



Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

May 2002 Issue 1

C.C.A.R.E.S.



Emergency Coordinator:

Steve Hammond K4SAH

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Weekly Net: Monday Nights 8:45pm – 145.370 (- offset and 100hz Tone) KB4IZF Repeater
Third Monday of Month is a Simplex Net on 147.420 Website: <http://www.qsl.net/ccgaares/>

Monthly Meetings: First Saturday of each month 10:00AM - Locations Announced on NET

WELCOME

to the first issue of the Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CCARES) Newsletter! This Newsletter is provided to enhance the services of CCARES to Cherokee County, utilizing Amateur Radio, and it's membership.

What is CCARES?

Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a membership of licensed Amateur Radio operators, who operate on behalf of, and in conjunction with, Cherokee County Fire-EMA, by providing Emergency Communications in times of disaster, and provide information to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of Cherokee County, GA.

Cherokee County ARES provide emergency communications per the Standard Operating Procedure 2002 – Emergency Communications, of the Cherokee County Fire-EMA, rev. April 2002.

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) recognizes the capability of Amateur Radio by stating it's "recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications". The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsors ARES, which provides emergency communications in times of need. ARES organizes/coordinates such responses.

Cherokee County ARES is dedicated to providing the highest degree of professionalism, utilizing Amateur Radio for Emergency Communications in times of disaster for Cherokee County. Our Emergency Service will be complimented by continuing education, training via weekly communication tests (NETS), annual emergency exercises, and table top full scale drills.

Monthly meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at 10:00am, with locations given on the weekly NET. **We invite you to come be a part of our exciting group** and come join us at our next meeting, Saturday, June 1, 2002, 10:00am. Location to be announced on Monday night net.

We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank **Mr. Hugh Pearson, KB4IZF**, for the most gracious use of his repeater, 145.370mhz, located at 3,300 ft. on Mt. Oglethorpe, near Jasper, Ga.

Cherokee County ARES held it's monthly meeting on Saturday, May 4th in Canton, Ga. Seventeen folks were in attendance as our Emergency Coordinator, Steve Hammond, K4SAH, conducted a well informed meeting. Topics included: Emergency Response Plans, Call out procedures, ARES pagers, Weather Nets (what, how, where to report), Mutual Aid Agreements with surrounding counties. A review of the Cherokee County SOP for ARES was conducted. Membership recruitment, support to various customers, ID cards, meetings, and training were also discussed. **Field Day, June 22 and 23** was discussed.



Discussion was held and a unanimous vote resulted in the decision for the Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, to be Incorporated as a 501c, non-profit organization.

Four members met the requirements of "Communicator", for having their communication kits ready, and were inspected. These folks received the Amateur Radio Emergency Service Communicator patch to recognize their function as an effective communicator in emergency situations, equipped with their "ready to go" kits. This enhances the effectiveness of our unit for Cherokee County, not only during weather emergencies, but for any type of disaster in our county.

County News

Cherokee County is privileged to have the best EMA Director in the State of Georgia, Robby Westbrook. Congratulations to Director Westbrook, as he was recently honored by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) as it's Spring Exceptional EMA Director.

Please take the opportunity to read the related news release honoring Director Westbrook at: <http://www.cherokeega-ema.org/info/news.asp?OI=138> .Through Robby's outstanding leadership, Cherokee County has been one of the first counties to be certified as:

We are honored to be a part of such a high standard, professional, and respected group as Cherokee County Fire-EMA.



On Wednesday, May 1st, 2002, at 4:30am, Cherokee County EOC was activated at OPCON 3, and the county's severe weather sirens were sounded, due to severe weather. Cherokee County ARES Emergency Coordinator, **Steve Hammond K4SAH**, immediately called an emergency weather net on 145.370mhz. Seventeen (17) Amateur Radio Operators checked in, prepared to respond.

"Hats Off" to those who responded so quickly. At 5:15am, the National Weather Service issued a Tornado Warning for the county. Fortunately, no tornado touchdown occurred in Cherokee County, however, some trees were fallen, hail, lightning and heavy rain was experienced in various parts of the county. A Tornado had touch down in Gordon County, Calhoun, Ga. prior to this warning.

The new **Cherokee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** is nearing completion on Chattin Drive. We are excited to have a designated area in the new EOC for CCARES, and will have new HF, VHF, UHF communications in the center for emergency communications. We look forward to the use of the facilities and equipment, provided by Cherokee County. Stay tuned for the next newsletter and see you on the net and at the next meeting!

Jim Millsap
N4ZFU

Articles for the newsletter
may be submitted via email to:

N4ZFU@bellsouth.net

Leadership Team

Emergency Coordinator: Steve Hammond - K4SAH

Assistant Emergency Coordinators

Liaison: Steve Cook - KE4WLQ

Operations: Bobby Dranzek - KG4QGK

Early Warning Station: Markus Powell - AF4VS

Early Warning Station: Jodi Powell - AG4BK

Official Emergency Station: Richard Byrd - KA4PRN

Chaplain: Mike Hill - K4JKM

Newsletter: Jim Millsap - N4ZFU