



# Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



August, 2021

## New Jan. 8, 2022 Date For GA ARES Training Day/GA Section ARRL Combined Meeting

On Aug. 5, 2021 ARRL Georgia Section Manager David Benoist, AG4ZR announced "Given the increase in the COVID Delta pandemic, its growing impact on the overall population, notice from some attendees and instructors that they would not attend and great concern on the part of the ARES leadership, we decided to cancel the Aug. 14 State ARES meeting. This decision was not made hastily. After much consideration and discussion we decided to err on the side of safety and due diligence.

Lee Stone, KT4LS GAARES ASEC Special Operations later announced Jan. 8, 2022 as the new date. He said, "Everyone who signed up for the August meeting on the GEMA Training Registration System ([TRS](#)) should have received notice of cancellation by email. GEMA & GPSTC have confirmed we have rooms 102, 104, 106, 108, 115, conference bay A, and the auditorium for the January meeting. I'm hopeful we will be back to some semblance of normalcy by then."

## ARRL CEO David Minster Reorganizes HQ Staff

Excerpted From The NC Section Manager's Monthly Newsletter

The Aug. 8, 2021 [newsletter](#) from North Carolina Section Manager Marv Hoffman, WA4NC reported: David Minster, NA2AA, is making [changes](#) at ARRL Headquarters. Here's what's going on at HQ:

Dan Henderson, N1ND, formerly ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager, retired in June and will relocate to the Asheville area.

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, has added Regulatory Affairs to his contesting responsibilities. His new title is Radiosport and Regulatory & Advocacy.

Mike Walters, W8ZY, Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator has become Field Services Manager (replacing Norm Fusaro). Walters reports to Robert Naumann, W5OV, newly appointed as Dir. of Operations at ARRL HQ.

Naumann came to League HQ after working in sales at DX Engineering. Walters has begun a series of virtual meetings in the various ARRL Divisions to improve communications between ARRL HQ and the [Section](#) Managers.

Continued Next Page

## ARRL Support For Field Leaders And Affiliated Clubs

The Aug. 2021 issue of QST had a short pg. 65 article about Field Services restructuring at ARRL HQ in CT. Staff responsibilities are changing and Mike Walters, W8ZY was hired as the new ARRL Field Services Mgr. Read Mike's web [article](#) "Strength in Numbers" for background information.

As ARRL Board of Directors policy is implemented additional details of actions taken during its July 2021 meeting are emerging. Earlier, a June 11 ARRL Letter [article](#) discussed some of the proposed changes.

An Aug. 21 Huntsville Hamfest ARRL Member Town Hall, will be moderated by Mickey Baker, N4MB ARRL Dir. SE Div. Panelists include: Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL Pres.; David Norris, K5UZ, ARRL Dir. Delta Div.; David Minster, NA2AA, ARRL CEO.

The new emphasis on Field Organization support will likely be discussed among other key areas of membership interest. Follow HH developments on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Visit their web [page](#) for more detail.

## ARRL Reorganization, Continued

Outreach to clubs has become a priority and each Section has been asked to reach out to clubs and request that they update their club information in the ARRL database.

A priority at HQ will be to develop new materials on how to keep clubs active and vibrant. Also, clubs that fail to check into the ARRL database may be dropped from the list of active affiliated clubs.

Looking at the database, it is clear that some clubs appear to be inactive since they last updated their contact information more than a decade ago. You can download a complete PDF file [directory](#) of ARRL HQ staff.

At the ARRL Board Meeting held on July 16 and 17, board members created a new standing committee called the Emergency Management and Field Services Committee which will advise the ARRL CEO and staff on matters identified in the resolution creating the standing committee. See an [article](#) describing the committee and a second [document](#) concerning ARES for more information.

### Emergency Communications

Over the past five years, considerable effort was invested by ARRL in building stronger relationships between State and Federal Emergency Management agencies and amateur radio. However, almost each week, there is a blog or meeting in which amateur radio operators lament that they are often sidelined when disasters occur.

Although ARRL developed its own training program for ARES personnel, the ARES training does not meet the expectations of emergency managers and ARRL certification is not recognized by any state or territory. ARES is almost always limited in local public service events because ARRL has not made supporting public safety as a priority task that receives as much League support as public service events like parades and bicycle races.

Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee ([RATPAC](#)) is a group of ARRL Section Managers and Section Emergency Coordinators. RATPAC has arranged a series of presentations by subject matter experts who serve at State and Federal Emergency Management agencies. The theme of the presentations is to have Authorities Having Jurisdiction speak about the ways in which Amateur Radio should be trained for seamlessly integration with Emergency Management.

***GoMM thanks Marv for his extensive reporting.***

## GA SSB Association Activity

The Georgia SSB Association ([GSSA](#)) held an online election during July, will be naming their "Ham of the Year" on Aug. 15. A vote on the by-law changes will be Sept. 15 at 2300 UTC on 3.975 MHz.

Current officers and board members are: Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ president and net manager; Dana Persells, WJ4Z vice president; Garrett Gonella, KU4SD secretary and treasurer; directors are George Young KE4VPD and Jim Altman, W4UCK.

GSSA bylaw changes include Proposed New Constitution and Bylaws can be viewed in this marked up [version](#).

Founded Dec. 1, 1960 the GSSA nightly net operates at 2300 UTC (7 p.m. summer and 6 p.m. winter) on 3975 kHz. The Georgia Traffic and Emergency "sister" net is on 3982.5 kHz at 7:15 p.m. local time. GSSA [membership](#) costs \$3/year.

## New "Destructive" Severe Thunderstorm Warning Tags Trigger Cellular Wireless Emergency Alerts

Starting August 2, the National Weather Service will communicate severity of and potential impacts from thunderstorm winds and hail by adding a "damage threat" tag to Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, similar to Tornado and Flash Flood Warnings.

The categories, in order of highest to lowest damage threat, are destructive, considerable, and base. These tags and additional messaging are designed to promote immediate action, based on threat levels.

**Destructive damage threat** - 2.75 inch diameter (baseball-sized) hail and/or 80 mph thunderstorm winds. Warnings with **this tag will automatically activate** a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on smartphones within the warned area.

A **considerable damage threat** is 1.75 inch diameter (golf ball-sized) hail and/or 70 mph winds. This will not activate WEA.

**Baseline or "base"** severe thunderstorm warnings is unchanged, 1 inch (quarter-sized) hail and/or 58 mph thunderstorm winds. This will not activate WEA.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings continue to be distributed via [weather.gov](#), NOAA Weather Radio [Radio](#), the Emergency Alert [System](#) and through other systems to emergency managers and NWS partners. More information about Wireless Emergency Alerts is available at the [FCC](#) and [CITA](#) and in a related c|net [article](#).

# Columbia County Club's Education Outreach Succeeds

Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County ([ARCCC](#)) members enjoy excellent relations with a wide variety of educational and public service organizations. These relationships are benefiting school students, their teachers, youth and the community at large.

Valuable assistance from GA Section ARRL Youth Coordinator, Martha Muir, W4MSA and the ARCCC-SRA team, led by Rachel Jones, KO4HLC and Dan Marshall, N4MI have formed an exemplary educational partnership with the Savannah River Academy ([SRA](#)) in Grovetown.

The team and club members work with teachers and students at the SRA in ongoing classes and projects. An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact is scheduled for Dec. 2021 probably between Dec 6 and 12th.. Planning is underway to expand educational outreach to other local schools.

Savannah River Academy (SRA) teachers and students are eagerly involved in Amateur Radio related science learning activities. SRA's May 5 balloon launch was reported on by the local [TV](#) and [newspaper](#) as well as [ARISS](#).

## ARCCC Sponsors Teacher For Wireless Institute

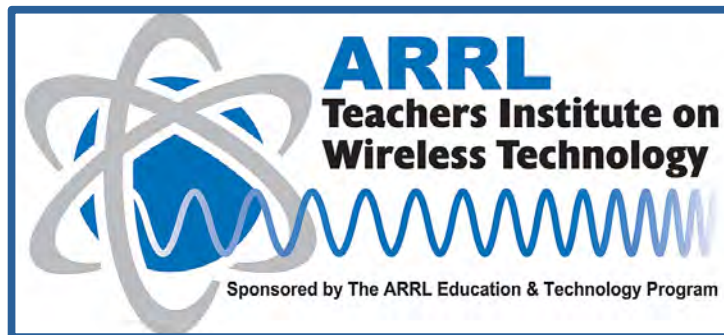
At the July 27 ARCCC meeting Dr. Nasiba White, a science teacher at the Savannah River Academy, [described](#) (see Facebook video her participation in ARRL's national 2021 Virtual Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. For details see the complete program [agenda](#).

## Radio Merit Badge & JOTA

ARCCC members participated in the Aug. 7, 2021 Merit Badge University of the Georgia-Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 2 in Evans. Club members set up HF and VHF/UHF stations to demonstrate components and operation of the stations. Local Radio Amateurs monitored the ARCCC 146.985 repeater for QSOs with the scouts.

## August 28 Public Safety Event

ARCCC members work closely with county Emergency Management and were scheduled to participate in the agency's Public Safety and Preparedness Fair. The inaugural event is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Evans Towne Center Park, 7016 Evans Town Center Blvd, Evans GA. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue, EMA, and the Civil Air Patrol also are exhibiting.



## ARRL Educational Outreach Resources

- ◆ [Amateur Radio in Local Classrooms](#)
- ◆ [ARISS \(NASA, the ARRL and AMSAT\)](#)
- ◆ [Education & Technology Program](#)
- ◆ [Hand-out for School Personnel](#)
- ◆ [Videos, Program Slides and Flyers](#)
- ◆ [Wireless Technology Literacy](#)



BSA offers Radio Merit Badge [courses](#) to the U.S. organization's coed scouts. This is excellent training for Scouts going to the annual Jamboree on the Air ([JOTA](#)). Radio Amateurs are needed to teach or support Scouting events. Contact their local BSA [Council: Atlanta Area; Chattahoochee; Cherokee Area; Coastal GA; Georgia-Carolina; NE Georgia; NW GA](#). Also see [K2BSA](#) for more info.



# Comments On Club Quality & Growth

By David Vine, WA1EAW

During the past 15 months I've been a keen observer of Georgia Amateur Radio clubs and organizations. My editorship of this *Georgia on My Mind* newsletter is guided by Section Manager David Benoist, AG4ZR.

Above all else David wanted to foster club development and growth via useful information in the newsletter. In the spirit of that charge from David B. I convey to any and all interested parties the following observations and ideas...

## Facebook Group

Like it or not, Facebook can be a major factor in club growth. Creating a FB **GROUP** is paramount. A group enables FB members to "join" a group. It is an excellent way to discover and solicit new club members -- especially people who are not already licensed. A FB **PAGE** is static and only serves as a live two-way billboard so it is less important than a group for the purpose of growth and development of your Amateur Radio organization.

New capabilities in FB Groups include a **mentor** system ideal for Elmering. There are new **education pages** to help group **admins** learn how to make the most of FB groups.

A key to FB group and page growth is frequent posts that include graphics or photos and selective sharing the posts from you group or page to other groups, pages and your FB "friends."

The Covid Pandemic created problems, challenges and opportunities for clubs. For almost a year Georgia Amateur Radio clubs mostly refrained from holding in-person meetings. Critically important VE testing sessions were disrupted.

## Video Outreach

Out of that mess rose an entirely new method of Amateur Radio license testing. New online examinations make it easier to find and participate in a testing session. Even though many, if not most, in-person VE testing sessions are operating again, remote online testing has created a new way for potential licensees to test. This is especially useful for people without transportation and those who live in areas far from testing locations, as well as others.

Live video conferencing is now common. A bonus of video conferencing is to record video. This is especially important for top-notch club program presentations that will benefit many Radio Amateurs and others with an interest in the presentation topic. Club programs featuring genuine subject matter experts can attract new club members, especially when **cross-posted** to FB groups.

As a producer of documentary video I've learned that excellent sound quality is critical to a successful video production. If video sound quality is sub-par it will destroy the project almost entirely.

The same is true for club videos. **Here's a solution to garbled speaker voices drowned out by background noise...**

Use a camera that has a microphone input and get a mic very close to the speaker's mouth. Even a \$20 wired **lavaliere** lapel microphone plugged into a computer will produce better voice reproduction than omnidirectional mics on video cameras or webcams.

A decent quality **wireless mic** set can be had for less than \$100. A wireless mic is critical if the speaker is more than a few feet from a camera mic. Long distance mic cable runs are susceptible to ambient RF. Also, background noise sometimes isn't apparent to a speaker but will impair the quality of the recorded audio so pay attention to **"room tone"** in club meetings, programs or webinars.

There are two major platforms for club videos. YouTube is well known but a Facebook Group can contain recordings of **live** club programs that can be **recorded** via FB or uploaded after the fact.

## Club Calendars Online

If you want to maximize attendance for club meetings and programs having a prominent UP TO DATE online calendar, shared and visible on other social media. A calendar with no listings or worse, listings that are out of date, auto posted "regular" meeting listings, is bad advertising. Up-to-date and complete calendars are excellent recruitment tools.

One way to promote events and the club calendar is to make announcements during local, regional and statewide nets. In my experience net control operators are delighted to call for "announcements for the net" and get a response from someone.

# Practice Makes Perfect: Importance Of Winlink Stressed

By Kelly Bond, N4EKB

Proficiency in the use of Winlink for the transfer of EmComm messages is a very important skill and mandated by Georgia ARES. A [document](#) identifies Winlink proficiency goals.

Frequent use of Winlink helps you learn Winlink [Express](#). There are practice nets for you to gain experience. One of the objectives of the 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night Tri-County ARES net primarily serving the Macon-Warner Robbins area (on the Peach State [Intertie](#)) is to practice EmComm procedures.

I want to share Winlink training resources with the readers of this newsletter to increase Winlink participation by Radio Amateurs in the ARES [Central](#) District. If you know of anyone else who might be interested, please forward this article to them or incorporate the details in a web post.

There is a weekly **Georgia ARES Winlink net** Sunday afternoons starting at 2100 UTC along with Georgia ARES nets using other digital modes.

Participation is easy. Just create a message and upload it. You can participate “over the air” using your HF or VHF gear or, if you are unable to use radio, just send it via Internet using the Winlink software. For more practice here are other weekly EmComm training nets that welcome new participants.

- **The Original Winlink Wednesday Net** ([map](#))
- **North Texas** Winlink Wednesday
- **Florida** Winlink Net & Participation [map](#)
- American Legion **Post 42** Net ([map](#) & [FB page](#))
- “Winlink Thursday” is focused on using Winlink standard forms. See [arc-emcomm-training.org](#).

I hope to “see” you on a Tuesday evening via the Peach State Intertie [network](#) at 7:30 PM for the weekly Tri-County Amateur Radio Emergency Services net.

'73 - [Kelly, N4EKB](#)

## Dalton Swapfest Is Sept. 11

The Dalton Amateur Radio Club announced their Prater's Mill [Swapfest](#), on Sept 11, 2021 at Prater's Mill, 5845 Highway 2 in Dalton. The ARRL sanctioned event public contact is Greg Williams, N4JGW. [Email](#) him or call 706-537-5988 if you have questions about the event.

## ARRL DEM Job Opportunity

Paul Z. Gilbert, KE5ZW, has resigned from his position of ARRL's Director of Emergency (DEM) Management. Two years ago his appointment and responsibilities were announced in this [article](#) on ARRL's website. There is an [opening](#) for the DEM position listed on the web.

## Earthquakes? Here?

June 27, 2021 at 1:29 a.m. a magnitude 2.3 earthquake, 7 km NNE of Macon, Georgia was recorded by the U.S. Geological Survey ([USGS](#)). Radio Amateurs in the Southeast should be aware of this seldom considered yet very real threat and plan Emergency Communications support for their local communities and in citizens of neighboring states, especially Tennessee. “There are several organizations and agencies raising earthquake threat awareness,” according to Tom Holcomb, GA Section ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) in Georgia.

## Fayette Club Presents Open Air Lunch And Learn: IC-705

The Fayette County Amateur Radio Club ([FCARC](#)) conducted a “Lunch & Learn” program to present an overview of the new IC-705. Organized by Brian Haren, the Saturday, July 24 event was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a small picnic area at the Ridge Nature Center in Fayetteville, GA.

Also participating were FCARC members David Benoist, AG4ZR and Joe Domaleski, KI4ASK. Joe's recently launched YouTube channel [Married Hams](#) featured the IC-705 in use for a Summits On The Air (SOTA) activation in Utah.



# Beyond Social Media: *Hams Without Borders?*

U.S. Radio Amateurs engage in hundreds of different types of activities within the parameters of their FCC licenses. Most activity centers on RF energy but, increasingly, Internet has made it much easier to “socialize” with other like-minded folks.

As federally licensed individuals we demonstrate responsibility as evidenced by our Amateur Radio license grant. We maintain high standards by following the rules laid down by the FCC. This makes Radio Amateurs a trusted bunch of folks.

Conversely, anyone can create one or more social media accounts. A Facebook “member” with personal profiles and establish multiple “pages” or “groups” with just one account. This contributes to the chaos of social media.

**Echolink** is a relatively old technology that has matured over **20 years**. This technology provides access to RF repeaters and conferences. This is not news to most Radio Amateurs but EchoLink deserves to be highlighted as a “socializing” tool.

Internet access to Echolink via a Smartphone, tablet, notebook or laptop computer is an extremely versatile communications tool. Even when the power goes out a cellular carrier’s Internet service is usually still available for some period of time.

## Net Control Via Echolink

The Amateur Radio Club of Augusta (**ARCA**) nightly 2-Meter Net gets four or five check-ins via Echolink out of an average total of 25 check-ins per session.

ARCA net control using Echolink has been used during thunderstorms when equipment is unplugged and antennas are disconnected from transceivers. Net control operators can easily perform routine NCS duty although at a slightly slower pace.

## Conferences

Here’s where Amateur Radio beats the social media competition. We have 24/7 access to a continuous global party-line monitored by like-minded individuals who are almost always (if they value having their FCC license) polite and responsible. In fact, most Radio Amateurs are actually looking for someone interesting to talk to via Echolink.

The Echolink Georgia **Conference** has grown to be a major gathering place for EmComm and tech talk. According to their web site, “The Conference is often referred to as *The Radio Learning Channel*.”

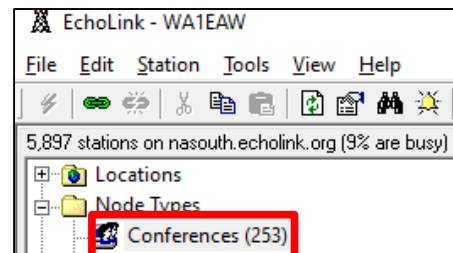
Eric Baksin, KC9ASC advocates use of DMR and Internet-connected hotspots. He has assisted fellow Radio Amateurs to get their hotspots up and running. His net has a Facebook **group**.

Unfortunately DMR radios are somewhat complicated to program and use. Pi-Star Linux OS software has seemingly endless fields to complete. The information required is clearly labeled but, ***what the heck is it and where do I get the needed data?***

## EchoLink Conferences

Enter the “**HUB**” -- **SouthEast Link**! This resource connected to EchoLink Node N4LMC-L / Node 94680. It is also known as SouthEast Link Bridge System. Easy access to Eric’s TGIF 358 Talk Group is via SouthEast Link. It’s simulcast on Echolink. EchoLink can operate in **conference** mode with up to 99 other stations connected simultaneously.

There are likely thousands of conferences or net established around the world and you can listen to or participate any that are “public” almost anytime. Simply use EchoLink software to log-in and review the list of conferences active at the moment.



For example, a recent visit to the Disaster Communicators **Forum** yielded an interesting and informative conversation about sending Winlink messages to cell phones via SMS text message using the Send SMS v.1.2.1.1 Winlink Form. Listen to this **audio** recording of the 30+ minute public net.

So, where do you find a schedule of these EchoLink accessible nets? There are several websites with listings or related information:

- **HamNetList.com** has a list of EchoLink nets.
- Ted Lee, VE7LE has a Facebook **Group**.
- Echolink **Worldwide** is another Facebook group.
- ARRL has a variety of EchoLink **articles**.
- Groups.io hosts some **groups** that use EchoLink.

You’ll discover other scheduled conferences but these lists can get you started. Unlike invited teleconferences or limited (usually restricted) Internet chat fellow Radio Amateurs are welcomed to drop in to visit almost any Echolink group session.

# July ARES Report Totals 2,095 Volunteer Hours

By Frank Dean, K4SJR

In lieu of an ARES Connect report here is a summary of GA Section ARES activity for July, 2021:

Northwest District DEC, Felton Floyd, AF4DN reported: District weekly Nets remain strong. Nets are held each Tuesday. The Winlink net begins at 7:30 pm local. Send an Express Check in to W4NWG. RF is preferred but Telnet is accepted. PSK 125 net also starts at this same time on 3.383. Except for the first Tuesday of the month. On the first Tuesday of the month, we have a simplex net on 146.595 and may even try different brands. All are welcome to participate. Numbers for the repeater net are well above last year. Winlink is up as well. With PSK stay flat. Not much activity there. The average is 10 per week. The Ham Shack Hotline is catching on and being used as a back-channel. **See the article about HH on the next page.** HH does not use RF so offline and private matters can be handled in the background. Plans are being made for the GA Jewel in September as well as the SET in October. Thanks to all of my ECs, AECs, and ADECs for your leadership in the District, Also thank you to all of our team members. Without you, there would be not ARES.

Whitfield County EC, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ reported: After several storms rolled through the area in mid-July, the K4HYJ-1 maildrop stopped making connections. Luckily, the digipeater (K4HYJ-15) was fine. N4JGW was able to reset the TNC on the mountain and get the maildrop back passing traffic. We met with the Georgia Jewel Race officials in preparation for the upcoming foot race on the Pinhoti in Sept. The race will return to most #PRECOVIDSUX rules including start times and location for all races except the 100 milers. The 100 milers will begin at noon on Friday the 17th but will end at the same time as last year.

Gordon County EC, Felton Floyd, AF4DN reported: Normal activities this month. Our group did get to meet back at our normal location at the Gordon Co Ag Center. That was great. Many of our members have gotten active in POTA. This is a great way to practice and learn about portable operations antennas and different sources of power such as batteries and solar. Some maintenance was done on the ARES trailer. We developed a light issue that had to be repaired. Also added a spare tire rack to get the tire in a place out of the way.

Pickens County EC, Frank Dean Jr., K4SJR: We had 4 nets, 1 meeting, 4 training sections. Antenna work, repeater work, Winlink net, NW-GA NET.

Bartow County EC, Charles Evans, WA4QYY reported: Bartow County amateur Radio operators provided communications assistance to The Georgia Games bicycle road races this month. These are a series of cycle races over a 19-mile course in NE Bartow County. This communications link helps keep event coordinators aware of the races' progress and any emergency situations during the race.

Fannin County EC, Joe Owens, KK4NTE Comments: Fannin, like most counties, is digging out from the stagnation of Covid-19. We are working on getting our folks to Level 2 in their Position Task Books. Some regular maintenance will be performed on the repeaters and different tower locations to ensure the proper functionality of the equipment. Bret Smith continues working the Monthly Hospital Net in conjunction with Steve Jonas. Joe Licata is our Hospital operator and ensures that equipment is fully functional with each month's testing. We are looking forward to the Georgia Jewel and another great race!

West Central District DEC, Rob Momon, N4VPI reported: We have five active counties, with four reporting. This report is a summary of their MH's and the District Officers and their education and training. The District net is a Winlink net each Monday, and a ZOOM meeting each month. Next month we plan to implement a D-STAR Net through the Warm Springs D-STAR repeater.

Fayette County EC, Lynn Bianco, KN4YZ reported: We finally got back to some in-person training this month when W8BYH, Brian and KI4ASK, Joe, hosted a lunch & learn training session on the Icom 705. We learned about the setup and operation of the radio in a field setting. We also took advantage of the opportunity to sign off some task books.

WB5KFP, Dave, was named an Assistant EC for Fayette. Dave has completed Level 2 and is well on his way to completing Level 3 in the PTB. N8JBC, Dick, and N8JLJ, Kathy, both completed EC-001. Dick also completed IS-120c.

Both have Go kits, recently installed a whole house generator for emergency power, and have completed Level 2 training!!!

KI4ASK is working on an upcoming triathlon. We normally provide great support for this event but will be split because of the meeting. KN4YZ continues to volunteer with our 911 center. We had the usual section-level meetings for AG4ZR and KN4YZ and the usual nets.

# GA ARES Report, continued

Walton County EC, John Truman Robison, KJ4NMO reported: A Planning Committee meeting was held the first Saturday of the month to discuss how to move forward with Task Book training and sign-off. The Walton EMA requested assistance with the search for a missing person.

Houston County EC, John Louth, WB4EEL reported: Monthly meetings are still being held via Zoom. Work continues on establishing a station at the new EOC. The station will include HF/2M/440 both voice and digital. Being at the EOC, good, redundant Internet is available. Funding is almost exclusively by the county.

Carroll County EC, Brian Keahl, WX4BK reported: In addition to net training sessions we held a balloon launch, which required operators to configure APRS, formulate a communications plan (including repeater switch-overs and use of a balloon supported cross-band repeater), as well as training and execution of direction finding/retrieval of hardware. The balloon landing site is typically 4-16 square miles from its last reported position. Fox Hunt simulated lost person using non-GPS PLT and use of direction-finding in an area of 54 square miles.

Butts County EC, David Burnham, AK4EM reported: Participated in Peachtree Road Race. VE session with 3 participants.

Central District DEC, John Turner, KI4BEO reported: Attended the July Area 4 EMAG meeting and monthly DEC meeting.

Peach County EC, Rick Gunderman, WY4X reported: Present on site for Hospital Net: KK4WTO, N0HPU, WA4JGH, KB7PKD, KK4ZFL, and WY4X.

Liberty County EC, Dwight Biechler, K4YPM Comments: Local ARES net on Mon and Wed, ARES section at HARES Club Mtg 30 Min.

Taylor County EC, John Fox, KM4AEU reported: The Tri-County ARES Net covers several counties in Central District. We have only reported participation for Taylor County members.

Meriwether County EC, Joel Armstrong, KN4FE reported: Ares Meeting with Rob N4VPI and others to discuss Winlink NET and modes to use.

Bibb County EC, Charlie Coyner, WD4CC We participated in Field Day at our local mall with our EMA Command Post (Bus). We assisted the Atrium/ Navicent Health Hospital with their equipment to support the Hospital Net. Workday scheduled to return our HF antenna.

# Hamshack Hotline

## A Purpose-Built VOIP Network Aids EmComm

Hamshack Hotline ([HH](#)) is a free Voice Over Internet Protocol ([VIOP](#)) telcom service for the Ham Radio Community. Unveiled at the New England Amateur Radio Festival ([NEAR-Fest](#)) in 2018, It's purpose is to augment comms for Radio Amateurs, especially in relation to Emergency Communications (EmComm). Since 2018 HH has grown to include Facebook [page](#) includes more than 2,600 members.

HH enables full duplex, high fidelity operation and supports FAX transmission with appropriate equipment. The HH operation is led by a board of [directors](#) including the organization's founder, John A. Rogers [K1WIZ](#), who is HH VP of Engineering.

Ed Walraven, [KM4IOA](#), a leading proponent of HH, generously assists individuals and groups with their equipment purchases. He is preparing a statewide seminar on the subject. The photo below shows his SPA-504g HH phone console.



Choosing the right VOIP phone, also known as “end-points” can be tricky. The phone **must be unlocked**. Here some models that have been used:

- Cisco SPA-112 – 2 Line Analog Telephone Adaptor – can be used to connect traditional corded/cordless phones to the HH network. Expect to pay about \$29 new on Amazon with free shipping.
- Cisco SPA-303 – 3 line VOIP speakerphone – This is a business quality unit that many are finding used on Ebay for about \$20 including shipping.
- Cisco SPA-504g – 4 Line VOIP speakerphone similar to the 303 but supports WiFi connections and it has power over Ethernet (PoE) as well as other features. A new 504g costs about \$130 including shipping in the secondary market.

HH is a subject that will get additional coverage in later issues of GoMM.