

GROUNDWAVES

May 2010 - The Armed Forces and Memorial Day Edition

The Coastal Amateur Radio Society
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News and Notes

May CARS Meeting -

Monday, May 3, 2010 at 7:00 PM
White Bluff Presbyterian Church Education Building

Armed Forces Day Special Event Station W2W

Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA

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Please E-Mail articles, items for swap or sale, announcements, or any other submissions for Groundwaves to:

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April Meeting Minutes

Melissa Axley, KJ4HAI, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Guy McDonald, K4GTM, at 7:01 pm. A prayer was offered by Russ Pierce, K4YGD, to begin the meeting.

Guy announced two new license upgrades—Will upgraded to a General Class License and Linda upgraded to an Extra Class license.

The minutes from the March meeting were posted in the Groundwaves newsletter. Melissa Axley, KJ4HAI, was asked to read the minutes from the last meeting. Motion made by Kevin Bell, KW4B, to accept the minutes and seconded by Steve Jonas, K4SDJ. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Billy Elmore was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a copy of the report to Guy via email. Guy McDonald read over the treasurer's report as follows:

The checking account balance is \$4696.55.

There were four deposits totaling \$710.00, and three checks written—one to Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) for \$30.00, one to Kevin Bell for the website hosting company charge for \$166.80, and one to the USPS for the postal box rental for \$44.00.

The CD account balance is \$5278.34.

Motion was made by to approve the treasurer's report by Kevin Bell, KW4B, seconded by Bill DeLoach, K4WP. The motion passed.

Committee Updates:

Guy McDonald has been compiling a tentative list of committee members, which will be circulated. Anyone who would not like to serve on a committee or would prefer to work in a different area should contact Guy.

Membership Committee: membership continues to grow. The club has welcomed several new members, as well as having retained most of the previous members.

Programs Committee: last month's program at the Mighty Eighth Museum was well received. Additional meetings may be held at the museum in the future, as a part of the updates for the B-17 or for special events, potentially any military related holidays or crossbanding exercises.

B-17 Update: Guy McDonald He is to serve as the CARS project manager. Work has begun on inventory of current items, lists of needed items, and the division of tasks. Wednesdays at 2:00 pm is the primary meeting time, but Fridays and Saturdays are also available for work days. Anyone who is interested in assisting with the project, please contact Guy. Updates are now also available on the website. The estimated completion date for the B-17 to be open to the public in restored condition will be some time in 2011. There is no specific timeline at this point for the radio work. Help will also be needed to rebuild the radio compartment.

Activities Committee: The scouting event, B-17 project, and international DX contest were held in the last month. The club ran the International DX contest for all but 4 of the 48 hours of the contest, with at least 10 operators and many more that stopped by during the contest. Upcoming events include the Georgia QSO party and a Boy Scout event in Statesboro on 1 May at the Ogeechee Fairgrounds.

Georgia QSO Party: The club radio station will be operating on Saturday, 10 April from 8:00 am to midnight. There is a VE session to be held on 10 April at 9:00 am. Another group of operators are interested in working from Holbrook Pond at Ft. Stewart. If enough people are interested, a shelter can be reserved. Please contact Guy McDonald by 6 April if interested in operating from Holbrook Pond. Contest officially runs Saturday until midnight, with additional hours on Sunday. Can use a multi-operator single station designation from the club station, and

also encourage operators to bring their own equipment. It was suggested that a GOTA station also be set up for new operators or those who would like the practice. In addition to club activities, it is encouraged that operators work from their home stations. Jeri Connan stated that all 159 counties are covered with rovers and mobile stations. A breakfast will be held with John Laney, K4BAI, and Jeff, KUAE, who competed in Brazil for the International HF contest as US representatives, on Sunday, 11 April. Jeri will send out an email with details on the breakfast time and place.

Education Committee: VE session to be held on 11 April. A VE session was held a couple of weeks ago by Steve Jonas. There are requests for Technician and General classes to be held, but no dates at this point. Several participants in the classes have been joining the club as well as the ARES program. A technical library was discussed, which has begun with donations from the estate of Ed Bigby, and additional donations. This will potentially be housed at the club station.

Technical Committee: no updates.

Constitution and Bylaws: no updates.

ARES Committee: meeting was held on 22 March with good participation. If anyone has not had their photo taken for the ARES badge please see Guy. There will eventually be a GEMA recognized badge in the future. The St. Patrick's Day activities were well attended, and the Red Cross repeater was used for net control during the exercise. The new antenna system at St. Joseph's Hospital was tested recently, with good results. HF equipment has been ordered for both hospitals.

Basic and advanced weather spotter classes will be held at the CEMA annex EOC on 15 April from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The registration contact information is on the club website.

A Charleston NWS Sykwarn communications test will be held on Saturday, 17 April at noon.

A joint agency hurricane exercise will be held with (at least) CEMA, St. Joseph's Hospital and Candler Hospital. Date and time to be announced when available.

Website/Newsletter Committee: the Twitter feed to the website should be working, as well as the ARES database connection directly from the website. It is also possible to link non-Facebook users to the Facebook page, which will be explored.

Field Day Committee: As usual, Field Day will be held the last weekend in June. The club is open to all ideas of additions to Field Day. It was suggested at the last meeting that a tailgate sale be held in conjunction with the Field Day activities.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

There are connections with an original B-17 pilot who lives in Atlanta through a friend of Will's. This may be someone who would be useful in the B-17 restoration process and the restoration team would be very interested in contacting him for information.

The space shuttle passed by last night. A visible double pass (space station and the shuttle) will be tomorrow (6 April) at 6:27 a.m.

Announcements:

The 2010 Andy Anderson DX Challenge Awards were presented. "Rookie" logs were received from Mac McCormick III, Guy McDonald, and Billy Elmore. The Rookie Class Award was announced as going to Mac McCormick III with 97 countries. The runner up award for the Andy Anderson DX Challenge went to Paul Esposito, N3PE.

Jeri Connan, KT4ZB, was given the Andy Anderson DX Challenge Award.

A motion was made by Steve Jonas, seconded by KevinBell to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. The motion was passed and the meeting adjourned.

B-17 “City of Savannah” Radio Restoration

Work has been moving along on the restoration of the B-17’s radios at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Carroll Baker, WX4Y, Steve Jonas, K4SDJ, and Guy McDonald, K4GTM have made several trips out to the Museum to assess and begin restoring the equipment, beginning with the BC-348 receiver. If you are interested in assisting with the project, contact Guy at k4gtm@arrl.net.

On March 24, Carroll and Guy opened up the BC-348 and checked the tubes, capacitors, and resistors. The checks yielded great news: the capacitors and resistors all checked out good as did seven of the eight tubes. The dynamotor was also disassembled and checked; the armature, bearings, and bushings were all in good condition and the bearings even still had grease on them.



Right: Guy and Carroll look over the BC-348 HF Receiver. Left: Checking the BC-348’s tubes.

On March 31, the Dynamotor was cleaned and serviced. The following week, on April 7, power was applied to the Dynamotor and it worked perfectly, converting the 28 volt input to 220 volts plus. After making sure the output voltage was correct, the Dynamotor was reinstalled in the BC-348. The radio was powered up and it ran for two hours with no problems. On April 7, an R-26 Command Receiver donated by Kevin Bell, KW4B was also checked. Everything checked out good with the R-26, but it needs a Dynamotor; once a Dynamotor is found it will also be in good operating condition.



Right: Close up of the BC-348’s Dynamotor. Left: Checking the Dynamotor.



Left: The BC-348 powered up and running. Right: Checking out the R-26.

April 14 was a banner day for the project: one of the radios is in working condition and operating! After several afternoons of assessing the condition of the BC-348 receiver and doing some minor maintenance, one tube was replaced and the IF stages were aligned. This 65 year old radio needed minimal realignment and it was promptly taken outside for testing; the museum is a metal structure so the test was better conducted outdoors. Using a 200ft spool of wire as a longwire antenna, the receiver picked up several shortwave stations including Radio Havana on 6.100 MHz. Some CW and SSB was also received on one of the ham bands.



Left: Aligning the BC-348. Right: The 65 year old BC-348 in use.

CARS Participates in the Georgia QSO Party

Over the weekend of April 10-11, members of the Coastal Amateur Radio Society operated the CARS club station at Southside Fire Station 1 for the Georgia QSO Party. Operating on 40 and 20 Meters, the club station made a total of 235 contacts cumulating in a total score of 12,012 points. During the weekend, members also set up personal stations at the fire station to work the contest. 40 Meter and 80 Meter dipoles were raised on Saturday morning and the station's 10-15-20 Meter yagi was put in service. After raising the antennas, there was lunch from Firehouse Subs before getting things on the air. While waiting for the contest to start and while other operators were working the station during the contest, a group was measuring out and assembling Will, KJ4PSU's new multi-band fan dipole.



Left: Kevin, KW4B and Steve, K4SDJ plan placement of the dipoles. Right: Philip, KA4KOE's truck mounted military vertical



Left: Kevin, KW4B on the air. Right: Will, KJ4PSU on the air.

CARS Special Event Station for Armed Forces Day

CARS will help recognize Armed Forces Day by operating a special event station at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler on May 15, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The event is in conjunction with the museum's B-17 "City of Savannah" restoration project. The station will be set up underneath one of the B-17's wings and will feature the operating BC-348 receiver as well as displays about the bomber's radio operator position. We will be using the callsign W2W and QSL cards will be issued for the event with the museum. More information will be forthcoming at the May club meeting and on the Sunday night nets.

This will be a great chance to come out and have fun with Amateur Radio while honoring our Armed Forces. It is also a great opportunity for us to promote Amateur Radio to the public and deepen our relationship with the museum by helping promote it and the B-17 restoration project. Often times, we promote Amateur Radio as an emergency communications tool; help us come out and show another side of our hobby as we promote Amateur Radio as a fun, enjoyable hobby.

Savannah Area Hams Support the 100th Anniversary Scout Expo at Fort Stewart

On March 20, Savannah area Hams organized by Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE supported the 100th Anniversary Scout Expo at Fort Stewart's Taro DZ. The Scout Expo was heavily attended and the weather was wonderful. Several HF stations and a 2 Meter station were set up and the hams in attendance assisted Scouts with earning their radio merit badges using the special event callsign W4S for "We're for Scouting."



Boy Scouts Jamborama Special Event

Saturday, May 1 is the third of four Scouting Special Events honoring the 100 Years of Scouting that Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE is organizing with the Boy Scouts in the Coastal Empire area. This event will be held at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds in Statesboro, located on Georgia Highway 67. It will be an all day event, with setup taking place on Friday afternoon/evening and radio operations beginning as early as possible on Saturday morning. Hams will be working with the scouts on radio merit badge requirements as well as Cub Scout pins and belt loops. Guy McDonald, K4GTM is also bringing a Georgia Baptist Emergency Amateur Radio trailer to be operated and displayed.

Nets

Coastal Amateur Radio Society Net – Sundays at 9:00 PM, 147.330- (CTCSS 203.5)

Georgia State ARES Net – Sundays at 5:00 PM, 3.975 LSB

Statesboro Amateur Radio Society Net – Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, 147.105+

Chatham ARES Net - Thursdays at 8:00 PM, 146.970-

Simplex Net – Thursdays at 8:45 PM, 146.550

Amateur Radio Club of Savannah Net – Thursdays at 9:00 PM, 146.970-

May NCS Schedule

May 2 - Guy McDonald, K4GTM

May 9 - Kevin Bell, KW4B

May 16 - Peter Levesque, KJ4FAW

May 23 -Bob Harman, W4WTO

May 30 - Russ Pierce, K4YGD

Repeaters

146.700- (CTCSS 100)	Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah
147.210+ (CTCSS 100)	Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah
147.330+ (CTCSS 203.5)	Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah
442.700+	Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Savannah

Important Repeater Announcement:

The 147.210 repeater is off the air until further notice due to interference issues. Please use the 146.700, 147.330 and 442.700 repeaters while it is off the air.

146.970-	Amateur Radio Club of Savannah, Savannah
146.880 -	Amateur Radio Club of Savannah, Savannah
146.850-	American Red Cross, Savannah
146.745- (CTCSS 97.4)	Effingham County ARES, Springfield
147.105+	Statesboro Amateur Radio Society, Pembroke
145.300- DSTAR	Statesboro Amateur Radio Society, Pembroke – KJ4GGV C
440.700+ DSTAR	Statesboro Amateur Radio Society, Pembroke – KJ4GGV B

ARES Notes

Guy McDonald, K4GTM, Chatham County ARES Emergency Coordinator



Thanks to everyone in Chatham and surrounding counties for your continued participation in the ARES program. Here is a summary of some of our recent activities and a look at some upcoming events.

We performed our monthly communications test of the K3SRC Savannah Red Cross station as well as the satellite internet and voice over IP system on April 14th. If anyone is interested in learning to deploy, test and operate the VSAT system at the Red Cross station let me know because we could use some additional operators for the monthly testing.

On April 15th Steve-K4SDJ and Guy-K4GTM met with representatives from CEMA, City of Savannah, Chatham County, GEMA, and other agencies to discuss the county's ESF-2 (Emergency Support Function – Communications) plan.

On April 15th several local area HAMs attended the Basic and Advanced Weather Spotter Training provided by the NWS, Charleston at the CEMA Annex. The NWS recognizes the benefit of having amateur radio operators as trained weather spotters.

ARES members and weather spotters from several counties in Coastal Georgia participated in the Skywarn Communications Test on April 17th along with the National Weather Service in Charleston. This was a South Carolina, SE North Carolina, and Coastal Georgia exercise. NWS Charleston is responsible for 12 of our Georgia Counties here along the coast. Bobby-W4KSD kicked off the net from the NWS Charleston station WX4CHS. Several of us were able to check into the SC linked repeater system. I kicked off a net on the Chatham County ARES frequency of 146.970 to pick up stations in Chatham, Effingham, Bryan, and Liberty counties. Dan-KF4MND ran a net on the 147.105 to pull in stations in Long and Bulloch counties. David-KC4MKD called for check ins on the Georgia ARES HF frequency of 3.975. We had a total of about 20 check ins and I relayed them all into Bobby at WX4CHS. It was a successful exercise in preparation for tornado and hurricane season.

On April 19th Steve-K4SDJ and Guy-K4GTM met with Assistant Director of CEMA, Dennis Jones and his staff to make recommendations for some improvements to the two HAMs stations that we support and operate at the downtown EOC and the Chatham Parkway EOC. Some of the recommendations include installing new multiband antennas, new tuners, and new Dual Band 2meter/70cm radios. We're also exploring the possibility of setting up Winlink Stations at each location.

In May we will be setting up and testing the station at Memorial Medical Center in preparation for the hospital's upcoming annual hurricane exercise. This is a great opportunity for those who've not yet had the chance to operate this station to become familiar with it. Dates and times are still to be determined, stay tuned to the weekly ARES nets for more information.

We expect the HF radios for St. Joseph's and Candler to arrive any day now. Kevin-KW4B will be heading up the effort to get these stations installed, tested, and operational. Hopefully they will be ready for the upcoming hurricane exercise.

On May 25th, we will be activating the Memorial Medical Center amateur radio station in support of the hospital's annual hurricane exercise. We expect that we will be asked to have the station up and running about 9:00am. We'll be asked to communicate with other Regional Coordinating Hospitals in the state. I'll pass on more details as they are available.

Plans for the annual statewide ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in October are already in the works. The framework for an emergency scenario has already been established. More to follow as we move through the summer.

Weekly Chatham County ARES Net is held at 8:00pm each Thursday evening on the 146.970 repeater. Remember to check in on emergency power the first net of the month. That'll be May 6th.

Weekly Savannah Area Simplex Net follows the ARES Net each Thursday evening on 146.550 simplex. This net gives us some great practice in working a net without the benefit of our local repeater system.

Check in to the Georgia statewide ARES Net every Sunday at 5:00pm on 3.975.

Check in to the Lowcountry Skywarn Net every other Tues night at 9:00pm on the 146.715 repeater. This net is sponsored by the National Weather Service in Charleston.

Stay up to speed with what's going on in the Georgia Section ARES at www.gaares.org.

Although our name says that we are "Amateurs", it's real reference is to the fact that we are not paid for our efforts. It need not imply that our efforts or demeanor will be anything less than professional. "Professionalism" means getting the job done efficiently, with a minimum of fuss. ...from the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course.

Operating Opportunities

Contests

7th Area QSO Party, May 1, 1300Z – May 2, 0700Z, 160-2 Meters, State and County code

Indiana QSO Party, May 1, 1600Z – May 2, 0400Z, 160-10 Meters, RST and State

New England QSO Party, May 1, 2000Z – May 2, 2400Z, 80-10 Meters, RST and State

Nevada QSO Party, May 8, 1700Z – May 9, 1700Z, 160-6 Meters, RST and State

50 MHz Spring Sprint, May 8, 2300Z – May 9, 0300Z, 6 Meters, Grid Square (6-character preferred)

The ARRL website keeps updated information on Contests and Special Event Stations. You can check the League's website throughout the month to keep up to date with operating activities:

Contests

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

Special Events

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

Another source of contest information is *CQ Magazine*: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

Special Events

05/01/2010 | Potawatomi Area Council BSA 100th Anniversary of Scouting **May 1, 1300Z-2200Z**, . Waukesha County ARES, W9AUK. 14.265 14.255 14.250 14.240. QSL.

05/08/2010 | Spirit of St Louis -- Charles Lindbergh Flight **May 8-May 16, 0000Z-0000Z**, . St Louis and Suburban Radio Club, W0L. 14.290 14.034 7.290 7.034. QSL.

05/11/2010 | Astronomical Event. www.texasstarparty.org **May 11-May 15, 1800Z-2359Z**, . Texas Star Party Amateur Radio Club, W5TSP. 18.150 14.250 14.230 7.250. QSL.

05/14/2010 | Dayton Hamvention Event Station **May 14-May 16, 1200Z-1200Z**, . Eagles Landing Radio Club, N8D. 14.250 14.100 7.250 7.100. QSL.

05/15/2010 | The 403rd Anniversary of the Founding of Jamestown, Virginia **May 15, 1300Z-2000Z**, . Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club, K4RC. 14.260 7.260. Certificate.

05/15/2010 | Wounded Warriors by the Coast Guard and CG Auxiliary **May 15, 1600Z-2100Z**, . Coast Guard Auxiliary 014-05, W2K. 14.250 7.150. QSL.

05/15/2010 | 2010 Indianapolis 500 **May 15-May 31, 0000Z-0000Z**, . Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. . Certificate and QSL available.

05/21/2010 | 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America **May 21-May 23, 0001Z-2359Z**, . Shenandoah Area Council - BSA, K4B. 14.290 7.190 JOTA Freqs. QSL.

05/23/2010 | Coastal Defenses Day **May 23, 1600Z-2000Z**, . Roseland Amateur Radio Club, K2A. 14.270 7.270. QSL.

05/31/2010 | Memorial Day **May 31, 1400Z-2145Z**, . Baton Rouge and USS Kidd Amateur Radio Clubs, W5KID. Gen bands CW in QRP bands. QSL. . Primary frequency is 20 meters.

MARS/Amateur Radio Crossband Test

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 15, 2010, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted 08 May 2010 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (14-16 May 2010), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Included in this month's email is the full document on the Crossband test with frequency and QSL information.

Red Gate Benefit Fund Raiser for SSG Jason Letterman

Red Gate Farms and Red Gate Events is hosting a fund raiser to help build a home for wounded Army SSG Jason Letterman, who lost both of his legs and suffered traumatic brain injuries along with a fractured shoulder and pelvis from IED explosion in May 2008. In addition to the Family Day and Music Festival, there will also be an amateur radio special event station using the callsign W4W (Wounded Warrior). The Fund Raiser will be held on May 8 from 12 PM to 7 PM at Red Gate Farms: 105 Red Gate Farms Trail, Savannah, GA 31405 (near the corner of Chatham Parkway and Veterans Parkway). For more information, visit the website [here](http://redgateevents.wordpress.com/2010/04/14/music-festival-red-gate-farms-8-may-2010/) or contact Guy McDonald, K4GTM.

<http://redgateevents.wordpress.com/2010/04/14/music-festival-red-gate-farms-8-may-2010/>

CARS Calendar – May 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Boy Scouts Jamborama Special Event Station, Kiwanas Fairground in Statesboro, All Day Event
2 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330	3 CARS Meeting 7:00 PM	4	5 B-17 Workday, Mighty 8 th AF Museum, 2 PM	6 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550	7	8 Wounded Warrior Special Event 12 PM – 7 PM
9 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330	10	11	12 B-17 Workday, Mighty 8 th AF Museum, 2 PM	13 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550	14	15 Armed Forces Day Special Event, Mighty 8 th Air Force Museum 9 AM – 5 PM
16 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330	17	18	19 B-17 Workday, Mighty 8 th AF Museum, 2 PM	20 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550	21	22
						30
23 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330	24	25	26 B-17 Workday, Mighty 8 th AF Museum, 2 PM	27 ARES Net 8:00 PM 146.970 Simplex Net 8:30 PM 146.550	28	29
31 CARS Net 9:00 PM 147.330						