

Minutes-December 18, 2025, General Meeting

By Jim Gifford N8KET, Secretary

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Geoff Kline, KI5VNB

Vice President: Eric Bramini, KC8OPY, Field Day Coordinator

Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Webmaster

Secretary: Jim Gifford N8KET, POTA SIG Coordinator

Junior Director: Don Macon KE8WVJ

Executive Committee Members Absent

Senior Director: Bob French AC8ZU, Tech Night

President Geoff Kline KI5VNB led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made, and we recognized visitors and new and advanced hams. The mic was passed around the room and members and guests introduced themselves.

Membership Report

Jeff Pursel KJ6XC said that 50% of club dues were received before tonight's meeting.

President's Update

Geoff Kline KI5VNB gave a status on the radio room/clubhouse. He thanked everyone for working hard to make it a success.

Treasurer's report –John Westerkamp

John Westerkamp explained where the club stands financially and provided figures. He emailed the following report earlier in the day:

"Dues collected in December almost kept pace with our expenses as we wrap up the Relocation updates. We did have some one-time regular December expenses including our USPS P.O. Box rental, a gift card for Dan Kinney, and

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the usual Spectrum Internet charge. Income from dues was \$462.42 and expenses totaled \$635.73.

Our balance as of the December Membership meeting is \$8553.15. We continue to be very well off financially despite over \$8000 in relocation expenses. Thank you to all the BARC members who generously donated to offset over \$4000 of that expense!"

Thanks!

John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Treasurer

Fund	30-Nov-25	Income	Expenses	31-Dec-25
General	\$6,458.04	\$462.42	\$635.73	\$6,284.73
Comm center	\$1,007.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,007.43
Refreshments	\$941.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$941.46
Repeater	\$319.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.53
All Liquid Funds	\$8,726.46	\$462.42	\$635.73	\$8,553.15
6 Month CD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ALL FUNDS	\$8,726.46	\$462.42	\$635.73	\$8,553.15

Ray Hitt N8VMX moved we accept; Jim Totten WA8HUB seconded; passed.

Nominations Committee

The nominees were introduced to the members.

Motion to permit the vote for the 2026 Officers and Jr. Director by acclamation:

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“Whereas all officer and the Junior Director seats are running unopposed; I, Steve Siwecki KD8NUC, put forth a motion to dispense with written ballots for the Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club 2025 Elections for Calendar Year 2026 Officers and Junior Director, and to hold the election by acclamation.”

Jim Totten came forward and he too so moved we accept; Fred Stockton seconded the motion.

No questions or discussions were brought forward.

All in Favor 35 (Secretary Note: There were 33 members present and two on Zoom)

All Opposed 0

Unanimously passed

Vote by acclamation:

I, Steve Siwecki KD8NUC, puts forth a motion to declare following unopposed Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club officers and Jr. Director candidates for Calendar Year 2026:

- **President: Geoffrey Kline KI5VNB**
- **Vice President: Eric Bramini KC8OPY**
- **Treasurer: Thomas McClory KE8FWZ**
- **Secretary: James Gifford N8KET**
- **Junior Director: Glenn Rodgers WI8O**

as elected by acclamation.

Fred Stockwell KE8ZPN seconded the motion.

No questions or discussions were brought forward.

All in Favor 35 (Secretary Note: There were 33 members present and two on Zoom)

All Opposed 0

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Unanimously passed

Amendment to BARC Constitution

The following changes to Section 2.4.7.5 were proposed to be amended to include new duties for the Junior and Senior Director (as follows in **BF/ital** type):

2.4.7.5 Duties of the Junior and Senior Directors

The junior and senior directors shall:

- Be aware of concerns and opinions of the general membership
- Serve as a voice for the general membership at Executive and Planning Committee meetings
- Additionally, the incoming Senior Director shall serve on the Auditing Committee as described in Para. 3.2
- ***The Junior Director will serve as the Clubhouse Safety Director to ensure that all club activities, projects, and equipment installations in the radio room and associated area are conducted safely and in compliance with known requirements.***
- ***The Senior Director will assume the role of Clubhouse Safety Director in the absence of the Junior Director.***
- ***The Junior Director will communicate any safety concerns directly to the President.***

Steve Siwecki KD8NUC moved we accept; Jim Lusk seconded.

No questions or discussions were brought forward.

All in Favor 35 (Secretary Note: There were 33 members present and two on Zoom)

All Opposed 0

Adopted

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December meeting minutes

Glenn Rodgers moved we accept; Eric Bramini seconded; passed.

Officers/Coordinators Reports

Eric Bramini announced Winter Field Day at Hills and Dales Park, Twin Oak shelter, 24 January 2026. He described the events basic setup and said we would have hotdogs, chili, corn bread, and snacks.

Jim Gifford N8KET said that on 1 January 2026, we have a POTA event at John Bryan State Park. An email would come out soon with details.

Geoff Kline announced the upcoming North American SSB QSO Party January 17-18, 2026.

Tink Siwecki KD8NUA said the next BARC Movie Night would be in the radio room on January 22, 2026 at 7pm.

Paul Sharp WS8R encouraged members to participate on the BARC Sunday Night Net.

Ray Hitt said he needs submittals to the Full Quieting newsletter.

December Presentation- ARES-John Westerkamp and Bob Baker

- John Westerkamp W8LRJ and Bob Baker N8ADO presented a program on Greene County ARES (GCARES), a group of amateur radio

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operators dedicated to being prepared to provide emergency communications should the need arise.

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GREENE
COUNTY ARES

BARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

John Westerkamp/W8LRJ
w8lrj@arrl.net
December 18, 2025

JOHN WESTERKAMP, W8LRJ

- Always interested in radio and have always been a SWL
- Extra Class Operator and BARC Member since April 2018
- Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from University of Dayton
- Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University
- Specialized in Digital Signal Processing/Communications
- Electrical Engineering Faculty at U.D. for 17 years
- Computers and Networking for 10 years
- Retired and enjoying a great hobby
- 18J stands for Lori, Rachel, and Jacob (wife and two kids)
- Nephew is Jordan Westerkamp, football player University of Nebraska



OVERVIEW (TL;DR)

- Greene County ARES (GCARES) is a group of amateur radio operators dedicated to being prepared to provide emergency communications should the need arise
- GCARES is organized by clubs (cities) which are relatively independent of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
- In Beavercreek, we formed the BTFD AuxComm with full support (including equipment in all five firestations) of the BTFD (Beavercreek Township Fire Department)
- Beavercreek uses the Beavercreek Amateur Radio Club (BARC)
- Fairborn uses the Upper Valley Amateur Radio Club (UVARC)
- Xenia uses the Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Net (XWARN)
- GCARES Nets every Tuesday at 8 pm on 146.810 (no tone)
- GCARES meetings at 7 pm last Monday of each month at BTFD #61
- October Simulated Emergency Test (among other exercises)



WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If you have a personal emergency or life is at stake, call 911 immediately.

If you receive a HyperReach alert, a severe weather warning, or other information about a potential disaster, please monitor the XWARN repeater 147.1650 (+) (123.0 Hz tone). It is our official Greene County ARES alerting frequency.

If an emergency net is active, listen to the net control station (NCS) for instructions. If the NCS calls for check-ins, do so. If not, monitor until NCS calls for reports or other info. If you have the information requested, then call NCS; otherwise, continue to monitor.





OHIO SECTION ARES

- Organized into 10 Districts
- Greene County is in District 3
- District 3 Emergency Coordinator is Elizabeth Kinc, KE8FMJ
- District 3 website: oho3ares.org
- D3 website has lots of information, especially about Public Service Events and software tutorials (Winlink and Fldigi)



CLUB/GCARES CONTACTS

- BTFD AuxComm – Henry Ruminski, WBHJR, beavercreekfire.org/192/Volunteer
- BARC – Ray Hilt, N1VMX, and Jim Lusk, K0BEFD, bellbrookarc.org
- UVARC – Open
- XWARN – Elizabeth Kinc, KE8FMJ, xwarn.net
- GCARES – Bob Baker, NBAD0 (Emergency Coordinator), gcares.net
- District 3 ARES – Elizabeth Kinc, KE8FMJ (District Emergency Coordinator), oho3ares.org
- Ohio ARES – Bret Stemen, KD8SCL (Section Emergency Coordinator), arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares



Each club supports amateur radio equipment at the Greene County Emergency Management Agency and several public service and first responder agencies throughout the county.



HOW TO JOIN GCARES

- GCARES is not a club and does not collect dues
- Only requirement is to have a valid Amateur Radio License
- Go to gcares.net, fill out a Membership Form, and bring to a meeting
- Level 1 – starting level for all members, no requirements (other than license)
- Level 2 – desired level for all members
- a) FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) Courses (IS-100, 200, 700, and 800)
- b) Required to operate with FEMA or First Responders during an emergency
- Level 3 – ARES Management Level (Level 2 plus IS-300 and IS-400) required for holding an Emergency Coordinator role
- Helpful to participate in local nets and exercises to better understand net protocols and to be more comfortable during an emergency







- AuxComm Course
 - Outstanding course showing how auxiliary communicators work within the Incident Command Structure (ICS)
 - Held Tuesday through Thursday the week before Hamvention
 - Requires Level 2 training and a sponsoring public service agency
 - Contact Bob Baker, NBAD0, for registration information
- AuxC (Auxiliary Communicator)
 - Several month long course with regular meetings (beginning in the fall)
 - Detailed instruction and practical training for official recognition by the State of Ohio as an Auxiliary Communicator
 - Requires completion of the AuxComm Course
 - Contact Bob Baker, NBAD0, for course and registration information



SKYWARN

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning cause hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

- Dayton Skywarn – dayton-skywarn.org, 146.640 (+) 123.0 Hz tone
- National Weather Service – weather.gov/skywarn
- Monitor these sites and the GCARES website for information on Storm Spotter Classes, usually in the early spring
- XWARN 147.165 (+) 123.0 Hz tone





WHAT IS BEAVERCREEK AUXCOMM?

- Beavercreek AuxComm provides backup communications and technical support for the Beavercreek Township Fire Department (BTFD) and supports amateur radio emergency operations in Beavercreek Township
- Part of the Beavercreek Township Fire Department Auxiliary (which is part of the BTFD Fire Department)
- BTFD Auxiliary is an all volunteer organization that assists with On-Scene, CERT, Victim Assistance, Social Activities, and Auxiliary Communications
- BTFD AuxComm also represents the Beavercreek Township portion of Greene County ARES
- Monthly Net from all 5 firestations and 2 vans to test equipment
- Beavercreek AuxComm is currently run by Henry Ruminski, WBHJR



BTFD AUXCOMM REQUIREMENTS

- Members of the BTFD Auxiliary (background check)
- Resident of Beavercreek Township
- Licensed amateur radio operators
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training (4 FEMA courses: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800), i.e., Level 2
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CSA)/Department of Homeland Security AuxComm Course (taught week before Hamvention)
- AuxComm trains with the Fire Department and with GCARES
- Without the training, cannot be in the EOC or operate the station radios, but can still support emergency operations (volunteers)





BTFD AUXCOMM

Beavercreek Township Fire Department

BTFD Auxiliary

Greene County ARES

Ohio ARES

District 3 ARES

On-Scene

CERT

Victim Assistance

Field

AuxComm



WHERE IS BEAVERCREEK TOWNSHIP FD?



Greene County

2019 Tornado





BTFD AUXILIARY EVENTS

- 2019 Tornado
 - CERT team cleared roads for fire trucks
 - On-Scene set up in parking lot near hardest hit area to distribute water
 - AuxComm organized volunteers
 - AuxComm provided damage assessment support with firefighters
 - GCARES was NOT deployed
- 2022 Search and Rescue
 - Elderly dementia gentleman walked away from home
 - CERT and On-Scene set up in parking lot with SAR teams
 - CERT/AuxComm led volunteer search parties through local neighborhoods
- Several fires around Beavercreek Township





2024 APRIL ECLIPSE

- BTFD Auxiliary stood by to be deployed as needed (one van was deployed to the Greene County Airport)
- AuxComm worked at each Fire Station since crews were out most of the day and were available to help with communications or to assist people looking for help at the fire station
- AuxComm prepared the GCARES Incident Action Plan (IAP) which included the ICS-200 Communication Plan
- GCARES deployed to EMA EOC in Xenia and was prepared to backup 9-1-1 services, if needed, ran information/tactical net most of the day
- The AuxComm IAP was added to the BTFD IAP and published on the GCARES website gcares.net





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BTFD AUXILIARY

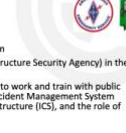
- Unique volunteer organization
- Part of the BTFD (covered by Worker's Compensation)
- Background check required (most Fire Chiefs will not allow people into the station without a background check since 9/11)
- On Scene provides fire scene assistance with firefighter rehabilitation as well as providing food and drinks during long deployments
- Provides scribe support
- Auxiliary is called out when a Working Fire is declared (using the Active 911 app)






WHAT IS AUXCOMM?

- Auxiliary Communications is an umbrella term
- Developed by CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) in the Department of Homeland Security in 2009
- Concept is to educate amateur radio entities to work and train with public safety personnel, understand the National Incident Management System (NIMS), understand the Incident Command Structure (ICS), and the role of the Communications Unit Leader (COML)
- Identified as AUXC in the ICS
- Includes variety of organizations or no organization, e.g., ARES/RACES, MARS, SHARES, SATERN, CAP, OMRPS, Citizens's Band Radio, etc.
- Leave individual organization outside






Ray Hitt moved we close the meeting; Ken Gunton W8ASA seconded; closed at 8:40pm.