

S.E.C.'s Midmonth Report

Well, here we are on the eve of the State ARES meeting at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth Georgia. Once again this year we are holding our two hour lunch period that gives everyone the opportunity to see some of the demonstrations and participate in a couple of the forums. While you can go out to eat, it is best to bring your lunch so you have more time to socialize and connect as well as get to any of the forums and demonstrations you may be interested in. Frank Dean (K4SJR, DEC for NW District) and his team of technical types along with some of the Cherokee County ARES group will be demonstrating Amateur radio digital communication applications. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and get a good overview if you are new or have become interested in getting into digital communications. There is a new application being demonstrated this year - mesh networking. Think of this as an advanced version of packet networking. You could say they are in the research and development phase of this project but they have successfully set up a working test network in the Northwest District.

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Digital, however, is not the only activity going on during the two hour lunch period. Jim Millsap (WB4NWS, DEC for Metro District) will be conducting his Emergency Coordinator 101 orientation again this year. I am aware of at least two new ECs who said they were going to attend but this is a good review if you need a refresher as well and a good opportunity to get advice and ask questions. Another forum taking place is Georgia Hospital Operators Net meeting hosted by Ken Reid (KG4USN, EC Atlanta). While this meeting covers activities of those Amateurs that participate in the Georgia Hospital Net, this will be a good opportunity to get information if you have an interest in participating. You can find the complete agenda for the 2016 Georgia ARES State meeting here:

[https://gaares.org/docs/2016\\_ARES\\_Meeting\\_AGENDA\\_Jan\\_14\\_ver.pdf](https://gaares.org/docs/2016_ARES_Meeting_AGENDA_Jan_14_ver.pdf)

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Unfortunately we were unable to have our State meeting held at the usual date in late January but new policy for using GPSTC facilities left us no choice but to schedule our State meeting February 13th, and, in addition, this date conflicts with the ARRL meeting taking place in Orlando on the same day. We are attempting to see if we can return to our traditional date next year.

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NEW DECS:

We have three new DECS: Roger Shaddick (N7BU) has been appointed the DEC for the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF). Quoting from the GEMA web site: "The GSDF is an all-volunteer, structured, uniformed, and unsalaried branch of GA DOD authorized by Georgia law. The purpose of the GSDF is to augment the Georgia National Guard by providing trained volunteers to assist in activities such as disaster relief efforts and humanitarian causes. The GSDF is organized into military units and has various levels of training in medical support, ground search and rescue, traffic and crowd control, and physical security." Does "all-volunteer", "unsalaried", and "disaster relief" sound familiar? The GSDF has asked Georgia ARES to help augment their communications needs during some of their activities. Roger Shaddick has been working with us to coordinate repeater and simplex communications when they conduct training and real events such as search and rescue and security. It is possible that ECs can expect requests for communications assistance in areas where GSDF is called upon. The GSDF will be giving a presentation during the afternoon session at the State ARES meeting.

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Tom Welty (N4TAW) is being appointed DEC for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Tom is a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol and serves on the technical

communications staff. Tom has strong ARES credentials with significant training in essential ICS, leadership ICS, and flight related emergency communications. But Tom is also has significant Amateur radio involvement making him a good candidate for interfacing with Georgia ARES. You'll be hearing more about Tom's role as we get him engaged in his DEC position. Similarly ECs and DECs can expect requests for communications assistance in areas where the CAP may be operating.

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Sonny Gilbert (WB4NKU, EC Crawford County) has been appointed interim DEC for Central District following Dave Stewart's (KN4DS) resignation. Dave is disengaging for family reasons and a demanding job. Sonny is well respected in his District and already has a plan of action. He has appointed Bob Garza (KK4TLG, EC Monroe County) as digital ADEC for the Central District. Bob is avidly interested in digital communications. We are in the process of getting Bob introduced to the other digital ADECs. Please look to Sonny for any District needs.

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HAM OF THE YEAR - HOTY: We have 4 candidates for Ham of the Year. More on them at the State ARES Meeting.

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I hope things are going well for you and look forward to seeing some of you again in Forsyth. Take care and drive safe.

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David, AG4ZR  
Georgia S.E.C