



## BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

Dedicated to serving the communities in and surrounding Butts County, working hand-in-hand with local and state governments, the Red Cross, and other non-profit community-service organizations.

# THE REPEATER

MARCH 2016



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## STATE SERA DIRECTOR TO ADDRESS CLUB

On March 7 at our monthly meeting, the Butts County Amateur Radio Club (Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary) will host State SERA Director, Dr. Ron Johnson (WB4GWA).

Ron is a Georgia native, raised and currently living in Pike County. His "day job" has taken many turns but all have been Christian ministry-related. Ron has served a denominational executive for the Georgia Baptist Convention in Atlanta, a professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY and professor at Mercer University's theological school in Atlanta.

Ron is now retired and devoting most of his time to SERA.

He was first licensed in 1967 as a Novice, learning code on an old paper tape Instructograph. He received his General class before his Novice expired, then went on to college and grad school. After graduation Ron lived in Nashville, Tennessee where he took the Advanced class.

After moving back to Georgia in 1979, Ron got even more active and then took his Extra (in the days when 20 wpm was required).

Ron's main interest is homebrewing and vintage AM. He is the callsign trustee of W4AMI which is the Concord Amateur Radio Society. He also

maintains the club repeaters on 145.250, 145.390, 224.460 and 443.400.

Dr. Johnson serves as the Georgia Frequency Coordinator for SERA, the SouthEastern Repeater Association, as well as the organization's Secretary.

SERA is the volunteer organization that coordinates repeater frequencies. This is a tedious but necessary

process ensuring that no two closely-spaced repeaters operate on the same frequency pairs. As per FCC rules and regs, an uncoordinated repeater may not interfere with a coordinated repeater.

SERA is the largest repeater coordinator in the United States serving the states of Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Ron is married to Janice and they have three grown children.



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### SAVE THE DATES

**Sundays @ 4:30 PM**  
Weekly Butts County  
FM Training Net

**March 7**  
Monthly BCECA  
Meeting, FS #7  
7:00 PM

**March 19**  
Hungry Hams, Lunch  
Box, 7:30 AM  
V.E. Session, Butts Co  
Rec Center, 9:00 AM



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



### MARCH

- March 3,10,17** — General Class, FS #7, 6:30 PM  
**March 7** — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, 5:30  
 Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7  
**March 15**— Newton County Club Meeting.  
 NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM.  
**March 19** — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM  
 V.E. Session, Butts County Rec Department, 9:00 AM  
**March 26** — Bluebird & Bluegrass Festival  
 Dauset Trails, Jackson

### April

- April 4** — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, 5:30  
 Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7  
**March 15**— Newton County Club Meeting.  
 NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM.  
**April 16** — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM  
 Tech Saturday: Digital Practice (*Fldigi & RMS Express*)



SPRING  
FORWARD

**Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 13**  
**Remember that our local NET time will also change**  
**from 4:30 PM EST to 5:30 PM DST**



## FROM THE BACKCRE — BUZZ (K3GWK) Butts County Emergency Coordinator

Several members have informed me that they have taken and passed the "Georgia ARES Basic Communications Course" exam but have received no confirmation. If you take the on-line ARES Basic course, found on the Georgia ARES website (<https://gaares.org/>), you should get a confirmation email almost immediately. Please forward that confirmation email to me at [K3GWK@ARRL.NET](mailto:K3GWK@ARRL.NET) so that your training record can be updated. Make sure when you register to take the on-line test that you enter the correct, county related data (see below).

The study material is available at:

[http://www.gwinnettares.org/training/gwinnett\\_ares\\_basic\\_training.pdf](http://www.gwinnettares.org/training/gwinnett_ares_basic_training.pdf) This course is one of the requirements for Butts County ARES membership. It provides good background information into general ARES operations.

February was a busy month. We had a good showing at the state meeting in Forsyth. Fifteen Butts County members attended the event. As always, the presentation by the National Weather Service stole the show but the after lunch presentation by Georgia Power was pretty interesting also. There was a lot of demo activity and several break-out sessions during lunch. Thanks again to all who gave up part of their Saturday to attend.

The Tech Saturday session was cut a little short due to weather and illness. Thanks to the seven brave members who attended (KK4QJR, KM4DHS, KM4HOS, KM4MHW, KW4AQ, NV4RB and W4DED).

David, KK4SUO, is recovering from neck surgery. He has something new to do during his convalescence; his HF antenna is up and working great thanks to AJ4GU, KM4HOS and K3GWK. Better than watching soaps.

There were a total of 8 training activities (166 hours) in February. Included in that is the monthly Hospital Net and Sylvan Grove station activation. Thanks to KK4BKF, KK4GNO, KM4DHS, WX4ED and KM4HOS for testing the station and checking in to the net.

Our General Class will finish up on March 17. There are currently five students in the class (KM4NRP, KM4KZP, KM4QML, KM4MHW and KG4GHM). General Jeppardee anyone?

Our current membership stands at 23 Active, 5 Pending and 5 Inactive. Our Sunday net activity has been high and our Net Manager, Ken, KM4HOS is

doing a great job supplying an MT63, ICS style training message following the voice net. We are seeing more activity on Winlink2000 and also on other area digital nets. Remember to check in to the SE Weather Net on Sunday night at 9 PM using DRATS and the South Metro FM Digital Net on Wednesday at 8 PM (WA4ASI). Report your digital activity to Ken every week.

Our March training session will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ron Johnson, KB4GWA, will be our

special guest. Dr. Johnson is the Georgia Director for the Southeastern Repeater Association. In April, Jessica McFadden, American Red Cross, will be our presenter. Remember, before our meeting Monday there is usually a group get-together for dinner at The Mesquite Grill in Jackson at 5:30 PM.

The next VE Session is scheduled for March 19 at the Biles Recreation Center on Ernest Biles Drive. Registration begins at 8:45 AM; no pre-registration is required. A Hungry Hams breakfast will precede the VE Session, 07:30 AM at The Lunchbox.

Thanks again for all you do...

73, Buzz (K3GWK)

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Your Name	<input type="text"/>	Callsign	<input type="text"/>
Your Email Address	<input type="text"/>		
ARES County Affiliation	<input type="text" value="Butts"/>		
Your Emergency Coordinator's Name	<input type="text" value="Buzz Kutcher"/>	Callsign	<input type="text" value="K3GWK"/>
Emergency Coordinator's Email Address	<input type="text" value="k3gwk@arrl.net"/>		





## NET MANAGER — KEN (KM4HOS)

**'What I did on my Summer... uh, no, Winter Vacation' or 'How to get yer Butts Co CERT ticket in 7 mos...'**

It all started out last summer at our Butts Co ECA mtgs with Dave Ridgeway, KK4SUO, hammerin' me 'bout goin' to the next CERT class. Wutz CERT, I asked?? Well, besides bein' the Community Emerg Response Team, it's kinda why this WAAYYY COOL Am Radio club of ours got started in the first place, whodda thunk?? Yeah, the BCECA started out almost 6 yrs ago, as Buzz Kutcher & Terry Atha's idea of train'g up & maintain'g a viable comm's section of our BC CERT effort. Anyway, got tired of Dave raggin' me so I signed up, after all, he wuz a CERT guy, really into it, besides, he always sells Anna & me some really cool Christmas trees.

Sooo.... on Aug 10, '15 Greg, KM4HOY; Dennis, KM4MHW; Brent, KA3ZPM; Tony, KM4DHZ; me, and a dozen or so others show'd up at the trusty Firehouse #7 where our Instr's, Chief Glenn Goens and Deputy EMA Director, Stacey Elmore began teachin' us 'why you need to be more careful 'bout what you VOLUNTEER for!!', jez kiddin'. Between Glenn, and his MacGyver lessons/scenarios, and Stacey's 'pop' quizzes, what we **really** got, wuz a crash course on what/why/how DISASTERS (or 'bigger than usual' incidents) happen, what NEEDS to happen afterward, WHEN it needs to be done, and BY WHO... spell that - 'there ain't no disaster rescue/clean-up fairy'.

As well trained as our BC Fire, Sheriff, and EMA folks are, they could be overwhelmed, especially immediately following an event and until other counties, state, or Fed 'calvary' arrive to lend a hand. We also learned that herds of well-meaning, but untrained folks, bustin' their 'chops' with uncoordinated efforts can waste precious TIME, resources, and could possibly become casualties themselves. (ugly situation gets uglier)

Probably the most important thing I learned, is that 'stuff' don't just happen to folks who made the 6 o'clock news, and why us regular 'John Q. Public' types need to pay more attention, develop a sense of 'situational awareness', and seriously look at how UNPREPARED most of us really are... and for things that could happen right here in little ol' Butts Co on ANY given day. (spell that - 'Barnesville tornado', a few yrs ago, or 'Snowmeggedon' in '14)

We got educated and recertified in CPR (that stuff seems to chg everytime I recertify) good to know the latest & greatest. Plus got basic 'field medicine', stopping bleeding, splinting, back/neck injuries, burns, etc. Think Greg coulda slept thru that class, bein' a Navy

Corpsman, but he was a big help w/ the 'practicals' we did after the lessons. Good stuff to know, and NOT just in disasters, but fer everyday livin' around the house/work.

Then I really screw'd up and invited Anna to da class.... what a novel idea, w/ her bein' a ret'd O.R. nurse, I thought we could be a team... I could dig folks out of somethin' and she could patch 'em up, uh huh, right. Bad idea... my ribs are still achin' fm Anna jabbin' me 'n sayin' she wuz right, I wuz WRONG, 'I told ya so', ugghhh... Funny, she didn't do dat in High School. I told Stacey she needed to take Anna w/ her to a TRIAGE site and lemme go play sumwhere else, but Nooo.... she sed 'we'd be fun to watch', good guhreef. Tony had a great time w/ Glenn's MacGyver scenarios too, and Dad, Brent, couldn't stop rollin' his eyes, hilarious. He also enjoy'd ribbin' me too, wutz wit dat?? Just cuz I wuz da class dunce don't mean nuthin'...



Buzz, K3GWK, our Butts Co EC, taught the 'Emerg Comms' lesson, and took Glenn's MacGyver lessons to the next level... 'Survivor Man'; yeah, he wuz a Boy Scout alright. Also great brief on home radios, for Emerg Alert Syst (like on TV), weather alert radios, Family Radio Network, etc. Demos on Battery pwr'd Emerg Comms gear that everybody, not just HAMS should have AND USE at home. Also was a really good tie-in (usability)

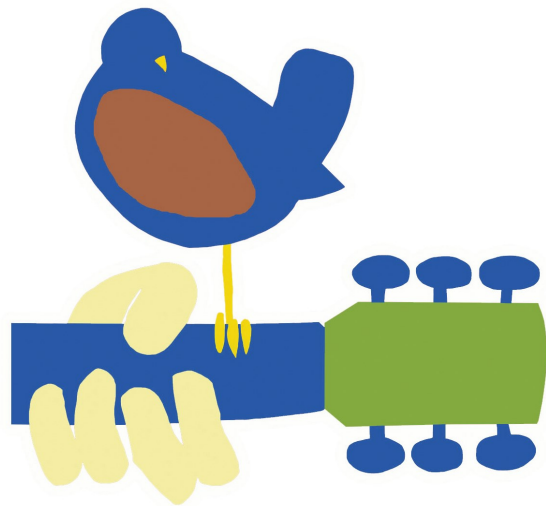
to all the stuff we learn about when we're doin' the ARES Emerg Comms courses, the Incident Cmd Syst, all our radio digital forms, protocols, who talks to who, and is doin' what, when, where. With our club bein' part of BC CERT, it's ALL THE SAME - vocabulary, forms/uses, chain-of-command, etc. Easy Peazy. Also threw out a shameless plug for everybody in the CERT class to get their HAM radio licenses, way ta go Buzz!!

Well... other than havin' to call Dennis, KM4MHW and tell him he wuz late fer class and to hurry up & get here, we had a great, and very educational time. I recommend this course for anybody in the county, not just us radio types. Stacey's 13 yr old daughter was in our class, did a great job, and got her certificate right along w/ the rest of us as we learn'd all about fires, damage assesment, search & rescue (light), and most of all bein' better prepared ourselves at home. All the answers to the 'what do I do' or 'where do I go' questions that we ALL really should know already. Great reminder and refresher to say the least.



**BLUEBIRD & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL MARCH 26**

**16th Annual  
Bluebirds &  
Bluegrass  
Festival 2016**



**Dauset Trails  
Nature Center**

**WX4BCA**  
Special Event Station  
at the  
Bluebirds & Bluegrass  
Festival  
Saturday, March 26  
2016

**15th Annual**  
**Bluebirds &  
Bluegrass  
Festival 2015**

**WX4BCA**

To Radio \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time (UTC) \_\_\_\_\_  
Band \_\_\_\_\_ FQ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mode \_\_\_\_\_ RST \_\_\_\_\_

**73!** de Butts County Amateur  
Radio Club, Jackson, GA WX4BCA  
EM73xh ITU Zone 8

**To:**

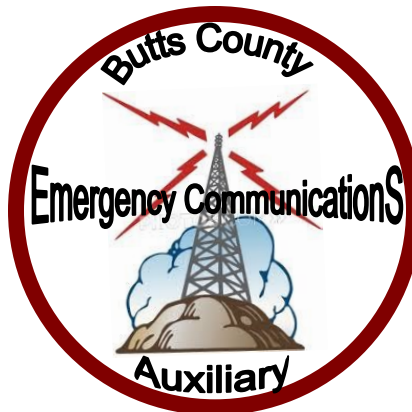
**Dauset Trails  
Nature Center**



Visit our website: [www.bcgaares.org](http://www.bcgaares.org)

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

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Glen Goens KJ4TV0

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**Net Manager**  
Ken Wallis KM4HOS  
[kawallis@charter.net](mailto:kawallis@charter.net)

**Net Control Station  
Roster**

**March**  
Ed WX4ED

**April**  
Darlene KK4BKF

**May**  
Buzz K3GWK

If you'd like to serve as NCS, please  
email Ken (KM4HOS), Net Manager:  
[kawallis@charter.net](mailto:kawallis@charter.net)

**Weekly Training Net:**

**Sunday 21:30 GMT**

**4:30 EST 5:30 EDT**

**WX4BCA Repeater 147.285- PL131.8**

**Jackson, GA**

**BUTTS COUNTY / SOUTHERN CRESCENT AREA NETS — HF, VHF & UHF**

**Sunday (4:30 pm) GA ARES Digital Net — 3583 KHz (USB) or 7042 (PSK-31) Center 1000 Hz**

**Sunday (4:30 pm) Butts CO FM Training Net — 147.285 MHz (131.8 PL) Winlink: WX4BCA**

**Sunday (5:00 pm) GA ARES SSB Net — 3975 KHz (LSB) Winlink: WX4GMA**

**Monday (9:00 pm) Southern Crescent FM Net — 145.170 MHz (146.2 PL) & 444.875 MHz (123.0 PL)**

**Tuesday (7:30 pm) GA CERT Digital Net — 3585 KHz (USB) or 7042 (PSK-31) Center 1000 Hz**

**Tuesday (8:00 pm) GA CERT FM Net — 146.805 MHz (100.0 PL)**

**Wednesday (8:00 pm) Newton Co Digital Net — 146.925 MHz (88.5 PL) (MT63-2KL) Center 1500 Hz**

**Thursday (8:00 pm) NCRC/ARES/RACES FM Net — 146.925 & 444.800 MHz (88.5 PL) Winlink: K4NCR**

**Thursday (9:00 PM) Barnesville/Lamar County W8JI Repeater Net — 147.225 (no tone)**

**Saturday (11:00 am) \*SATERN Net (Southern Section) — 7262 KHz**

**METRO ARES FM NET**

**1st Sunday (4:00 pm) Metro ARES FM Net — 145.430 MHz (107.2 PL)**

Also on EchoLink at WB4NWS-R (Node: 593209)

**Newsletter Submissions**

Please submit all articles and/or suggestions to **Ed Hoard (WX4ED)**  
[edhoard@yahoo.com](mailto:edhoard@yahoo.com)

**QRT**