



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



October, 2021

“CHANGE”



Welcome All. Do you sense change is in the air? That is Fall, when we smell the fresh air, enjoy the nice temperatures, and hamfests!

As your newly elected ARRL Section Manager, I am honored to serve all of our hams in Georgia and excited to lead our fine group to new heights.

After 55 years in ham radio, I still get excited working HF, digital, voice, building antennas and fellowship with all hams.

I ask you to reflect why you are in this wonderful hobby, giving your time, money for equipment, DXing, emergency comms, and keeping clubs active. After all, we don't receive any pay for what we all do, but joined in to something bigger than us, the thrill of ham radio and the desire to be a communicator.

The heart of a volunteer can't be summed up but is the passion and drive in us that we enjoy the simple satisfaction of accomplishing a connection via radio, making new friends across the city, state, country and around the world.

If you hold any leadership position in ARES or a Club, **thank you for your service!**

I ask each of you in these positions to evaluate your current service and your participation level. I need and ask for your help to not just hold a title, but fulfill that commitment you unselfishly agreed to. I want to encourage each of you to re-new your commitment to Georgia Section and let me know if you are ready for exciting change!

It is important for any new Section Manager to “check the temperature” of the organization that he/she has been asked to lead and I need strong leaders. There is an old saying, “Your people are a mirror reflection of you”, so check you own groups, ASM, ASEC, DEC, ADEC, EC, and even the respective club officer positions and evaluate where you are. Much is given and much is required. I plan to lead and contribute for all our Georgia Radio Amateurs.

Our first focus is to ensure we improve all our relationships with positive change to each other and our served agencies. Be the catalyst for positive change and spread goodwill as hams have done for years. Let's have a new excitement and commitment to propel our Georgia Section forward, to be a recognized leader in the United States. I look forward to seeing you at a hamfest and talking with you on the air! 73,

Jim

Volunteer To Serve In The ARRL GA Section

Jim has quite a bit on his plate. In addition to his new responsibilities as GA [Section Manager](#) and an ARRL [Volunteer Examiner](#) in the ARRL Amateur Radio licensing [program](#).

ARRL Field Organization Section Level [Appointments](#) are many and volunteers for one of those positions are always welcomed. Read the ARRL Section Level position descriptions and talk with your local Amateur Radio club executives.

You can [search](#) for existing GA ARRL Field Organization appointees and contact them or Jim directly.

According to ARRL “Recruitment of new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.”

ARRL 2021 SET Focuses On County Emergency Coordinators

ARRL's 2021 Simulated Emergency Test ([SET](#)), conducted Sat. Oct. 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. was short but intense. The SET also tested the imagination of participating GA county Emergency Coordinators ([EC](#)) and their ARES teams.

Frank Dean Jr., K4SJR GA Section Emergency Coordinator ([SEC](#)) tasked the groups with developing local scenarios for their 2021 SET exercise. Frank also addressed frequency coordination and developed an Incident Radio Communications Plan ([ICS 205](#)), distributed to all participating Radio Amateurs. See image below.

Renee Conaway, KK4LOJ [ADEC](#) Northeast GA ARES, drew on her long experience, expertise and creativity to develop "injects." Injects are last-minute emergencies and complications directed to one or more county teams designed to make the exercise more realistic and challenging.

Naturally occurring events included; tornadoes, winter storms, blizzards, hailstorms, ice storms, floods and dam bursts, landslides, earthquakes, cold waves, heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, extreme solar flares even volcanic eruptions.

Along with natural hazards Frank offered starting points for plans to deal with more exotic disasters; plane crash, train derailment, huge sinkhole, outer space disaster, nuclear weapon air-burst, ship in port on fire or crippling cyber attack.

Any of those disaster scenarios are plausible, making the SET a truly important element of emergency preparedness for Radio Amateurs.

Each EC was directed to send results of their county exercise to GAARES via Winlink. A consolidated report can be found elsewhere in this issue of the GoMM newsletter.

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)

1. Incident Name: GAARES SET 2021			2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: 09/27/2021 0900 Time:				3. Operational Period: Date From: 10-2-21 Date To: 10-2-21 Time From: 0900 Time To: 1400			
4. Basic Radio Channel Use:										
Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks
		Check-in Net	3.975 MHz.		3.975 MHz.	NA	3.975 MHz.	NA	A	Hourly 0900-2PM
		Traffic Net	3.971 MHz.	KX4MAT	3.971 MHz.	NA	3.971 MHz.	NA	A	Continuous Control State-wide. KX4MAT
		MT-63 1000 S	3.583 MHz. USB	KX4MAT	3.583 MHz.	NA	3.583 MHz.	NA	D	0900-1400 Center 1500 Hz.
		PSK-125	3.583 MHz. USB	KX4MAT	3.583 MHz.	NA	3.583 MHz.	NA	D	0900-1400 Center 1000Hz.
		Winlink HF P2P net.	3.585 MHz. USB	KX4MAT	3.585 MHz.	NA	3.583 MHz.	NA	D	0900-1400 USB Center 3.585 MHz.
		CW Net	3.549 MHz. USB	KX4MAT	3.549 MHz.	NA	3.549	NA	A	1000-1100
		Winlink Check-in	Varies	KX4MAT	VHF, HF	NA	VHF, HF	NA	D	1000-1400
		D-STAR Nets	30B D-STAR	KX4MAT	VHF, UHF	NA	VHF, UHF	NA	D	0930, 1030, 1230 KX4MAT
5. Special Instructions: D-RATS : gaares.ratreflector.com Information to be announced.										
<p>For a complete package of all ICS forms with instructions click here.</p>										
6. Prepared by (Communications Unit Leader): Name: <u>Larry White, AB4NX</u> Signature: _____										
ICS 205			IAP Page _____			Date/Time: <u>09/27/2021 0900</u>				

Cherokee County 2021 SET

Cherokee County ARES 2021 SET planning resulted in an exemplary emergency operating plan for that specific event. Here is the Google Drive [link](#) to a PDF copy of the document. It should prove to be a very useful guide to preparing your county before or during the very early stage of a disaster or large-scale emergency.

The later type of event would warrant progressively more extensive planning and documentation if the initial emergency exhibited any sign of or potential for the situation to expand. For example, a hurricane is predictable but a train derailment is not.

Even having just the skeleton of such a planning document would be of value. This skeleton document could be added to or expanded depending on the specific type of event.

Regarding preplanning for individual members a presentation was created by Jerry Dehner, AE4ST. At that time, April 2013, he was an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Cherokee County ARES. The presentation is titled: ARES Mission Preparedness for Rapid Deployments.

This 35 slide presentation provides an excellent example of emergency communications preparedness for individual ARES members. Click [here](#) to view the complete slide collection.

Study for basic emergency communications training, Radio Amateurs study t three or four Federal Emergency Management Agency Independent Study subjects [online](#).

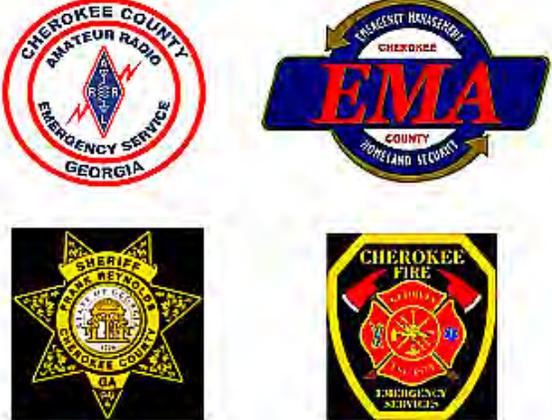
For basic emergency communications training Radio Amateurs study t three or four FEMA Independent Study subjects [online](#). One of the primary subjects is [IS-100.c](#) Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), ICS 100. Another primary subject is [IS-700.b](#) An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Becoming familiar with and learning to use ICS forms is important. A collection of ICS forms is contained in the FEMA ICS Forms [booklet](#).

An ICS Review extracted from Intermediate ICS For Expanding Incidents, [ICS 300](#) is a good reference and learning tool.

In addition to ARRL, GAARES, FEMA Independent Study training you may find applicable and available Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) [classes](#) provided at various locations in Georgia.

CHEROKEE COUNTY
GEORGIA
AMATUER RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE
SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST
OCTOBER 2, 2021
[Download PDF](#)



**ARES Mission
Preparedness for
Rapid Deployments**

ARES Go-Box



ARES Go-Bag

Jerry Dehner - AE4ST
Cherokee County
ARES AEC
April 2013

[Download Slides](#)



Backup Communications Contents

1. Kenwood TM-281 VHF (2M) Radio – 65 Watts
2. Alinco DM-330MV DC Power
3. Larsen 2M NMO 150 Antenna w/Mag Base
4. Emergency Power:
 - a) Two MK 17ah AGM 12v Batteries
 - b) Batteries Connected in Parallel (34 aH)
 - c) Deltran 12v AGM Battery Tender Jr.
5. All Equipment on Wood Base for Portability



SECC Adds To Competitive Mix

By John T. Laney III, K4BAI
Treasurer, South East Contest Club

Contesting is one of the most exciting aspects of Amateur Radio... **competitive spirit** is a big part of who we are," according to the The South East Contest Club ([SECC](#)). Any Radio Amateur is eligible for membership in SECC but we focus on those residing within GA, SC, Eastern AL, northern FL, western and central NC, and eastern TN.

Right now we're getting ready for ARRL's November Sweepstakes. We'll compete in other contests sponsored by [ARRL](#), [CQ](#), and others. SECC members are encouraged to indicate "South East Contest Club" when submitting scores.

SECC has no dues, but members will be given the opportunity to volunteer and contribute to club purchases of plaques, Internet-related expenses, as well as expenses of the [GA QSO Party](#) (GQP), etc.

SECC, with the assistance of the Southeastern DX Club ([SDXC](#)) (centered in Atlanta) sponsors the Georgia QSO Party. The event is conducted during the 2nd weekend in April each year. This is one of the most popular state QSO parties. That's because of the large number of counties in Georgia (159), many mobiles, rovers and portables are involved and because of the enthusiasm of the participants.

SECC was founded by the late Bill Fisher, W4AN in the late 1990s to encourage contest activity in Georgia and the surrounding region. Bill Fisher passed away in 2004. W4AN is the SECC memorial club call. W4AN has been used in multi operator contests, by individual members and for a rover station in many state QSO parties.

SECC members who want to use W4AN for contesting may obtain permission from the custodian of the call sign John T Laney III, K4BAI. A copy of the user's contest log must be provided to the club.

Over the years, SECC has had multi-operator stations competing at the highest level of contesting. [WW4LL](#) is the only multi-op location SECC uses for multi-single or multi-two. WW4LL operates remotely.

SECC has twice won the gavel that ARRL awards to the top middle sized club in the ARRL November [Sweepstakes](#).

We combine the scores of the former SECC members and other Southeast testers into one SECC club score.

We hope you are inside the ARRL circle for SECC. Wherever you reside, any interested Radio Amateur is welcome and encouraged to join the South East Contest Club. Plus, *there's no charge to do so!* To join fill out this [form](#) and submit it to us. Join us; we'd love to have you!

You may already be a member. Check the club [roster](#) and the ARRL affiliated contest club [list](#).

Also on the web page, you will find a link to join the SECC [IO.group](#). You don't have to join the club to join the IO.group.

We appreciate our valued members who compete on our team and contribute a score. This helps keep the club and the State of Georgia and surrounding region at the top of the heap in the contest world.

We meet via Zoom every two months to share contesting strategies and experiences. Info on joining the Zoom meetings is provided on the Groups.io reflector, or email Andy AA5JF.

If you have any questions about SECC or contesting in general, you may [email](#) them to me, John, K4BAI or [email](#) them to the SECC President, Jeff, KU8E. Our club members are eager to share the wealth of knowledge so someone will help with your question.

October 2021 18-22 School Club Roundup 23-24 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up	November 2021 6-8 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW 20-22 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone 20-21 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
December 2021 3-5 160 Meter 11-12 10 Meter 19 Rookie Roundup–CW 18-19 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz	LINK To ARRL Contest Calendar



Amateur Radio's 21st Century Dilemma

A worldwide pandemic forced us into video conferencing, now a routine and welcomed addition to Amateur Radio Club ARC meetings nationwide.

The pandemic kept many of us inside more, if not most of the time. Some of us were glued to our Internet-connected computers, tablets and smart phones. This blossomed into a plethora of video production and ad hoc ARC meeting recordings.

Most Radio Amateurs are aware of EchoLink voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) capabilities. Hundreds of ARC and other groups' gatherings and meetings are available to any EchoLink registered user.

Here is the dilemma.

Any licensed Radio Amateur anywhere on the planet with Internet access can fully participate in any ARC meeting. Proper conduct while doing so will make you a valued visitor. This means you should carefully listen or watch the proceedings to judge appropriate conduct in the event.

Live Internet accessible video is available to any interested Radio Amateur. Recorded video is available to almost anyone, worldwide, licensed or not. This truly shifts the paradigm of training and education from static to dynamic content.

The dilemma is this; who can be club members and do you want to reach out (AKA marketing) and share local members knowledge with a potential worldwide audience? It doesn't take a globalist to recognize this opportunity or privacy/security potential threat.

The later may be a somewhat paranoid mindset but that possibility should be considered, if applicable. These are Amateur Radio's new strengths and weaknesses in strategic planning terms.

A new era in Amateur Radio is shifting the playing field. "Clubs without borders" is the new reality. Also, quietly in the background, U.S. Volunteer Examiners and administering FCC license tests to overseas examinees. So, "international" takes on a new meaning in the world of Amateur Radio."

An Amateur Radio TV Guide?

We've got the History Channel, The Learning Channel and Court TV? Why not have a **Amateur Radio Learning & Entertainment Channel?**

Amateur Radio is blessed with a wealth of multimedia content produced by hundreds of Radio Amateur subject matter experts (SMEs). There are literally thousands of different subjects and topics about various aspects of "Amateur" Radio.

Add to all that old and newer cinematic productions in which Amateur Radio or radio communication is a central theme. Take for instance the movie [Contact](#) starring Jodie Foster. Also check out ARRL's list of [films](#) and other [productions](#) with a radio angle.

We've all seen YouTube videos produced by and for Radio Amateurs as well as excellent truly educational videos on subjects including electronics, physics and geosciences including meteorology and space weather.

U.S. government's (USG) agencies produce multimedia about a very wide range of subjects. USG educational video includes FEMA's [multimedia](#) training courses as well as NWS via [YouTube](#), and USG funded [UCAR.edu](#).

This is a sample of the growing multimedia content available to Radio Amateurs in the 21st Century.

Copyright Issues

Please respect a creator's right and privilege to protect content. [Copyright](#) law encourages creativity and to some extent guarantees reward for a creator of Intellectual [Property](#) (IP). Producers of copyrighted material must earn money for food, shelter and materials to produce content we enjoy.

There are some exceptions to free use of protected IP embodied in [Fair Use](#) and [Public Domain](#).

Millions of creators worldwide create for the enjoyment of using, advancing and promoting their skills. Free Cultural [Works](#), GNU [license](#) and other designations enable you consume IP at no charge.

Free Video Tools

- **Video download** browser [add-ons](#) for Firefox and other Internet browsers.
- **Video players** like [VLC](#) and similar programs.
- **Video converters** such as [Format Factory](#) and [Handbrake](#) for Windows PCs as well as other computer operating systems.
- **Video editors** including [OpenShot](#) and [others](#) basic and advanced [open source](#) software.
- **Cataloging software** like [Gentibus](#) and other [applications](#)

GA ARES Local Net Schedule Roundup

When ARES Connect was discontinued by ARRL some GA ARES members mentioned that they were using the ARES Connect calendar to find nets near them and to check-in with their neighbors.

GA ARES leadership encourages local groups to establish relationships with neighboring groups and operators were doing just that with information from the ARES Connect calendar.

To replicate a central location for local net info, a database is available on the GA ARES [IO.group](#).

The information obtained so far is a small subset of what was available in ARES Connect. **GA ARES members are encouraged to complete the very short survey using this [link](#)**. The information from this survey will be used to update the local nets database for your use.

Winlink Training Gets More Challenging

Winlink Thursdays training has gotten tougher. Bruce Powell, K7ZPJ informed members of the EmComm Training [IO.group](#) about a recent Winlink Thursday session for regular Winlink stations and peer-to-peer ([P2P](#)) Winlink stations.

There are 2,196 Members in the EmComm Training [IO.group](#). The latest participation [map](#) is shown here. Send questions to this [email](#) address.

Colby Green, KG4LNA has experience setting up [VARA](#) on an ID-5100. He suggests this [document](#) as a good reference. Colby set-up the GA ARES VARA FM gateway in narrow mode. He used this document to configure SignaLink, VARA FM v. 4.1.3 and Winlink Express on a Windows 10 computer. This [link](#) brings you to some of the many YouTube videos about installing and using VARA. This [link](#) downloads a VARA Info Bundle.

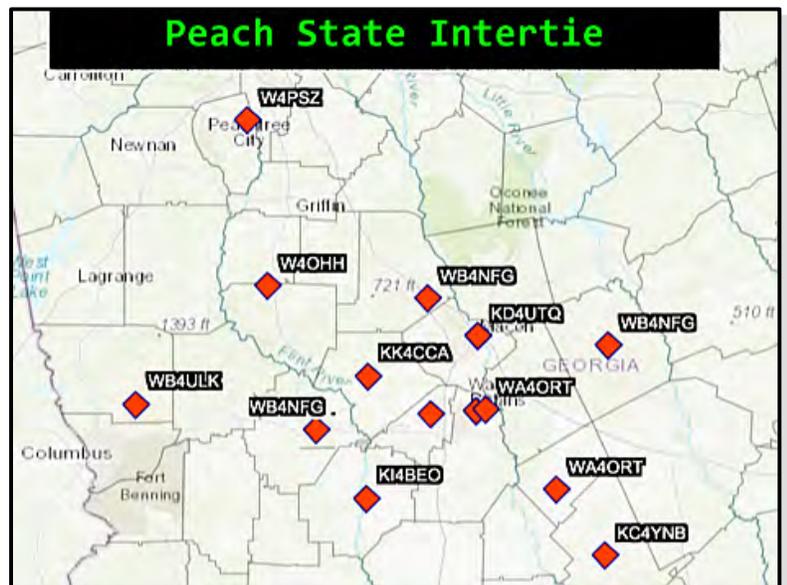
Peach State Emergency Intertie Enhances Public Safety

There are many users of Peach State Emergency Intertie System ([PSI](#)) but Kelly Bond, N4EKB recently explained the system to someone with only a passing familiarity of it. He wrote, The PSI is a tremendous resource that ties the entire Middle Georgia area into one large communication network and we are very lucky to have it."

I found the following information about the PSI on their web page and this should answer your questions. I have also copied Mr. Jimmy Burgamy, WB4NFG and Mr. John Hamilton, K4DBN on this email in case you need further information. They are the primary people that keep the PSI running."

The PEACH STATE INTERTIE is a system that links individual repeaters into one large unified system. The primary purpose of the Intertie is to enhance SKYWARN, Amateur Radio communications and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in the Middle Georgia area.

Utilizing [linking](#) technology, Peach State Intertie provides excellent coverage of a good portion of Central Georgia area and good usable coverage into surrounding regions.



The system utilizes UHF frequencies to link member repeaters, providing greater coverage over in Central Georgia.

PSI is a part of the Southeastern Linked Repeater [Net](#) covering parts of KY, TN, NC, SC, GA and AL. The Net is on EchoLink KI4NGD-R EchoLink node #317195 Wed. nights at 9:00 PM Eastern.

Net News & Notes

In a move that could foster new demand for Net Control Operator (NCO) training and development, the National Weather Service in Columbia, SC (CAE) recently announced a new policy relating to NWS Chat. CAE is one of several NWS offices responsible for weather forecast and services within various regions of Georgia.

A recent CAE office policy change limits [NWSSchat](#) access. NWSSchat is an Instant Messaging program utilized by NWS operational personnel to share critical warning decision expertise and other types of significant weather information essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property.

The office decided to limit participation in NWSSchat to the Net Control Operators (NCO) only. The NCOs with access to NWSSchat presumably are SKYWARN trained Storm Spotters as well as experienced in net control operations.

Fostering New NCOs

Most local/regional Amateur Radio V/UHF net managers need capable Radio Amateurs for stand-by and/or once-a-week net control duties.

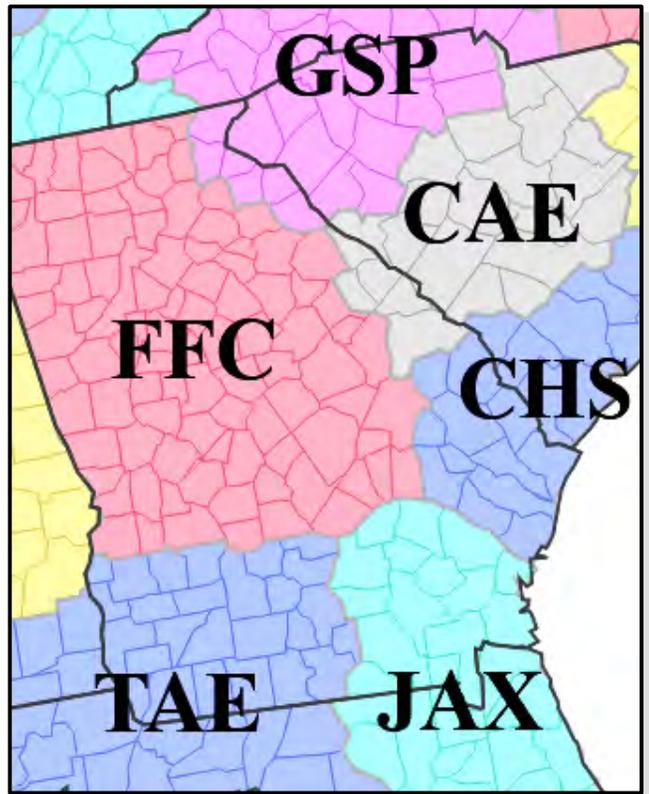
The NWSSchat access restriction, if adopted widely, could be a motivator for Radio Amateurs who are [SKYWARN](#) trained Storm Spotters, especially those active during extreme weather events. Back-up SKYWARN qualified and motivated NCOs should be easily available for weather nets.

Organized Net Schedules

Organized nets are fun! This historic activity dates back to the earliest days of Amateur Radio. In 1914 the American Radio Relay League was [established](#) by Hiram Percy Maxim and others. Maxim thought that messages could be sent more reliably over long distances if relay stations were organized.

Nets have matured since then. They were again an essential lifeline due to Pandemic Quarantine conditions. Regular net check-ins foster fellowship and a sense of personal connectedness. This is especially true during these stressful times.

If you are new to a particular net tune in before the net starts. Listen carefully to discussion on the net frequency a few minutes before the start. Listen very carefully to the Net Control Operator's instructions if you're new to the net. Follow directions and you will be a welcomed guest and a valued participant.



Weather Service Forecast Offices (WFO) three-letter [identifiers](#) for those with jurisdictions overlapping portions of Georgia.

So Many Nets, So Little Time

Quietly, in the background, nets have multiplied and grown to be a much bigger activity than Hiram Percy Maxim could have imagined. There are regular HF, VHF and UHF voice nets and others. Then there are digital voice nets and even EchoLink accessible nets are flourishing.

In Georgia there are dozens of local VHF and UHF nets and several regional HF nets including the National Traffic System ([NTS](#)) Fourth Region Net, which includes Georgia. You can [search](#) the ARRL Online Net Directory for a particular net but there is no single comprehensive listing of all nets in Georgia.

The ideal list would include the name, radio frequency, day(s) of the week and times each net is activated. A sentence or two about the purpose of each net would be very helpful too. It's quite a challenge for one person to gather information for straight RF, digital (DMR, D-STAR, Echolink) and various special interest local, regional, national and international nets.

In the meantime, take a look at these source documents gathered recently from various websites.

Club Development Concepts From A Pro Promoter

The majority of Georgia's nearly 11 million Citizens live in the mid and northern areas of the state. That leaves rural South Georgia as a forested region with scattered islands of medium to low population numbers. It means that Radio Amateur organizers need to work doubly hard to instigate and sustain Amateur Radio activities. It's even more difficult under pandemic conditions.

What began as an interview for social media promotion ideas, techniques and "tricks of the trade" turned in the revelation of a much bigger idea. This article reveals a strategy or a broad approach to growth and development of an Amateur Radio Club.

According to organizer and promoter Edward "Joe" Domaleski III, KI4ASK of Fayetteville, "There's a reluctance by almost everyone to commit to scheduled events. Pre-event registrations are down but when we actually meet for a luncheon we might get flooded with many extra attendees.

"I love my fellow Radio Amateurs but it's frustrating for me and difficult for the restaurant owner who is scheduling staff and ordering carefully budgeted food," he said.

He continued, "Flash events speak to people's desire to do something at last moment. For example, [SOTA](#) and [POTA](#) -- Let's spot him (the Radio Amateur activating the location) and go work him. People have communications devices at their fingertips. The concept is fairly quick and doesn't require a lot of logistics."

During the 1990s Joe worked for IBM when digital marketing became a marketing specialty. Now he is a small [business](#) owner in Peachtree City. He puts his MBA and business background to work to promote and develop Amateur Radio in Georgia.

Joe says, "It's clear that when promoting Amateur Radio activities you need to use different forms of communication -- put the word out using different media. For a club meeting you use the web site, newsletter and social media. Some people use different sources for information via Internet."

A good example is Facebook versus groups.IO because some users of groups.IO shun Facebook for a variety of reasons. Doing a video on YouTube only gets an audience if you promote the video widely on various other websites and social media.

Joe explained, Marketing has to be sincere and consistent with who you are. I believe in outreach and its important to promote Amateur Radio outside the core audience. But we also need to reinforce and re-energize the existing core."

Another example of a successful event is the Fox Hunt. Joe says, "People love them because they have a clear goal and they strive to be successful. To promote one you need to appeal to a couple of different markets. Think about it. You don't have to be licensed to do a Fox Hunt.

"You do the activity for your core members getting the right amount of activity that's not too strenuous. That minimizes walking for those folks who are older. The event gets you out of the shack and you enjoy sitting at picnic table doing something interesting. On the other hand, meetings with food served appeal to families with a desire to socialize."

In a single event he says there might be broad social appeal but it may attract the technical and maker people. Targeted communication is needed to bring the message to different types of people.

Joe is a dynamic individual and we're sure to hear more from him in later issues.



Editors Note: **Amateur Radio clubs and organizations that want to boost their visibility** in the community and reach more potential Radio Amateurs can look to an enormous variety of tools, techniques, concepts and methods used daily in the business world. Here are a few examples to serve as starting points for your research:

- ✓ Pre-Event Content: [5 Tips](#) For Creating Excitement
- ✓ [Event Marketing Guide](#): Strategies, Ideas & Examples
- ✓ Wikipedia's extensive [Marketing](#) pages
- ✓ [4 Big Differences](#) Between Marketing & PR

In Case You Missed It...

ARRL and the Radio Society of Great Britain [RSGB](#) have announced joint events to celebrate the **Centenary of Ham Radio Transatlantic Success**. The organizations are jointly sponsoring several events to mark achievement of transatlantic communications by Radio Amateurs on Sunday, Dec. 12, 1921.

A W1AW Commemorative Transatlantic QSL Card will be sent to Radio Amateurs making contact with the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW between Dec. 11, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2022. For complete details see [ARRL](#) and [RSGB](#).

The **Sun, the Ionosphere, Space Weather and Cycle 25** was the subject of an Atlanta Radio Club Zoom meeting on Sept. 2nd presented by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA in Ft. Wayne, Indiana He had encouraging words for the group stating that propagation “conditions would improve dramatically during the next year or two.” A [video](#) and the presentation [slides](#) are available. The club’s 2020-2021 meeting videos covering various topics are linked from this web [page](#).

The **State QSO Party (SQP) Challenge** is a competition comprised of ARRL approved state and provincial QSO parties. Participants submit their QSO party scores to [3830scores.com](#) to enter the challenge. Participants’ cumulative scores include number of reported contacts multiplied by the number of SQPs entered in the year to date. Periodic standings will be posted to [3830scores.com](#), the [QSOParty Groups.io](#) forum, and the [StateQSOParty.com](#) website.

Major Matthew G. Sherburne, U.S. Army, 1st Cyber Battalion, Cyber Protection, Brigade, Fort Gordon, Georgia is the powerhouse driving the new Amateur Radio Club there David M. Fiedler Memorial Amateur Radio Club, [K4WAR](#). Maj. Sherburne has authored journal articles about Military HF Radio and his [Channel](#) has a series of informative videos. [K4WAR](#) scored big when they had the opportunity to exhibit Amateur Radio at TechNet held in Augusta, GA during August. TechNet Augusta is sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association ([AFCEA](#)) and their magazine ([Signal](#)).

According to the DHS **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, “The SAFECOM Nationwide Survey ([SNS](#)) is a nationwide data collection effort to obtain actionable and critical data that *drives our nation’s emergency communication policies, programs, and funding*. SAFECOM will leverage the collected data to identify gaps and inform development of the program’s strategic priorities...”

There is a webinar transcript of the dialog from the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey Informational Webinar available [here](#).

In addition to the Atlanta Radio Club, two other **Metro Atlanta clubs also host and video excellent presentations by experts** in specific fields of interest to Radio Amateurs. The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society ([GARS](#)) previous programs web [page](#) has a long list of videos dating back to 2014, some with accompanying slides. The North Fulton Amateur Radio League ([NFARL](#)). The League’s presentation [videos](#) go back to 2012. An extensive array of topics have been covered. Some presentation slides may be available [here](#).

Jerome Erickson, KK1JE DEC for **GA ARES SE District conducts a training exercise** operated at random times called a “**Flashnet**.” The objective is to determine how rapidly a net can be arranged and operator’s activated. To notify the operators of an upcoming net, the frequencies and protocols of the activation, Facebook posts, emails, texts and voicemail trees are used. On a recent Flashnet the SE District had 22 VHF Voice, 7 DMR and 8 HF check-ins with less than 12 hours of notice.

[ARRL's Eclectic Tech Podcast](#) has covered some interesting ground since Steve Ford, WB8IMY launched the series on February 13, 2020. [Episode 44](#), released Oct. 7th covers a timely topic -- A discussion with Steve Allen, KC1SA, about the current electronic parts shortages. This could influence prices on radio gear or force manufacturers to shut down product lines lacking availability of certain required electronic parts. The weekly ARRL Audio News [podcast](#) is a good source of up-to-the minutes developments of interest to Radio Amateurs. ARRL also has a [suite](#) of benefits for new Amateur Radio licensees.

EC & DEC Report By Frank Dean, K4SJR

SEC GA Section

As of Sat. Oct 9, the following has been reported to Frank: NW District DEC, Felton Floyd, AF4DN, It has been a busy month in the NW with the GA Jewel Race. Members from Bartow, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Pickens, and Whitfield counties participated. Also, the MAT team assisted. Teams covered 6 aid stations while runners ran 100, 50, 35, and 18-mile courses.

Gordon County worked a 5K run sponsored by the United Way of Gordon County. Nine of their members covered intersections along the way watching for the safety of the runners.

Our members have been very busy this year. The SET next month should wind things down until the end of 2021. Then we're back at it in January with the [SORBA](#) bike race.

Bartow County EC, Charles Evans, WA4QYY reported 47 hr. The Bartow County ARES conducted 4 nets on the 147.015 repeaters and assisted in communications support for the GA Jewel trail race.

Gilmer County EC, David Ross, KK4NTC 380 hr. Polk County EC, Bill Heaton, WB4LCW 8 hr.

Pickens County EC, Frank Dean, K4SJR 327 hr. Pickens ARES had 4 repeater nets, NW-GA nets, NW-GA Winlink Nets, State Winlink, Manning Stover Rd AS at the GA Jewel, ARES Meeting, Prep for the State SET at the GA-CC.

Gordon County EC, Felton Floyd, AF4DN reported 308 h. It was a busy month for Gordon County We assisted with the communications in the GA Jewel. There were 9 members that participated in this event. We also helped with the 5K Unity Run in Calhoun for the United Way with 9 members in this event. Each week we have 4 different nets on Thursday night. We run a D-RATS net, Winlink net, simplex, and repeater net.

Fannin County EC, Joe Owens, KK4NTE 180 hr. The Fannin team enjoyed working the GA Jewel Dry Creek location. Aid Station workers were top-notch! Runners were very glad to see all of us. We now head into the final quarter of the year and starting to plan winter skills improvement sessions. You must always continue to sharpen the saw. Bret Smith works the Monthly Hospital Net in conjunction with Steve Jonas. Joe Licata is Hospital operator and ensures that equipment is fully functional.

Murray County- District Coordinator 3. Walker County EC, Jody Carter, W4LWC 34 hr. Walker County alternates between 2 meters and 10-meter simplex tests every month on the last Tuesday during our ARES Net. We have larger-than-normal participation on these nets and great success with participation from outside of our county, district, and state. Walker County ARES wants to have experience in the use of simplex frequencies should our repeaters be out of service. By testing these simplex frequencies every other month, we are also able to test the propagation of these frequencies during different times of the year.

Whitfield County EC, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ 193 hr. September is always a busy month! We have 6 local nets because of the way the calendar falls and of course the 100 mile Georgia Jewel footrace. The GA Jewel has modified again this year for COVID-19 avoidance and even though the full #COVIDSUX rule book was not in play, all of the races had to begin and end at the Trade Center in Dalton. That causes the workload on our ARES volunteers to be easier in some aspects and harder in others! BUT, the entire team worked very well despite the race changes and of course Mr. Murphy.

The radio communications took a beating this year. We experienced a huge coronal mass ejection that played havoc with our 2-meter comms plan causing stations on the western end of the course to move their comms inside a gaussian sphere to work until the energy cloud had passed on Friday night. We had coax jumpers fail. We had antenna switches fail. We had TNCs and PCs fail. We had gateways fail because of CME interference and TNC lock ups. Somewhere in the middle of all that, Windows wreaked more havoc. All of this happened AFTER we changed all of the teams to different aid stations than they were used to!

However(!), team leaders overcame all issues and made this one of the most successful Jewels to date as far as information collected along the course. We only had to send the cavalry out after 1 runner and who left the course without notifying anyone. A big thank you to Fannin County, Gilmer, (welcome back!), Gordon, Pickens and Bartow, Murray, and Whitfield counties as well as and the GA MAT Team. A special thank-you to our Team leaders: KK4NTE, KJ4UC, N4FXZ, AF4DN, K4SJR, AND AI4ZV - you make being ICS for the race much easier.

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North East ARES District: Clarke County EC, Ed Rollor, N4ZRA 48 hr. Training included VARA FM and IS-700c. Exercises were conducted sending WinLink messages P2P. Daniel Whitehead, KJ5NGE, operated the communication station at the University of Georgia EOC to provide the link to the UGA First Aid Team NCS at Sanford stadium. This is a critical link for emergency situations at the stadium. Ed Rollor, N4ZRA, and Bob Herrin, KE4JLL, continue their work with Region E hospitals to attain radio equipment and determine the best location for antennas and the radio room.

Jackson County EC, Robert H. Herrin, KE4JLL 36 hr. We have re-established the radio room at the Banks Co EOC and met with EMA director, County Sheriff, and ARES members discussing better collaboration in the county. We participate in the Clarke Co. ARES net. Jackson County, no repeater.

White County EC, Alan Sykes, KR4AE 20 hr.

Lumpkin County EC, Aaron Conaway, KK4EHJ 58 hr. We had another packet run this month. Operators set up their stations and sent packet messages around a local park. Of course, 6 Gap is the big hitter here with over 100 hours generated just for operators in Lumpkin County ARES!

Hall County EC, Jimmy Harris, KN4NZK 4 hr.

Greene County EC, Larry Gage, KM4LFT 43 hr. Druring Sept: Three ARES members provided radio and ARC first aid at the Twin Lakes Camp, Spin-for-Kids, and the UGA / Arkansas game.

Walton County EC, William Stanley Edwards, WA4DYD 59 hr. In addition to the training nets for voice, D-RATS, PSK, and Winlink, Walton ARES participated in the monthly hospital net from home stations due to the COVID population in the hospital. We conducted a Planning Committee meeting at the beginning of the month with discussions about the SET. There were also discussions regarding the use of VARA FM for local and regional data transfers.

Metro ARES District: Butts County EC, David Burnham, AK4EM 180 hr. We operated 4 ARES Nets with Winlink and HF, 4 Hospital Nets and 4 Department of Health Nets. Held our monthly club meetings and VE sessions, resulting in a new Extra Class license. Participated in meeting with Butts County School System.

Cherokee County EC, Jim Millsap, K9APD 165 hr. We conducted 7 nets (voice and digital), a training at the monthly meeting and repeater site maintenance for a total of 165 hrs. for September 2021.

Rockdale County EC, Jeff Cawley, WN4JC 38 hr.

Fayette County EC, Lynn Bianco, KN4YZ 79 hr. It was a rather quiet September with our usual Tuesday 2030 ARES training nets and online meeting. Brian, W8BYH continues to put many hours into MARS activities. KN4YZ volunteers at our 911 Center. Several of us did some preparation for the October SET. N8JBC, Dick completed IS-120c. John, AI4RT helped out with a CERT exercise. We had the usual section-level meetings for AG4ZR, KI4ASK, and KN4YZ and the usual nets.

Paulding County EC, David Fuller, K4DMF 540 hr. This month we began a series of monthly Zoom training sessions on the use of Winlink. We plan two additional sessions for October and November and then a new series starting in January 2022. Our SET has been scheduled for early November to take advantage of our partner agencies and their availability. Some members may individually participate in the statewide SET.

West Central District DEC, Rob Momon, N4VPI reported continuing Winlink Nets training and work on the relocation of the transmitter for the District D-STAR station. Completion is expected soon.

Matt King, AK4MK EC Harris County and ADEC West Central; The Columbus Amateur Radio Club (both Muscogee & Harris counties) hosted 4 general nets in August 2021. We had 8 attendees per net, with a duration of approximately 15 minutes for each net. The MMRS net was held 4 times with an average of 5 attendees each week for about 10 minutes per net.

Central District DEC, John Turner, KI4BEO 1 hr. Assisting Taylor County EC with EMCOMM Emergency Operations Plan And MOU. This should be an annex to the County's LEOP ESF 2.

Macon Co. EC, John Turner, KI4BEO 15 hr. Assisted Taylor Co. EC on EmComm Plan and MOU.

Laurens County EC, John Hamilton, K4DBN 60 hr.

Jones County EC, Alvin Hutto, N4RWK 8 hr.

Taylor County EC, John Fox, KM4AEU 33 hr.

Houston County EC, John Louth, WB4EEL 34 hr. Monthly meetings are still being held via Zoom. Work continues on establishing a station at the new EOC. A meeting was held Sep 30 with six members in attendance. The program was about the upcoming SET.

Peach County EC, Rick Gunderman, WY4X 82 hr.

Crawford Co. EC, Mike Rutherford, KM5BOR 2 hr.

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Lamar County EC, Tim Cherry, N5FBI 74 hr.

E. Central or S. West ARES Districts, no reports.

S. Central ARES District Samuel Haag, KN4SNH 85.

South East ARES District, Long County EC, Charles Smith, KN4GFG 85 hr.

Chatham County EC, Steve Jonas, K4SDJ 84 hr. KK4SGC D-STAR repeater is operational with a Cradle Point router and a Verizon Sim Card. Much thanks to Michael Hutson, KM4SPL for his work putting the installation on the air.

Liberty County EC, Dwight Biechler, K4YPM 12. Local ARES net on Mon. and Wed., ARES section at HARES Club meeting 20 Min. and repeater maintenance.

ARES-MAT District KJ4UC, Don Coltrane ASEC 40 hr. GA Jewel - 4 MAT members, 6 GAP, 2 MAT members, conference calls, 4 multiple training nets SEC 5 days/week, 80 hrs. ADEC 5 days/week, 40 Hrs. for a total of 332 hrs.

Special Operations, Lee Stone, KT4LS 45 hr. The monthly Special Operations call included 10 attendees. Served as Regional Clearinghouse for Region 4 of national EmComm exercises for the last 3 weeks of September. The average number of Winlink messages was 75 per week. Prepared for SET 2021 and served as net control for MT63-1KS net from GAARES Command Center in Jasper. Mapping of weekly Winlink check-ins continues. Total of 45 hours for all ARES-related activities.

Thanks to all who sent in a report. Best Regards,
Frank Dean, K4SJR.

HamJam 2021 IS On For Nov. 13th

HamJam 2021 will take place Sat., Nov. 13th, 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Metropolitan [Club](#), 5895 Windward Pkwy., Alpharetta. This year's event has an all-star cast of speakers including Jack, KM4ZIA and Audrey, KM4BUN; Gregg Marco, W6IZT; and Stephen Hicks, N5AC. Click [here](#) for more information about the event.

Raffle tickets are on sale in the Mart. Click [here](#) to purchase yours today! Mart order confirmations will be immediate as usual, however delivery of order confirmations with your ticket numbers will not begin until around October 8th due to delayed delivery of our ticket stock.

HamJam's 2021 prize collection is growing beyond all expectations thanks to the efforts of Wes, W3WL and Tim, WK4U. The prize list is available [here](#) and new prizes arrive almost daily! Purchase your raffle tickets today!

HamJam 2021 is an effort by North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) to promote amateur radio in the southeast US by bringing respected contributors to amateur radio to our local community.

Net proceeds will be donated to the NFARL scholarship funds. The 2021 event builds on ten previous HamJams.



HAMJAM 2021

It's All About Youth!

Saturday, November 13, 2021 8:15 - 1:00pm
The Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta GA 30005

Presented by North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Endorsed by
SouthEastern DX Club, Alford Memorial Radio Club, Atlanta Radio Club, Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club, Cherokee Amateur Radio Society, Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, North Georgia QRP Club, Sawnee Amateur Radio Association, Kenneshooshee Amateur Radio Club, Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

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