



# Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



September, 2021

## Simulated Emergency Test Set For Oct. 3-4

ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test ([SET](#)) primary national emergency exercise is October 2-3 but local and section-wide exercises may take place throughout the fall. SET tests the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service ([ARES](#)) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved with emergency and disaster response.

Georgia ARES [Leaders](#) will oversee our state's SET activities. Also see GAARES Facebook [Group](#). GA ARES also maintains an [IO group](#) for its email list, archive, database and files.

SET encourages maximum participation by all Amateur Radio operators, partner [organizations](#), and national, state, and local officials who typically engage in emergency or disaster response.

ARRL SET documents and forms are available [HERE](#). The overall goals for the 2021 SET are shown in the table below.

In addition to ARES volunteers, Radio Amateurs involved with the National Traffic System ([NTS](#)), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ([RACES](#)), [SKYWARN](#) Storm Spotters Program, Community Emergency Response Teams ([CERT](#)), and related [groups](#) as well as individual Radio Amateurs are needed in this nationwide exercise.

### New Regional Tactical Addresses For Winlink Drills

In Bruce Powell's email instructions for Sept. 16 K7ZPJ wrote, "With worldwide events being very fluid and our Nation's leaders advising continued vigilance in the months ahead, this exercise has been designed to understand your readiness capacity..."

The exercise involves a new tactical addressing format. Read about it in this document and/or join the EmComm Training [IO.group](#) or [website](#).

SET Scorecard 2021 - Categories	Points
A - Number of amateurs participating	2 (each)
B - Number of new amateurs licensed since 2017	3 (each)
C - Number of formal 3 <sup>rd</sup> party messages originated for served agencies	1 (each)
D - Tactical communication was conducted for served agencies:	Varies
E - Number of stations on emergency power during test	2 (each)
F - Number of emergency-powered repeaters used in test	10 (each)
G - Dual membership in ARES and RACES is encouraged	10
H - Liaison was maintained with an NTS section/local net	10
I - Digital modes were used during test	10
J - Number of different agencies for which communication was provided.	5 (each)
K - Number of communities in which agencies were contacted	10 (each)
L - Press release was submitted	10
M - Bonus: Group is represented by an <a href="#">ARRL PIO</a>	10

## Sept. 30 Zoom Covers GEMA, AUXCOMM And Amateur Radio Volunteers

**GA AUXCOMM** Mgr. John Davis, Deputy Mgr. Joe Martin and Edwin Whitworth, Georgia Emergency Management Agency (**GEMA**) Liaison ESF2 Deputy Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (**SWIC**) will discuss GEMA AUXCOMM's expectations of Amateur Radio volunteers.

The Sept. 30 RATPAC's **Zoom** video conference begins at 9:00 p.m. EDT. See the RATPAC **website** and special series **Flyer** for details.

**AUXCOMM** is part of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (**CISA**) Emergency Communications **activity**.

The Radio Amateur Training and Planning Activities Committee (**RATPAC**) is producing the Zoom conference which is a special series of presentations on the effective use of Amateur Radio in Emergency Communication.

## Volunteers Needed For Oct. 16 Scout's Jamboree

Randall Blumberg, KN4FYG is seeking volunteer instructors and radio operators to assist with **Jamboree on the Air 2021** (JOTA) on Sat., Oct. 16 in Augusta at the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Council Headquarters at 4132 Madeline Dr.

Randall says, "We have 26 Scouts signed up for the Merit Badge, so I'll need classroom help. There will be a lot of interest in the operating portion as well."

The Scouts (now coed) will operate from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Radio Merit Badge Class will be 9 a.m. to noon. All interested Radio Amateurs are needed. After the class scouts will operate radios with the assistance of the volunteer Radio Amateurs.

IC-7100 and Yaesu FT-817 radio operators are sought as well as additional radio equipment for use on that day. They'll use a Super Antenna and an EFHW that can be used on either radio.

Randall said, "Any other operators who would like to bring their gear are more than welcome!" Please **email** me to participate or if you have questions. Based on propagation, we may need local operators standing by to make VHF/UHF contacts."

## Volunteers Needed For Oct. 9 MS-150 Bike Ride

Rob Momon, N4VPI and District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for West Central GA is seeking operators to support the **MS 150** Atlanta Peach Bike Ride in LaGrange.

According to Rob, "We need 15 operators with portable VHF radios to staff rest stops and for support and gear (SAG) vans (provided with driver). The ride will begin at 8:00 am on Sat. Oct. 9. Saturday's ride will be an all day event with breakfast and lunch furnished.

The Sun. ride also begins at 8:00 a.m. and a box lunch will be served. The event concludes during mid afternoon. Operators can volunteer for either or both days.

Lee Becham, KD4NTS will be Net Control shadowing the event Safety Officer near the Start/Finish located in downtown LaGrange. If you want to volunteer or get more information need names and contact information please email your contact info to **Rob** or **Lee**.

## HamJam Is On For Nov. 13

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League (**NFARL**) fundraising event **HamJam 2021** will take place on Sat., Nov. 13 from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta GA.

This ARRL Affiliated Event raises money for NFARL scholarship programs. HamJam also promotes Amateur Radio in the Southeast U.S., recruits young people and newly licensed Radio Amateurs while providing a venue for attendees to gather, meet and greet as well as stay up to date on Amateur Radio activities in Georgia and elsewhere.

A popular regional event, HamJam is endorsed by these Amateur Radio organizations; Alford Memorial, Atlanta Radio, Chattanooga, Cherokee, Gwinnett, Kenneshooshee, North Georgia QRP, Sawnee, Silver Comet, South Eastern DX. The 2021 event builds on the success of 10 prior HamJams.

NFARL uses funds to support **youth activities** in schools and other events such as Maker Faires, and Science Expos.

# Tough Tackling DMR? Get Homegrown Help!

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) is the least expensive radio gear for a newly licensed Tech's journey into the world of Amateur Radio. Unfortunately it may be the most difficult radio mode to master. Fear not! [GeorgiaDMR](#) offers hope and a helping hand.

Driven by founder Jeff Hochenberg, W4JEW and supported by a team of DMR devotees GeorgiaDMR has created new learning aids like the chart below. It is a graphical representation of DMR radio programming beyond the basics of frequencies and tones needed for VHF and UHF repeaters.

GeorgiaDMR also provides [Codeplug](#) files for programming Alinco, Anytone and TYT radios, a web page with links to a DMR repeater [map](#) for Georgia and the chart shown below. A list of [DMR](#) repeaters in Georgia can be exported from RepeaterBook.com using a free account on that site.

The group's "Introduction to DMR" is 30 nicely illustrated slides, suitable for presentation. Help is available via the GeorgiaDMR [IO.group](#) and a live chat usually takes place via their telegram account during the Wednesday night net.

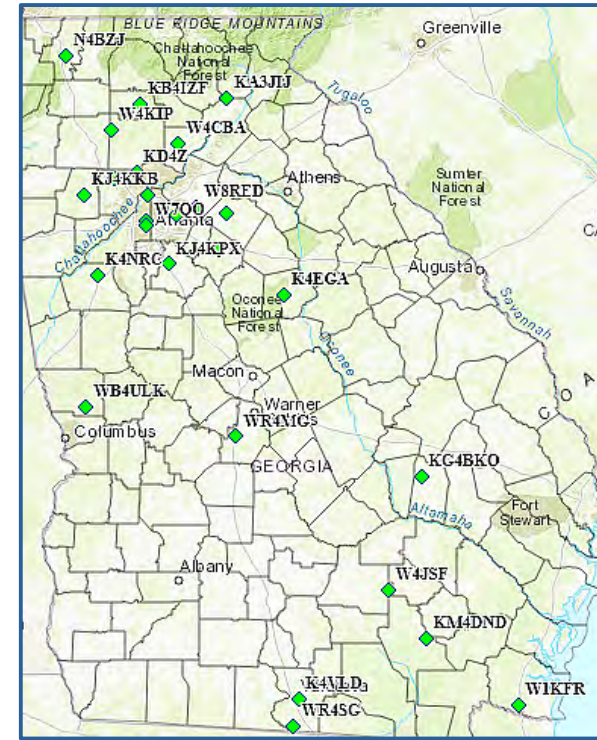
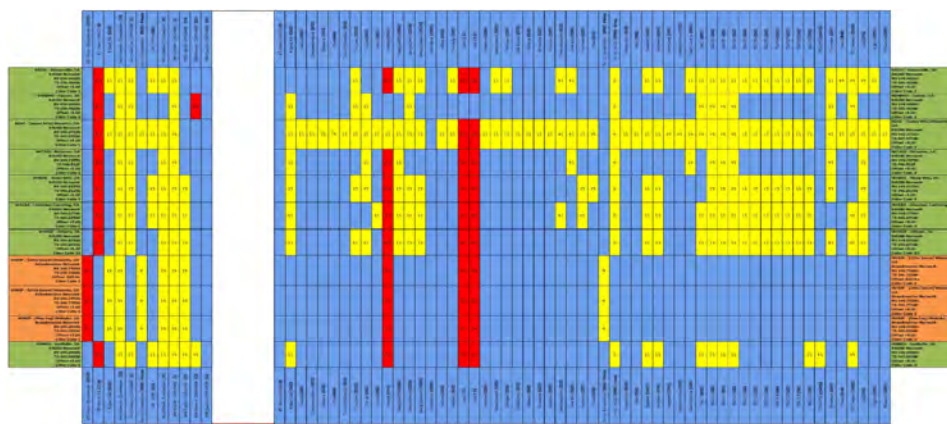
FDMA - Frequency Division Multiple Access - dPMR - ETSI Standard Single Channel	<b>TIER 1</b>
TDMA - Time-Division Multiple Access 2 Timeslots Site-Linking	<b>TIER 2</b>
TDMA - Time-Division Multiple Access Introduces Trunking: Multiple Repeaters - Single Site Vendor Specific implementations common - lack of Interop	<b>TIER 3</b>



**DMR**  
12.5 KHz total bandwidth  
6.25 KHz \* 2 = 12.5  
TDMA = 30 ms time slices

**Analog**  
Wideband  
25 kHz Channel Bandwidth

**There is a Wednesday night DMR net starting at 8:00 p.m. Eastern via the Georgia Statewide Talkgroup 3113 (Brandmeister and K4USD)**



## New Intro to DMR and Digital Voice ARRL Learning Network Video Available

Among thousands of "educational" videos available via Internet, ARRL members-only Learning Network ([ALN](#)) provides vetted experts to ensure correct and complete content. The newest video in their lineup is the Intro to DMR [recording](#) presented live Sept. 10 and available online a few days after the live session which included Q&A from the viewers.

With so much public and members-only content on the ARRL.org website it sometimes can be difficult to find exactly what you are looking for so here is an index page of the Learning Network videos created for you. The PDF index is located [HERE](#). Videos average about 45 minutes duration making for an excellent club showing with Q&A after the video.

# Atlanta Area Club Members Will Have Fun DXing Through Sept. 30

If you've thought about DXing but haven't done it the South Eastern DX Club's ([SEDXC](#)) new month-long activity, 100 Watts and a Wire event is a good reason to start. SEDXC members welcome licensed members of other Atlanta Area clubs to participate.

The Georgia club launched the new event which limits RF power to 100 Watts with a wire or vertical antenna only, no hex beams, quads, multi-element antennas or receive-only antennas. Work as many DX [entities](#) as possible; one point given for each unique DXCC entity worked on each band except 30, 17 and 12 Meters -- a point for each band where you work the same entity.

Each participant enters a point total for each band: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 Meters. It's not a contest. Do as little or as much operating as you wish but there should be more activity on the bands for better opportunities for contacts.

According to information on the SEDXC [website](#), Point totals will be reported using the "honor system" and must be submitted no later than Oct. 7, 2021. High scores will be announced in October. Plaques will be delivered to the winners' QTHs. A participant can receive only one plaque. The overall winner will not be awarded a single-band plaque.

If a participant has the high score on more than one band, the plaque will be awarded for the band with the highest score.

For new DXers, the club provides a free [booklet](#), *The New DXer's Handbook* by Bryce Anderson, K7UA. The author covers such topics as: DX Cluster Basics; The DXer's Toolkit; DX Propagation Basics; and DX Intelligence. Bryce also writes about "the key to successful DXing -- **listening**". Bryce covers skills and techniques needed to snare the rare ones. The SEDXC thoughtfully provides links to these important DXing websites:

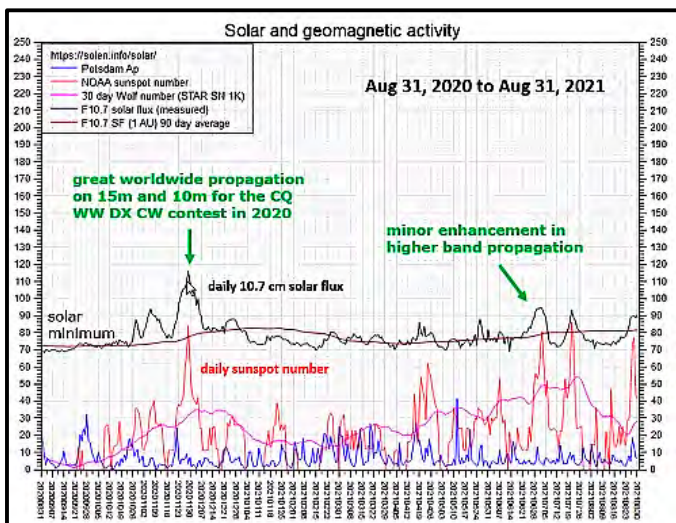
- [425 DX News](#)
- [ARRL's DX Bulletin](#)
- [OPDX Bulletin](#)
- [DX-IS News Service](#)
- [DX Summit](#) online spotting
- [DX Cluster Spots](#)
- [SEDXC Links](#)
- [N4GN's DXing Resources](#)

SEDXC member and author Jeff Canton, K1ZN published his DX operating [guide](#) under the [Nifty](#) brand of Ham Books. Nifty also publishes a DX Field Reference in their familiar spiral bound, laminated pages pocket-sized books.

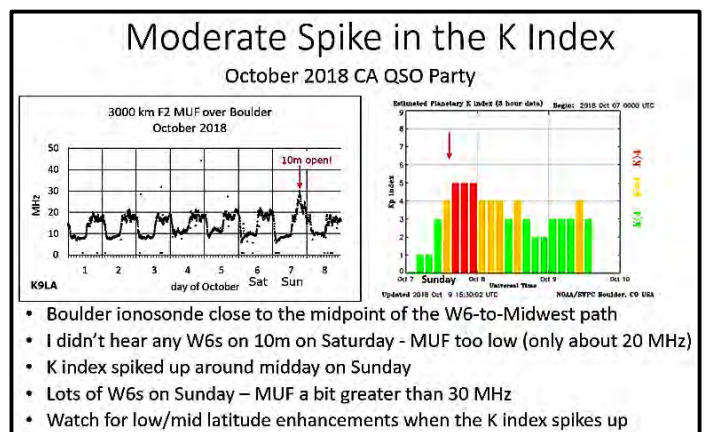
## Ionosphere Explained During Atlanta Club Zoom Meeting

Carl Luetzelschwab (K9LA) of Ft. Wayne, Indiana [spoke](#) about "The Sun, Ionosphere, Space Weather and Cycle 25" during the Atlanta Radio Club Zoom [meeting](#) on Sept. 2. He had encouraging words for viewers stating that propagation conditions would improve dramatically during the next year or two.

Karl's 60 minute presentation included step by step explanations starting with the basic composition of Earth's Ionosphere. Karl presented professional charts and explained the data behind the graphs as well as what they mean for Radio Amateurs seeking favorable propagation conditions.



These are two of Carl's slides from his talk. His [website](#) provides explanations, technical details and commentary.



# Get More From Echolink

SouthEast Link via EchoLink and the Lookout Mountain Amateur Radio Club ([LMARC](#)) Repeater provides access to just about all digital voice modes. The repeater's RF footprint covers the NE corner of Alabama, NW corner of Georgia and a large region around Chattanooga, TN. EchoLink connect you to many regularly [scheduled](#) conferences and nets.

The LMARc website provides an online [calendar](#) providing a monthly view of net schedules and other information. For example, Chattanooga Sunday Night [Net](#) from 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm is an open net not affiliated with any club. All licensed Radio Amateurs are encouraged to join in.

You may be able to access the system via one of several EchoLink and RF repeater entry points. Click [HERE](#) for the SELINK Echolink Conference Server schedule.

Not sure if you can reach the repeater via RF transmission? Check out their collection of coverage area [maps](#). The feature-rich website also has interesting links and a variety of resources and tools related to various aspects of Amateur Radio and the programs and nets they host.

# The Army MARS Report

Tom Holcomb, K5AES is the GA Section ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for MARS. He reports about the military communications exercise (COMEX) 21-3 conducted during July, 2021 among U.S. Air Force and Army Military Auxiliary Radio System ([MARS](#)) stations and other military branches.

The primary focus was military HF communications practice in a deployed field environment with field expedient antennas and AN/[PRC-150](#) radios. Army and Air Force MARS members were placed on a dutyRoster for each MARS Region with a list of frequencies and times for radio checks from military units deployed around the world.

Successful two-way contacts were made on frequencies close to the 75/80 meter band up to frequencies near Amateur Radio's 15 meter band at and just above 21 MHz. MARS operators gave [MGRS](#) Grid numbers representing their general location.

MARS is gearing up for COMEX 21-4 scheduled for this Fall but information about Amateur Radio participation has not been released.



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## Free Software Fills Many Needs

This newsletter was produced using [LibreOffice](#) (LO) [Impress](#), software much like Microsoft PowerPoint. The big difference between the two programs is cost. The LibreOffice [suite](#) of programs for word processing, spreadsheets, relational databases, graphics, slides and other functions is free of charge.

LibreOffice enables Radio Amateurs to create club newsletters using the layout, design and typography function of the LO slide creation program Impress. Club member databases can be compiled using LO Base. Postal letters, labels and emails messages can be mail-merged for mass mailings.

All these and more functions require learning the software but free guides and [books](#) like the one shown at right can be downloaded and studied. The new LibreOffice Getting Started [Guide 7.2](#) was just released and also free of charge.

These help and information documents and thousands of [add-on](#) programs and templates are also free. Donations to the Document Foundation are appreciated but not required. There are an estimated 200 million LibreOffice users worldwide including government agencies, corporations and individuals.

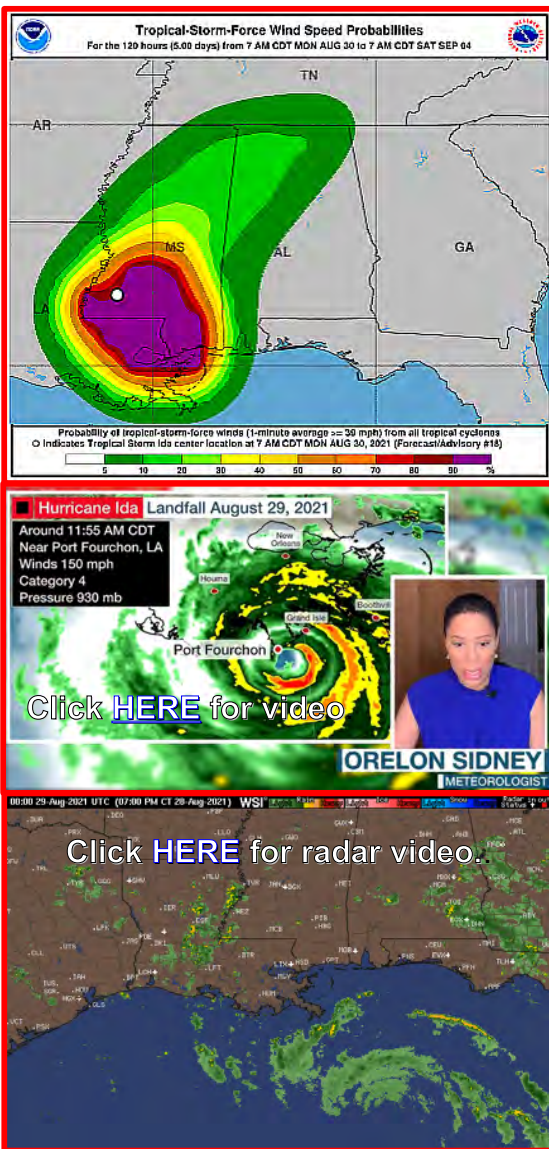
# Georgia Spared Brunt Of Hurricane Ida

According to CBS News, "The storm made landfall at 11:55 a.m. CDT as an "extremely dangerous" Cat. 4 storm with 145 mph winds at Port Fourchon, Louisiana. National Hurricane Center warned... (of) catastrophic storm surge, extreme winds and flash flooding in SE LA." Monday afternoon, Aug. 30 CNN reported, "40% of AT&T's wireless network in Louisiana is down."

View FEMA's Hurricane Ida [page](#).

View "Hurricane Ida Batters Louisiana" at NASA Earth [Observatory](#).

View NOAA Emergency Response [Imagery](#) collected Aug. 3 - Sept. 3.



## Columbia County Club Exhibits By The Book At Public Safety Fair

Clubs publicly exhibiting the value of Amateur Radio to the community is amply demonstrated by the photos above. The Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County ([ARCCC](#)) exhibited at the Public Safety & Preparedness Show in Evans on Sept. 28, setting up a model exhibit.

Almost as important as the radio gear on hand and used for HF, VHF and UHF contacts was the combination of signs, applicable literature and guest book. If a visitor has a strong enough interest a guest book is vital for the critical follow-up necessary for successful recruitment of new Radio Amateurs.

According to Bill Clark, WK4F "The event went very well. We had a great location under a pavilion and good places to set up antennas and radios. While we had an ideal spot, didn't get quite as much traffic as we were hoping. There were a lot more interesting displays for kids like fire trucks and police vehicles not to mention water attractions.

Bill continued, "We set up two HF stations and one VHF/UHF station, made a few contacts, and had quite a few licensed hams stop by.

In all our participation was around 10 Radio Amateurs helping with setup, operations, and interacting with the public. Another half dozen stopped by to say help and visit. My guess is there were more than 1,000 people there throughout the day. The county Emergency Management Agency folks were very pleased with the turnout."

With the peak of Hurricane Season hitting the Southeast U.S. now, preparedness and the high value of Amateur Radio assistance "When All Fails" can and should be demonstrated to the public by individuals and clubs throughout the year. Don't forget to emphasize the ingenuity and adaptability of Radio Amateurs who provide a vital service free of charge whenever disaster strikes hard.

# Does Amateur Radio Need A New Face?

Imagine a glossy magazine with fascinating articles that educate and inform people (young and old) who are curious about wireless technologies and cutting-edge communications sciences.

Combine all of that with news and listings of upcoming Amateur Radio events in Georgia, Alabama and Florida as well as a few commercial advertisements and you have a salable periodical.

A free copy of this bi-monthly (six issues per year) magazine would be selectively snail mailed twice each year to newly licensed Radio Amateurs, key science educators in K-12 school systems, specific college and university professors, emergency management officials and legislators.

Amateur Radio clubs and organizations would purchase the magazine at the wholesale price of \$1 per copy (a fraction of the \$5.95 per copy cover price) and resell or freely distribute the magazine at meetings and special events.

Some of the articles, event listings and website links to Amateur Radio clubs and organizations would be posted to social media to promote Amateur Radio in the ARRL [Southeastern](#) District.

Raising awareness about the array of Amateur Radio science and technologies available to young and old alike is essentially a marketing challenge. Exact cost is to be determined but contributions from Amateur Radio related non-profit organizations and individuals would likely be needed.

Amateur Radio License Statistics Sources:  
[ARRL](#); [Hamdata](#) and [Wikipedia](#).

Activating and involving newly licensed Radio Amateurs is another important goal. Technician licenses with an effective date during the past year include: AL-778; FL-2624; GA-1282; ARRL Southeastern District total: 4,684. [Source](#)

Editorial content would be sourced primarily from contributed articles previously published in club newsletters. Additional contributing writers and columnists would be solicited.

## *Why undertake such a program?*

We must accept the fact that younger people and others with interests in the sciences, math, computer programming as well as other [technologies](#) related to Amateur Radio are ill-informed or uninformed about the actual spectrum (pardon the pun) of Amateur Radio Service activities.

All agree we have so much to offer students and young adults whose sole method of communication is their smartphone. Many parts and pieces of our knowledge could be shared in existing curriculum of middle and high school [Science](#) and [Math](#) classes.

Emergency Management officials, served agencies and [partners](#) with current ARRL Memoranda of Understanding ([MOU](#)) are bombarded by businesses offering alternative, replacement or back-up communications systems. These commercial offerings may or may not reduce the relevance of Amateur Radio emergency communications offerings.

Science, math and technology offerings of Amateur Radio must be offered to a new generation of Radio Amateurs and the future leaders of Amateur Radio clubs and organizations. Reaching them on a localized, highly targeted and immediately relevant basis with an attractive, educational and informative magazine could be a top priority for us.

Publishing a successful self-sustaining bi-monthly magazine with highly targeted sales and distribution in AL, FL and GA is an achievable goal.

**Disclaimer:** This concept is strictly that of the newsletter editor, David Vine, WA1EAW and does not reflect the opinion or ideas of anyone else.

## Winlink Thursdays Resume on Sept 16

Bruce Powell, K7ZPJ reports Winlink Thursdays will resume Sept. 16. The training halted during the previous week to avoid impacting the Winlink System during disaster response for Ida. For more information visit the [io.group](#) or [email](#) Bruce.

## Married Hams Do Double SOTA Activation

Follow along in this YouTube [video](#) as the married hams Joe (KI4ASK) and Mary Catherine (KI4HHI) Domaleski, along with their daughter Alex, attempt to do a double SOTA activation during the Baby Dragon 40K mountain trail race in Georgia.

## 8 Meter Band???

ARRL's [Eclectic Tech](#) podcast [Episode 41](#) was about the experimental FCC license held by Lin Holcomb, Jr., [NI4Y](#) of Atlanta. He explained how he obtained the license and his experiments.

## K4WAR ARC Exhibits At AFCEA

U.S. Army [Cyber Center](#) of Excellence at [Fort Gordon](#) ARC [K4WAR](#) exhibited at a major [AFCEA](#) conference in Augusta Aug. 15-19, 2021 providing excellent exposure of Amateur Radio.

# Georgia ARES Statewide ARES Activity For Aug. 2021

## By Frank Dean, K4SJR

**NW GA District:** All but 5 of the 13 counties reported activity this month. Reporting counties were Bartow, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Pickens, Walker, and Whitfield. Non-reporting counties were Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, and Polk.

Murray and Pickens reported two new members. Gilmer County reported 421 total hours with Gordon County came in second with 208.5 total hours. The District reported an overall total of 1135.5 hours. That's up from 1079 last month. Thanks to all the Leadership and Team members for your dedication to the District and the ARES program.

NW District preparations for the annual Georgia [Jewel](#) Pinhoti [Trail](#) run Sept. 17-18 are underway. Gordon County has a public service event at the end of Sept. A 5K run for the United Way was reported.

Fannin and Pickens will be doing some repeater and tower checks this next month. Murray County has eight trained in SKYWARN. Other counties are training members on a regular basis as well. Net participation continues to run ahead of last year in our repeater and Winlink nets.

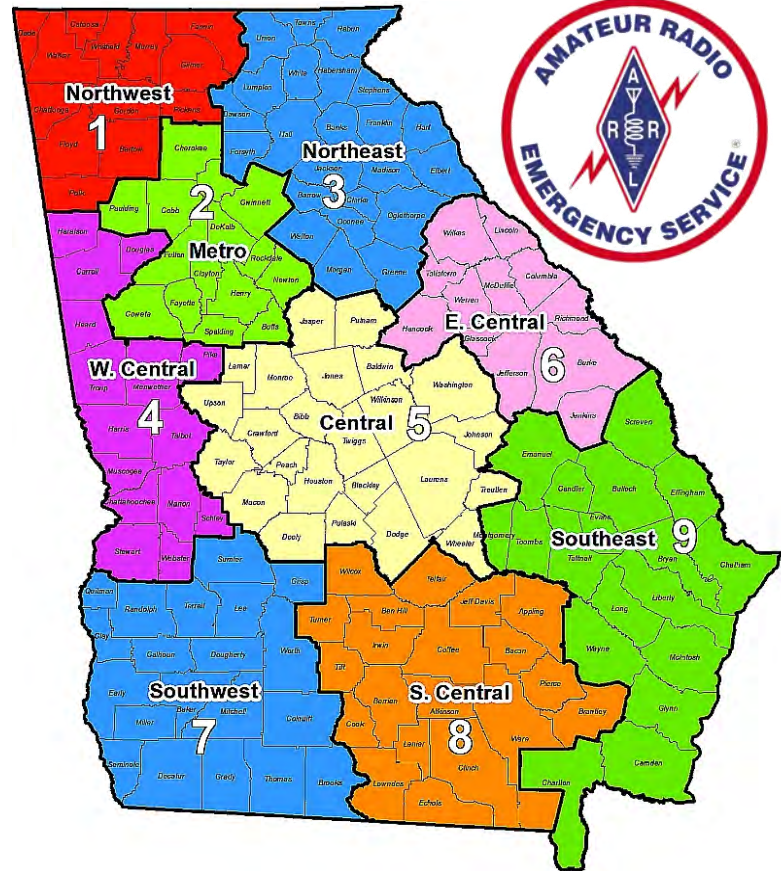
Bartow County ARES has a weekly net on 147.015 + offset, PL 100 Hz, Tue. at 2100 hours local time. ARES volunteers recorded 51 hours of participation.

In Fannin County, regular repeater maintenance will be performed in early Sept. on different towers to ensure proper functioning of the equipment. Bret Smith continues working the Monthly Hospital Net in conjunction with Steve Jonas. Joe Licata is Hospital Operator and ensures equipment is functioning each month. We are looking forward to working the new station at the Georgia Jewel and another great race!

Gilmer County ARES volunteers had 420 hrs. volunteered. In Murray County six hours were reported on ICS form 230. Gilmer has eight ARES members who completed the SKYWARN Spotter course recording 90 volunteer hrs.

Gordon County reports good participation in nets. The group has a simplex net on 146.565 at 7:45 p.m. on Thursdays as well as Winlink and D-Rats nets at this same time.

Winlink messages come to [K4WOC](#) using the Express check-in. D-Rats is on the Gordon Channel using the GAARES [D-RATS Raffleter](#). Repeater net is at 8 pm on the K4WOC linked repeater system of 443.675+ tone 100. 146.745- tone 100. and the 146.685- tone 167.9.



A fine program was given by members Allen, WB4ZIF, and Kelly, K4DDE on APRS this month. Interest was very high to get started in this program.

We hope to have a follow-up in the near future. Several members are active in [POTA](#) working on deployment gear as we would in ARES. This is a great way to train and have fun. Plans to participate in the Jewel Race are in the works.

Pickens County ARES had four County nets, 12 District nets, gateway installs and repeater work as well as ARES meeting planning for the GA Jewel Race for a total of 180 volunteer hrs.

During August Whitfield County began preparations for Sept. activities including the GA Jewel. We also spent some time working on the club repeater and pepped some Hamshack [Hotline](#) phones on an experimental VoIP server to use during the Jewel at the Trade Center aid station. This should help race officials stay in contact with the ARES folks more easily for coordination. These activities totaled 50 volunteer hrs. Walker County ARES volunteers recorded 44 hrs. during August.

**NE GA District:** Clarke County ARES training included IS-700.b review, using PSK-125 and Winlink for 20 volunteer hrs. In August Greene County POTA events and the addition of a 20 meter Winlink gateway work totaled 33 volunteer hrs.

Continued, next page



# GA ARES Volunteer Work Summary, Continued

Forsyth County ARES members devoted 86 hrs. to their volunteer work. Jackson County ARES is re-building the group. Most new members only have HTs, and we lost the repeater that was located in Commerce, GA. We are establishing a 2 meter net with the cooperation of the Athens Radio Club.

Lumpkin County had a packet run where operators set up stations and sent packet messages around a local park. It was a great time outside with the radios. We run one or two flash exercises every month as well; this month we challenged the group to send a Winlink message through a gateway outside of the US. 56 hrs.

Walton County, In addition to the training nets for voice, D-RATS, PSK, and Winlink, we held one SKYWARN net. We also participated in the monthly hospital net from the hospital. We had a Planning Committee meeting and a general meeting of members. One exercise for one Winlink net included peer-to-peer operations which will be added on a regular basis. 145 hrs. White County, 68 hrs.

**METRO:** Cherokee, eight nets voice and digital with 1 training at the monthly meeting, Total 139 hrs. for August 2021. Cobb County ARES started building a tower trailer to supplement our EMCOMM trailer. Initial build work is complete and engineering analysis performed calculating loads and winch requirements 48 hrs. Paulding County, ARES operations: 5, Total ARES Hrs. 271.

Butts County, Operated 5 ARES Nets with Winlink and HF operations. Activated Hospital and Public Health Radios for net check-ins. Held Tech Saturday to discuss Cross-Band Repeat and homemade antennas. A few members attend Huntsville Hamfest. Several members attended hospital training Zoom meetings. 179 hr. Rockdale County antenna work 22 hrs.

Gwinnett County, Program on Safety. Regular Monday nets voice and digital. Participation in hospital net and training 84 hrs. Fayette County had a busy August with usual Tuesday 2030 ARES training nets and online meeting. W8BYH, Brian continues to put quite a few hrs. into MARS activities and ALE training. WD4GTY, Lewis, completed BLS and first aid refresher training in preparation for the UGA season. He also completed ICS-100c training.

Several members participated in Winlink Thursday. Sixteen supported the annual Tri-PTC Sprint Triathlon. Four members attended Huntsville Hamfest. We activated WX4PTC for Hurricane Ida on Aug. 31. Thank you KD4YDC, N4FGA, WB5KFP, and AI4RT. KN4YZ volunteer for the 911 center. We had the usual section level meetings for AG4ZR, KI4ASK, and KN4YZ and the usual nets 2320 hrs.

**WC-GA** Continuing with Winlink Nets and training, working on the relocation of the transmitter for West Central District DStar station. Completion this month 20hr. Carroll County, In addition to net training we held another (two in two months) balloon launch, since there was no training workshops associated with it I'm claiming 0 hrs. 5hrs. Winds aloft permitting, we'll have another and plan to implement a coordinated multi-repeater net control station, which will involve an IC-205 and preflight briefing/training.

In Harris County, the Columbus Amateur Radio Club (both Muscogee & Harris counties) hosted 4 general nets in Aug. 2021. We had 8 attendees per net, with a duration of approximately 20 minutes for each net. The MMRS net was held 4 times with an average of 5 attendees each week for about 15 minutes per net. Several club members attended the Huntsville Hamfest. AK4MK represented Harris County at the hamfest, logging a 14 hour day. Thanks! Matt - AK4MK - EC Harris County / ADEC WC total 22 hrs.

Central District - Bibb County is planning for an Alternate-EOC. A workday is scheduled to return our HF antenna to service. We sent letters to Amateurs in the county area to create an interest for ARES membership 36 hrs. Central District DEC John Turner, KI4BEO Attended the Aug. Area 4 EMAG meeting and monthly DEC meeting. Assisting Houston Co. EC with EMCOMM Emergency Operations Plan And MOU. This should be an annex to the Co.'s LEOP ESF 2. 5hr.

Crawford County, No events or activations this month. Prayers go out to those affected by Hurricane Irma 0 hr. Lamar County, Total ARES OPERATIONS: 129, Total ARES hrs: 68. Houston County monthly meetings are still being held via Zoom. Work continues on establishing a station at the new EOC. Meeting held on Aug. 26 with seven members in attendance for a JS8Call meeting. Macon County, Total ARES operations: 22 Total ARES hrs: 19 Updating EMCOMM Plan and MOU.

Peach County on site for Hospital Net: KK4WTO, N0HPU, WA4JGH, KB7PKD, KK4ZFL, and WY4X. WY4X operates the EOC station (WX4PCH) daily and provides training at EOC as necessary. Substantial time spent this month monitoring for emergency and priority traffic coming from the area affected by hurricane Ida. 137 hrs. Laurens county ARES operations: 19 Total ARES hrs. 64. Taylor County, ARES operations: 97, total ARES hrs: 52. Took trip to see N4BWD repair antenna and replace defective equipment.

Continued, next page

Telfair County, Aug. 11 DEC phone meeting 2 hrs. Aug. 15-16 Zello and Southern Linc GIN Weather Net for Tropical Storm Fred 24 hrs. Jones County, Total ARES hrs. 6. Wilkinson County 21hrs.

**EC-GA** Burke County 10hrs.

**SE-GA** Chatham County 2 Zoom trainings for the GA Hospitals involved 128 operators, 91 hrs. Long County, Total ARES hrs. 146. Liberty County local ARES net on Mon. and Wed., ARES section at HARES Club Mtg 20 Min. Total 24 hrs.

**SC-GA** Turner County ARES hrs.18.

**ARES-MAT District** DEC Don Coltrane, KJ4UC, 1 net and conference call for the MAT. Multiple nets with the desire to make people aware that the MAT exists and it can be depended upon. Placed the MAT on standby for Hurricane IDA with no activation. 3 Conference calls to discuss the activities of the MAT in GA. Minimum of 22 planning calls with the SEC. Total 73 hrs.

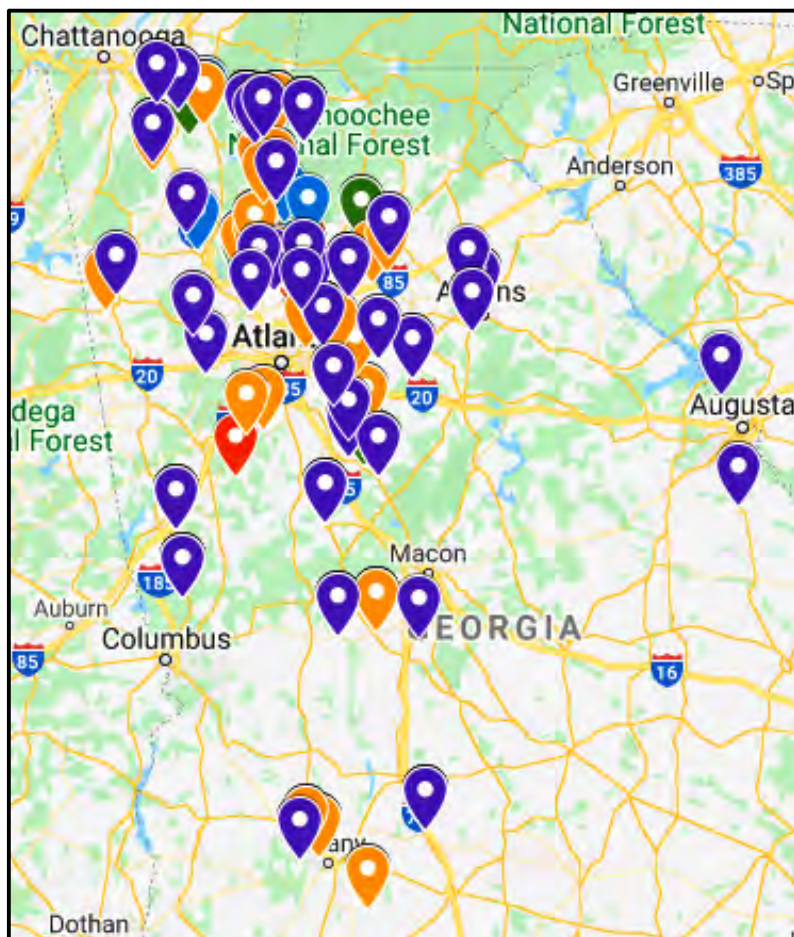
The monthly Operations call included 10 attendees. Continued as Regional Clearinghouse for Region 4 national EmComm exercises. The number of messages is averaging 95 messages per week. Region 4 continually sends 25% of the messages sent nationwide with GA leading the region in number of messages. Mapping of weekly Winlink check-ins continues. Performed maintenance on Local Nets Database in groups.io. Total of 36 hrs. for all ARES-related activities.

**Air Force MARS** - Implementing new easier to use digital message program. We are able to send encrypted messages with inline encryption and decryption without operator action. We have vacancies for new members. If you are interested in AF MARS, contact, [wb4eel@windstream.net](mailto:wb4eel@windstream.net). We can also forward requests for Army MARS to them. Submitted by WB4EEL 43rd AF MARS Comm Group Commander (GA).

## GSSB Honors Dr. Gene With Ham of the Year Award

The Georgia Single Sideband Association ([GSSBA](#)) has recognized one of Georgia's most significant contributors to Amateur Radio -- Dr. Eugene Clark, W4AYK of Albany, GA.

Dr. Gene, a nephrologist, was [profiled](#) in the ARRL QST magazine, June 2021 issue. Gene held the position of Section Manager from Oct. 2009 to Nov. 2016. Currently he's Assistant Section Manager and Emergency Coordinator for Dougherty County.



## Are YOU On The GA Winlink Map?

Lee Stone, KT4LS is the Georgia ARES ASEC Special Operations. He originated and maintains a map of Winlink check-ins for the Sunday afternoon GA ARES digital nets. So far, there have been more than 7,000 views of the [map](#).

According to Lee, "The weekly Winlink net control station forwards a copy of the [ICS-309](#) from which callsigns generate a spreadsheet with the stations coordinates. In addition to generating interest in the Winlink net, the map provides information about coverage across the state. We know who to try to contact for support in area if coverage is needed."

GSSBA has a long history in Georgia. On December 1, 1960, the Georgia Single Sideband Net started its first session with 27 Radio Amateurs checking into the net. Double that number today with nightly check-ins during the net which begins at 2300 UTC on 3975 kHz.

There are 134 members and complete information, including a membership application, can be found on their [website](#).