished.

If you are an EC, you can enter the events your group will be participating in. This lets you keep track of upcoming events so you can schedule accordingly. When your hours are tallied for the monthly reports, those reports can be used to refine our training, lobby for access and equipment to better serve the community, and lobby the governing organizations on matters affecting all amateur radio operators. This system takes the place of the handwritten forms or other systems that have been used previously, and makes reporting consistent across the country.

The Bad –

ARES Connect just came out of Beta testing, and it's not a perfect system. There have been problems with getting people registered that will be explained in a bit more detail further down. There are issues with who enters and approves the individual operator's time for each event. There is some confusion about what level operator has what administrative privileges.

All these things have been brought to the attention of the folks at ARRL Headquarters. As the system continues to roll out nationally, we should be seeing some of these things addressed.

The biggest bad is that it is a change – and it's a really big change for some folks! It isn't a change just for the sake of change, though. When it is tweaked to work the way it should, it will save our ECs a lot of precious time and paper. Bob Garza, K4TLG, and Blake Raab, N4BWR, have been working with ARES Connect for several months now, and are happy to help you get set up as well as teach you a couple of tricks for working with the program.

The Weird – and It Can be Really Weird

Not long after people starting using ARES Connect, reports started coming in that registrations had been deleted. When you register, you'll want to make sure you are on Georgia's registration page. If you simply Google "ARES Connect" and click on the first result, you'll be on Ohio's page. You'll need to change the URL to <https://arrr.volunteerhub.com/lp/ga>, unless you really like Ohio and want to register there for some reason. We think the Ohio ECs were deleting anyone they didn't recognize, and folks from other states didn't realize they were registering in Ohio when the system first came out to test. Hopefully that's been solved, but check twice before submitting.

Also, you may not report your own hours. Even though you select the events you'll be participating in and submitting hours for, your EC or the event host may be the one to enter the hours for you depending on how they set up the event.

Whew! That's a lot! But please give it a try. It's a step in the right direction even if it's still wobbly.

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Renee Conaway
KK4LOJ
ADEC Northeast GA ARES
PIO, Georgia Section

====> Georgia ARES-Connect usage as of January 21st 2019 <====

Registered counties: 68
Registered users: 198

Events:

Expected hours: 1,088.33
Events registered: 458
Events completed: 452

Actual hours: 799

The difference between expected hours vs actual hours are events that were created but not yet worked or completed. This includes re-occurring events.

Bob Garza
K4TLG
Administrator ARES Connect, Georgia
DEC for Digital Georgia Section
EC Monroe County ARES
478-397-6766

====> Georgia AREA Repeater Database Initiative <====

At the State ARES Meeting we introduced the Georgia AREA Repeater Database Initiative. This project is the outgrowth of the 2018 Amateur Radio Repeaters in Georgia project and is an effort to develop a more accurate and up-to-date listing of repeaters in and immediately adjacent to Georgia that are available for ARES use.

Since ARES can not leverage repeater information from SERA, RFinder, RepeaterBook or other commercial sources (and much of that data is suspect anyway) we have decided to develop an 'opt-in' process that makes it easy for repeater owners, trustees, ARES ECs and other authorized personnel to update their repeater data.

For more information please go to the Georgia ARES Repeater Database Initiative web page

<https://sites.google.com/w8byh.org/gaares-repeater-database-init/>

This page has all the background information repeater owners, trustees or ARES ECs need to get started with the process. In the near future this website will be linked from the Georgia ARES website under the Quick Links section (third panel on the home page). For more information please contact Brian Haren, W8BYH, at w8byh@arrl.net

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Brian Haren
W8BYH
Geospatial Engineer
Hartsfield-Jackson Intl Airport

====> Section Traffic Manager's Report <====

**SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER
REPORT DECEMBER 2018
GEORGIA SECTION**

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR)
K4GK 120

Station Activity Report (Traffic)
K4GK 110 K4BAI 16

Section Nets
Georgia ARES HF Net
QNI 440 QTC 3 Sessions 4 3975 KHz 2200 UTC Sundays
K4GK Net Manager
Georgia ARES Digital
QNI 120 QTC 30 Sessions 4 3583 KHz 2100 UTC Sundays
K4GO Net Manager
Georgia Single Sideband Net
QNI 1551 QTC 9 Sessions 31 3975 KHz 6 PM Daily
KN4QJ Net Manager
Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net
QNI 914 QTC 11 Sessions 31 3982.5 KHz 7:15 PM Daily

KI4NGD Net Manager
Georgia Cracker Net
QNI 618 QTC 6 Sessions 31 3995 KHz QTC 6 Sessions 31 3995 KHz 7 AM
M-Sa & 8 AM Sun AF4XZ Net Manager
Georgia (CW) Training Net
QNI 93 QTC 6 Sessions 31 3549 KHz 9 PM Daily
WE4GA Net Manager
Georgia State Net (GSN)
QNI 279 QTC 181 Sessions 62 3549 KHz 7 & 10 PM Daily
K4GK Net Manager

Charles Pennington, K4GK
Section Traffic Manager
Georgia Section

====> Monthly SEC Report for December 2018 <====

Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters
ARRL Section: GA Month: DECEMBER Year: 2018

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Total number of ARES members: 1055 , since last month= +68 reported (+,
-, or same)

of DECs/ECs reporting this month: 49 , # of ARES nets active: 356 , #
with NTS liaison: 16

Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: see below

Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month: 493 Person
hours: 2458

Number of public service events this month: 31 Person hours: 316

Number of emergency operations this month: 1 Person hours: 20

Total number of ARES operations this month: 525 Person hours: 2794

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)

* 1055 members reported, 987 from last report, with +68 reported by
EC's

ASECs/DECs/ECs reporting

ASEC/DECs:

DEC Air Force/MARS/WB4BDP, DEC Central/WB4NKU, DEC GEMA/K5AES, DEC
Handiham/N0FBV, DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, DEC National Weather
Service/Jacksonville/W4WDT, DEC Northwest/AF4DN, DEC Northwest/AF4DN

ECs:

Central:

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

Washington/K4GK, Wilkinson/WB4FNG

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, Cherokee/KK4YQV, Clayton/AJ4GT, Cobb/KT4ED, Coweta/N9GQA, Fayette/KN4YZ, Gwinnett/W4IGE, Newton/K4DOI, North Fulton/KK4PCR, Paulding/K4DMF, Rockdale/WN4JC

Northeast:

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

Northwest:

Bartow/KC4DGX, Fannin/KK4NTE, Gilmer/KK4NTC, Gordon/AF4DN, Pickens/K4SJR

South Central:

Appling/W4WDT

Southeast:

Bulloch/K4DE, Chatham/K4SDJ, Liberty/K4YPM

Southwest:

Dougherty/W4AYK

Comments:

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, Other than Participating in the monthly ARES Special Ops Webinar there is no GEMA Ops news to pass on.

DEC Handiham/N0FBV, Happy New Year to All.

DEC Metro Atlanta/W4IGE, A quiet month this month. No meeting this month or nets on Christmas or New Years Eve. We did have several Hospital meetings and work parties.

DEC National Weather Service/Jacksonville/W4WDT, Spent a couple hours looking at how we can install an hf antenna at the office which is the Appling County EMA. Looking forward to 2019 and the state ares meeting.

DEC Northwest/AF4DN, I am very sorry to report that our District lost a great Amateur Radio Operator and EC of Floyd County. Grover Keith, KA5QFI passed away on December 20th. He will be missed. Gearing up for another busy year. SORBA bike races in January and February. The GA Death Race in April. Many groups are preparing for Winter Field Day.

ECs:

Central:

Bibb/W4JMB, Other than meetings and nets, December was a quiet month. We did have a work day at Navicent to repair issues with antennas and internet. We have confirmed all is working except we need a manual tuner for 75-80 meters. There is an internal antenna tuner issue that cannot be resolved without it. Dstar and Winlink were successfully tested as well.

Crawford/WB4NKU, Thanks to Butch, Bill, Richard, Keith, Bobby, Rick, Ben, Josh, John, Mike, and me, Sonny.

Dodge/KG4WQZ, It's with saddened heart to report Paul Headland KA9RAQ is now a Silent Key.

Greene/KM4LFT, Noteworthy events in December: 1) For the first time in club history, K4PAR - PARES was granted affiliation with ARRL.

Houston/WB4EEL, The monthly Tri-County meeting was not held this month due to the holidays. December is a busy month with several major events. The first is support for the Christmas parade. Unfortunately it was canceled due to weather for the first time in over 35 years. ARES members still spent numerous hours in preparation and planning. The second is called the Santa Patrol where one member is at the 911 Center and the others monitor various locations to report suspicious activity. This year we did seven nights with an average of four members on patrol. A total of 66 hours was devoted to this activity.

Jones/N5BI, Quiet month for Jones County. We began our Saturday morning coffee training meetings at the local DQ...Good attendance and hopefully it will continue to grow. Thanks for all everyone does to keep ARES training the focus of operations.

Lamar/N5FBI, Investigating adding digital to EOC. New project to renovate the emergency response communication trailer.

Laurens/K4DBN, Happy New Year !

Macon/KI4BEO, Happy New Year !

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.

Putnam/AF4MM, preparing our club site for tower installation work in clearing the facility.

Upton/KT4YP, VE at Testing Session at Spaulding County Hospital,

Wilkinson/WB4FNG, Happy New Year !

Metro Atlanta:

Butts/K3GWK, We held our 8th Anniversary dinner at Buckner's Restaurant.

The Morse Code Class wrapped up Phase One, thanks to W8XC for instructing the class. Phase Two will begin on January 3rd. The December Tech Saturday was a presentation on Amateur Satellites by John Kludt, K4SQJ. KK4GNO, KM4HOS, KM4NRP, W4DED and W8XC operated the Sylvan Grove Hospital station for the monthly hospital net. AJ4GU led a work day at the station to improve the grounding and reduce the QRM. KM4HOS, KA8LAD, NI2Y and KM4NRP continue to support the Thursday DPH Nets on DStar. Tuesday evening NBEMS training continues. Several ARES members attended the December GHA/DPH Mutual Aid meeting at GPSTC. The Field Day team has begun planning meetings, chaired by K4NEP. ARES Membership: 13 Deployable, 12 Active and 6 Pending. TOTAL DECEMBER HAM HOURS: 186 (Value \$4,677)

Cherokee/KK4YQV, 6 nets and 1 drill with 98 participants totaling 60 hrs. 1 miscellaneous Events with 1 person performing repeater site work for 3 hours. 1 person performing repeater maintenance. Total time 63 hrs worth \$1,638.00 of volunteer time.

Clayton/AJ4GT, Four nets and one SKYWARN activation of a while. Planning and ordering new UHF radio for 443.225 in Stockbridge.

Cobb/KT4ED, Cobb ARES had a quiet December. We did conduct normal net activities on the 24th and 31st.

Coweta/N9GQA, (1) Coweta County ARES Simplex Net. Quiet month due to Holidays.

Fayette/KN4YZ, We started December with the second part of Skywarn Recognition Day, 2018, at the Peachtree City NWS. N4FLT, WD4GT, AI4RT, KN4YZ and our EMA, KM4GJI attended the Integrated Warning Team workshop at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. 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 spends 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. Our discussion centered on website updates, upcoming events, and background checks. We learned a background check may not be all it is cracked up to be. We had the usual section level meetings for AG4ZR and KN4YZ and the usual nets.

Gwinnett/W4IGE, A quiet month this month. No meeting this month or nets on Christmas or New Years Eve. We did have several Hospital meetings and work parties.

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 enjoyed an evening of fellowship at our Christmas Party on the 4th of Dec. The Newton County ARES wishes each of you a very Happy New Year !

North Fulton/KK4PCR, Work on our normal digital training this month focusing on FLDIGI & FLMSG 213. & HF winlink.

Paulding/K4DMF, Another quiet month with only routine nets conducted plus one social event - the Chief's Breakfast. All Paulding Fire and EMA personnel and partners like ARES are invited each year to have breakfast with the Chief and we have participated for as many years as I have memory. 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. We plan to conduct another Simplex net test during January to check propagation with all the leaves off the trees to assess our simplex capability in winter months. Looking forward to the various Hamfests on the calendar as well as the State ARES meeting in January.

Rockdale/WN4JC, WX4RCA had a good year and we celebrated at Mellow Mushroom for our annual Christmas Dinner. Everyone is looking towards 2019.

Northeast:

Hall/AF4GT, Hall County ARES and Lanierland Amateur Radio Club in Gainesville have agreed in principle to conduct joint meetings beginning in March 2019. The MOA between the two organizations will be updated and a meeting day/time will be selected. These and other details were discussed at the LARC Christmas breakfast on December 2 that ARES members also attended. Preparations continue for participation in Winter Field Day on January 26-27. In addition to operating the Hall County EOC Station WE4EOC, NE4T will set up his em comm trailer on the EOC grounds as an additional operating station using the WE4EOC call sign. Until further notice, the weekly training net will meet each Wednesday of the month on the alternate repeater, W4TL, 145.31 MHz (-), tone 123, until antenna repairs on the primary repeater (W4ABP, 146.67 MHz (-), tone 131.8) have been completed.

Towns/KF5TPQ, A quieter period through the Holidays but still very good turn out on our local ares VHF Nets. We are expanding our capabilities with Hospital Nets operating from Chatuge Regional Hospital. We have been successful with 2M repeater communications with Union General Hospital in Union County, as well as NGHS in Gainesville. Also, we have been successful with 2M simplex with Union General Hospital as well as Winlink HF Winmor P2P with NGHS in Gainesville. Great Progress !!!

Northwest:

Fannin/KK4NTE, At the beginning of the month, Fannin ARES participated in the Fannin Regional Hospital Readiness drill. FRH, EMS/Fire, Sheriff's Office, CERT, EMA and Fannin ARES all participated in a drill emulating a tornado strike at a student "summer camp". There were ~14 victims that were affected and transported either via ambulance or by foot to the ER at FRH. During the drill, the county "lost their Public Service repeaters" and relied on ARES for communications assistance. There was also a simulation of losing all internet and cellphone service. Again, ARES was turned to for passing traffic between the FRH, EOC and event scene. It was a GREAT experience and ARES was well received! Our next training activities will revolve around ICS forms and getting together our documentation for the new EOC "shack". We will be in the new EOC location starting January 4th as we start to setup the radio equipment and finish coax cabling. It will be a great experience

setting up a new space. Bret Smith continues with the Hospital Nets and working with the operators for the hospitals across the state. 73 from Fannin County!

Gordon/AF4DN, Members assisted with coverage of the Calhoun Christmas Parade of Lights. Our members provided communications along the route and watched out for safety issues among the crowd. Plans to participate in Winter Field day are underway. As well as attend the state ARES training.

South Central:

Appling/W4WDT, Spent some time situating my wire antenna a little better. Hopefully it will be up on the side mount of my tower before long. Looking forward to the new year!

Southeast:

Bulloch/K4DE, Weekly ARES Net (4 Hams present at EOC each Net session for training), Weekly Hospital Net, Monthly 1st-Saturday Build/Tech Workshop at EOC, Activities related to EOC upgrades for ARES. 160 Net Check-In's for the month.

Liberty/K4YPM, Re-started local net this month, only checked in to those nets listed.

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

To unsubscribe from messages, go to:
<http://p1k.arrl.org/oo/be0ec8a570627d7de248a6be175fceec>