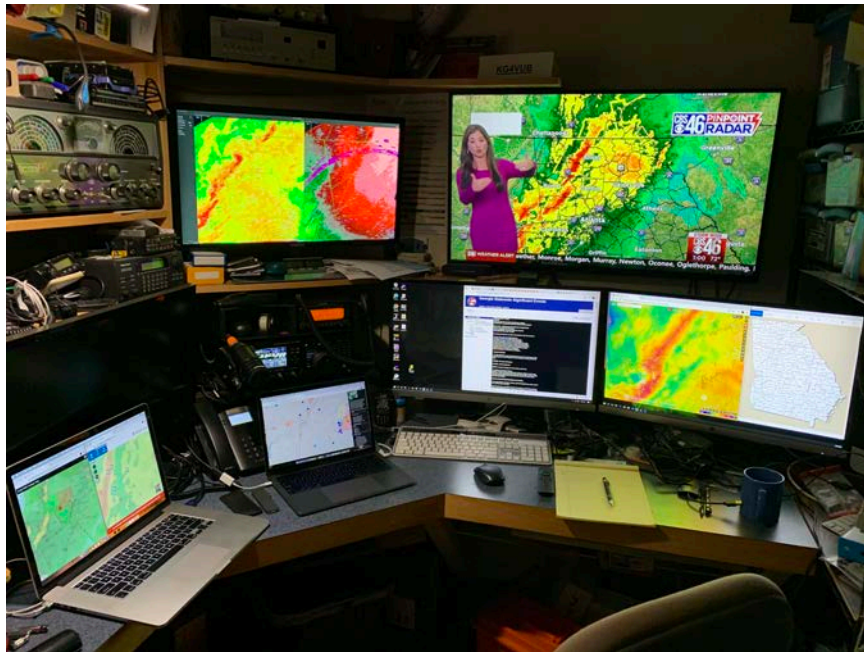


## April 12-13 2020 Tornado Outbreak AuxComm Report Tom Olley - KG4VUB

Around 21:50 I was contacted by GEMA/DHS Deputy SWIC Edwin Whitworth and asked if I would monitor WX4GMA Winlink account to listen for reports related to the wave of storms. Not having the new password, I contacted James Rakestraw, KI4NIV to see if he had the password. He did not but said he could monitor the account.

Edwin then asked me if I could conference with him via VoIP line and monitor WX4PTC Weather Net on 146.805 repeater since he couldn't receive at his current location, in order to relay to him any severe reports that came in. Marshall Aiken assisted Edwin at his location by monitoring websites and local public safety agencies.

I then proceeded to setup shop:



WX4PTC was operated by Robert Burton, KD4YDC on the Southeast Linked Repeater Net. As he took reports, Edwin was able to hear first hand via speakerphone on our call. I notified Robert that we were monitoring as WX4GMA should there be any need to pass traffic into the State Warning Point.

We were also monitoring other repeaters including Public Safety and GEMA Web EOC.

NWSChat was apparently having some issues and not initially usable for reporting.

One of the first reports of damage came in by Rial Sloan, AI4ZV, indicating damage just west of Eaton GA. The address of Fashion Cir and Ridgeview Ln, near GA 225N and GA 286, became important later on in the morning.

Also reporting to WX4PTC was Randy Powell, KC4AQS. There were reports in his area near Rome and Cave Springs of rotation around 00:24.

As the night went on, there were continued reports of damage and power outages across NW Georgia into Fannin County which included fires started by lightning.

Around 1:00 AM there was a dispatch for Bartow Fire monitored of a 36" oak tree falling into a house on Fite St. in Cartersville. I reported this to WX4PTC. Unfortunately it was later reported that this resulted in a fatality of the resident.



As the early morning went on there were continued reports of power outages recorded in Web EOC along with more reports of trees down, homes damaged and water rescues.

Getting into around the 3 to 4:00 hour, Edwin received a call from Talbot Co EMA of Verizon Cellphone outage of the Warm Springs Manchester site affecting communications for the Fire and EMS in that area.

A lookup on a Downdetector site showed no issues in that area. Edwin notified his Verizon contact and it was later determined that the issue was due to a Windstream damaged fiber connection. Two STEERS were deployed on Monday, one to Thomaston and one to Yatesville.

Edwin had also been in continuous contact with his NW Area Field Coordinator who advised him of a Cell Tower collapse in Murray County.

Based on the address she had given on GA 225N, a lookup on antennasearch.com showed the closest cell tower to be right across the street from the Ridgeview Ln report mentioned above. This information was also provided to Edwin's Verizon contact to assist him with determining site ownership.

Registered Tower Detail - Tower (1)

For development purposes only

For development purposes only

Google

Map data ©2020 Imagery ©2020 TerraMetrics Terms of Use Report a map error

- Ownership Info**

Rep	Company: Celco Partnership Contact: Regulatory Manager Phone: (770)797-1070 Email: <a href="mailto:Network.Regulatory@celco.com">Network.Regulatory@celco.com</a>	Attn: Network Regulatory Address: 5055 North Point Pkwy Alpharetta, GA, 30022
Owner	Company: Celco Partnership Contact: Not Recorded Phone: (770)797-1070 Email: <a href="mailto:Network.Regulatory@celco.com">Network.Regulatory@celco.com</a>	Attn: Network Regulatory Address: 5055 North Point Pkwy Alpharetta, GA, 30022
- Tower Characteristics**

Registration #	1312639	Ground Elev	800.6 feet
Latitude	34.8524	Height Of Structure	250.0 feet
Longitude	-84.8125	Overall Height	1065.3 feet
Structure Type	NA	Structure Address	Ridgeview Lane - 15177921 Chatsworth, GA
Status	Granted		
Date Constructed	NA		
- History**

Purpose	Status	Date	Adnd Info
Amendment	Granted	11/05/2019	

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This tower in Murray County was new and not yet placed into service.





A SATCOLT was later deployed to Fire Station 3 in Murray County on Monday.



Other reports into WX4PTC included that of a house in the roadway in Upton County. We weren't sure we heard that correctly but later found out it was in fact true. It was not known if Dorothy was home at the time.



We stood down approx 5:00 am Monday 4/13/2020

**Tools and websites used during this monitoring/reporting event:**

- gaauxcomm VoIP phone system
- VHF RF to various repeaters:
  - 146.805 KC4AQS repeater in Jasper GA, linked to the SE Linked Repeater System
  - 145.270 KG4VUB repeater in Waleska, GA
  - 443.075 WA4EOC repeater in Waleska, GA
  - 146.940 W4VO repeater in Rome, GA
  - 146.700 K4UFO repeater in Jasper, GA
- Google maps website to confirm address and street locations
- Bing maps website to cross reference address and street locations
- RadarScope Application on OSX
- windy.com website for radar
- GEMA SOC Statewide WebEOC
- Various Public Safety frequencies
- antennasearch.com
- downdetector.com

- HF was not used
- D-Star was not used