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Hello Fellow Barrow County Radio Hams;

My name is Cal and I am K4JSR. About two years ago I made an inquiry to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service as to how I could join. The next thing I knew, I was appointed the Emergency Coordinator for Barrow County. Something that I was not expecting, however I have had previous experience with A.R.E.S as an Assistant EC with Atlanta-Fulton County Civil Defense. That was a few years back!! Okay! Many years back! So here comes my best shot at this organization thing.

Like many of you I have been a bit inactive since moving to Barrow County twelve years ago. I was somewhat convinced that there were less than twenty-five hams in Barrow because I could find no activity on the air—HF or VHF. There are no repeaters or ham clubs in the County. So this is the crux of my letter to all of you.

I joined an organization called Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, with the idea of perhaps providing some communications skills to the organization. In the training class I was in I met Julian, KI4HVQ. Julian is also active with the Baptist Church Disaster Relief Group. Julian advised me that there were more than five hams in Barrow and that I should research the ham census. I did and was pleasantly surprised! There are over one hundred twenty hams in Barrow. More than enough to support the CERT effort, ARES and even start a club that could provide fellowship, technical discussions, ham classes, possibly a VHF repeater, as well as all of the other things clubs do to make our hobby more enjoyable.

Now for the real reason I sent this epistle to each of you:

I would like all of you to come to a meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Barrow County Leisure Services Building, rooms 125-126. The address is 175 Second St. in Winder. The topics of CERT, ARES and a possible Barrow County ham radio club will be discussed and future meetings, if warranted, will be planned from there. Please realize that not everyone is expected to participate in all three areas of interest, but an interest in any one of them should be sufficient enticement to attend.

If anyone wishes to contact me for more information, please free to call me at 770-307-4699 or email me at [cneff1@windstream.net](mailto:cneff1@windstream.net) . Especially let me know if you are interested but cannot come to this meeting.

I believe that this can and will be a fun way to give something back to our community. There will be more than enough to do for youngsters as well as for those of who were young once! I hope to see you at the meeting.

73, Cal Neff K4JSR