



## 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

APRIL 2016



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## BCECA CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NPOTA

Throughout 2016 the ARRL is helping the National Parks Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams and Amateur Radio clubs all across America will be setting up Special Event Stations in National Parks. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Park Service and showcase Amateur Radio while having a little fun.

Our club member, Elaine (KW4AQ) became interested in the idea and contacted the ARRL for information about how to set up a Special Event Station that would be sanctioned by the ARRL. Elaine did the proper due diligence, filled out the forms and registered her Special Event Station to transmit from the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds National Park in Macon.

The Ocmulgee National Park is a prehistoric Native American site. Native Americans first came here during the Paleo-Indian period hunting Ice Age mammals. Different cultures have occupied this land for thousands of years. The Mississippian culture arrived here around 900 AD constructing burial mounds for their elite.

So on Saturday, March 26 Elaine and her team consisting of Melvin (KK4QJR) and Scout, Ken (KM4HOS), Greg (KM4HOY) and Dennis (KM4MHW) set up their Special

Event Station in the Park.

The day began with breakfast at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Riverside Drive before their 15-minute drive to the Park. The team had already performed a dry-run using Elaine's powerful Potato Gun to shoot the supporting line for their HF antenna.

The Potato Gun proved to attract attention especially from a group of Boy Scouts who had come to visit the park. When Ken primed the gun with 75 pounds of air and

shot the tennis ball 100 feet into the air, one Boy Scout rolled down the window of his parents' car and exclaimed, "WOW!!!"

Elaine had seen an article



Ocmulgee National Park, Macon, GA

about building your own Potato Gun which piqued her interest. After viewing several *You Tube* videos, she decided to manufacture one.

*"We found out that we couldn't use a firearm in the park," Elaine shared, "so the AK 47 was out of the question. We needed some real fire power to get the antenna into the tall trees, so the potato gun was our best bet."*

Elaine brought her Kenwood 590 and the team erected an OCF dipole antenna and started making contacts. The group was competing with a major contest operating on 20 meters as well as poor band conditions, but managed to make 25 contacts!

### SAVE THE DATES

**Sundays @ 5:30 PM**  
Weekly Butts County  
FM Training Net

**April 4**  
Monthly BCECA  
Meeting, FS #7  
7:00 PM

**April 16**  
Hungry Hams, Lunch  
Box, 7:30 AM  
Tech Saturday: Digital  
practice (Fldigi & RMS  
Express)



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

April

- April 4** — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, 5:30  
Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7  
Jessica McFadden (*Red Cross Disaster Program Manager*)  
**April 16** — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM  
Tech Saturday: Digital Practice (*Fldigi & RMS Express*)  
**April 19** — Newton County Club Meeting.  
**April 23** — Bluebird & Bluegrass Festival Special Event Station  
Dauset Trails, Jackson

May

- May 2** — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, 5:30  
Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7  
**May 17** — Newton County Club Meeting.  
NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM.  
**May 21** — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM  
VE Session, Butts County Rec Center, 9:00 AM



## Field Day Training

### Monday, June 6 — 7:00 PM

TIM KERSEY  
VOLUNTEER MEMORIAL PAVILION

### Tim Kersey Pavilion

**Congratulations New Techs & Generals**

**Techs:** Paul Rice KM4SUF and Dave Cochran KM4SUG

**Generals:** Glenn Baker KM4NRP, Bob Kaylor KG4HUM  
Mark Clark KM4QMC and Dennis Wagner KM4MHW



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

**Remember:** When 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.

Our current membership stands at 23 Active, 6 Pending and 5 Inactive. The 5 Inactive members are all members of the Mounted SAR CERT team. We still have a lot of room for improvement in the "Course Completion Department" also. Only 19 members have completed either Basic ARES or ARRL EC-01. 16 members have completed IS-100, 13 have completed IS-700. Only 13 members have completed is-200, IS-800 or IS-802.

Our General Class concluded and five students stuck it out to the end. Four of those students took the General test on March 19<sup>th</sup> and all four passed. There were two "walk-ins" who took the Technician test and both of them passed, too. We look forward to hearing Paul (KM4SUF) and Dave (KM4SUG) on the repeater real soon. I know at least one of the new Generals has a rig on the way, so Butts County will soon have another competitor in the GA QSO Party. Congratulations to the upgrades and the new

hams and a real big thank-you to the folks who severed as instructors and mentors during the course.

In March, five of our members participated in a "Functional Exercise" sponsored by the Butts County OHS/EMA and Dixie Pipeline. Dixie Pipeline has a large diameter, high pressure Propane transmission pipeline that bisects Butts County. The exercise was held at the Admin building with plenty of coffee and donuts available. KK4BKF and KM4QML staffed the Sylvan Grove position, KM4HOS and KM4MHW staffed the EOC position and I was tasked with the 911 position. THANKS! Sadly, we weren't used very much but we did circulate several ICS-213 messages and got to "show the ARES flag" at the exercise.

Here are the stats for March: Nets 8 (30.6 Hrs), Drills & Training 8 (132 Hrs), Public Service 2 (48 Hrs), NPOTA Special Event (60 Hrs) and 1 County Tasking (24 Hrs). Total hours 294 (Value \$7,938.00) Dan and I assisted DeKalb ARES with the Publix

Marathon. We are not the only group with repeater issues.

Still seeing only one or two Butts County D-Rats check-ins to the SE Weather Net, Sunday night at 9 PM. Dig out your notes from the Digital Workshop and join this and several other local D-Rats nets. The South Metro FM Digital Net continues on Wednesday at 8 PM (WA4ASI/R). We need to keep the tools in our digital tool box sharp. Remember to report your digital activity to Ken every week.

The next HamCram in July 16 and the next VE session is May 21.

Thanks again for all you do...

73, Buzz (K3GWK)

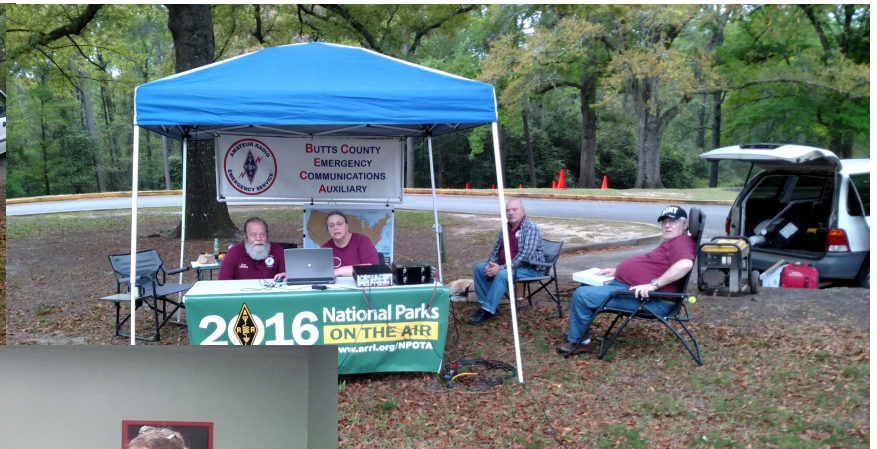
Ω



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 Kutchner"/>	Callsign	<input type="text" value="K3GWK"/>
Emergency Coordinator's Email Address	<input type="text" value="k3gwk@arrl.net"/>		



## PICS FROM NPOTA SPECIAL EVENT STATION AT OCMULGEE MONUMENT



**Next scouting trip:**  
Andersonville National Park  
Jimmy Carter National Park

Our deep appreciation and thanks to:  
**Park Ranger Kevin Wyrick**  
for his  
invaluable assistance!





# BLUEBIRDS & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL APRIL 23 DAUSET TRAILS

## 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BLUEBIRDS AND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



2016

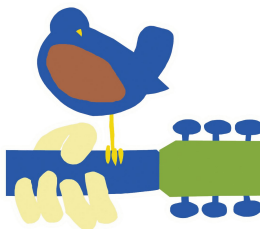
DAUSET TRAILS NATURE CENTER

## WX4BCA

Special Event Station  
at the  
Bluebirds & Bluegrass  
Festival

**Saturday, April 23  
2016**

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



**Dauset Trails  
Nature Center**

**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:

*(Last Year's QSL Card)*



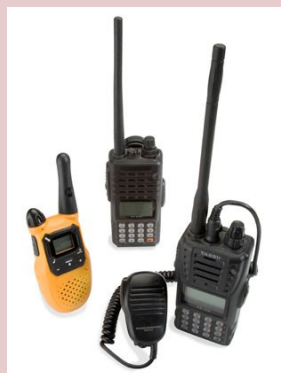
**BCECA Amateur Radio Club**  
will provide  
Emergency Communication  
at the 2nd Annual

**Jackson Red Devils Football  
Alumni 5K**

**May 7, 2016**

Red Devil Hill  
(football stadium)  
310 Franklin Street

**8:00 AM**





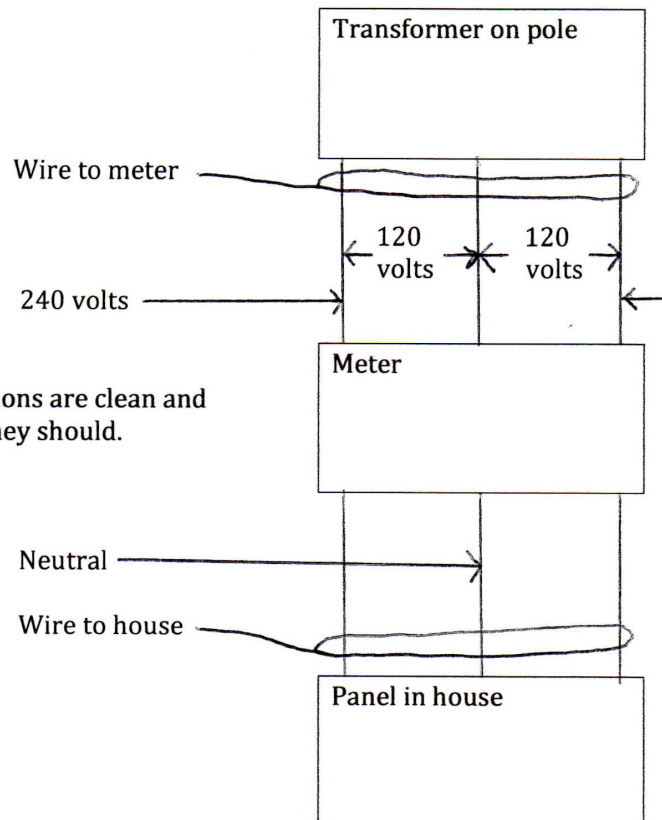
## Do you have a loose neutral in your home?

Most residences have electrical characteristics consisting of single phase, 120/240 volt, 3 wire service. Generally the voltage is 120/240 volts plus or minus 5 %. The voltage will not be a rock solid 120/240 volts. The voltage varies depending on system load.

### Tech Notes

Whit WA4VBX

As long as the connections are clean and tight, things work as they should.



Measure the voltage at one of your receptacles and write the reading down. Turn on one of the eyes of your electric stove or some other relatively large electrical load and note the reading. These readings should be relatively close.

I measured the voltage at my house and the reading was 122.5 volts with the load off and 122.2 volts with the load on. Another time is measured 121.0 volts and 120.7 volts.

Your readings may vary from these. The main idea is that the voltage change should be only a fraction of a volt ideally. If your readings are more than these (about 1-2 volts), the load and the circuit wiring should be evaluated to be sure that no corrective action is needed. If your readings vary much more than these, there is a possibility that there is a loose neutral. The 240 volt part of your service should not be effected.

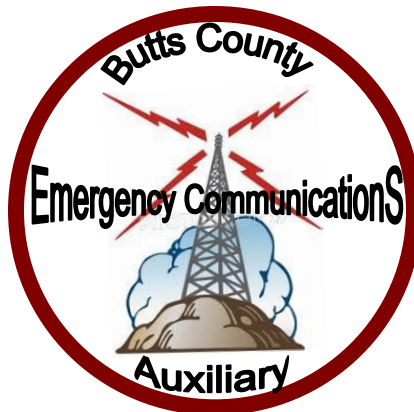
The loose neutral problem very rarely happens. However, if you have voltage issues at your house, these measurements are an easy way to check to see if you have this problem.

If it appears that you have a loose neutral, you should contact your utility supplier and get them to verify that their equipment is operating properly. If the utility supplier's equipment is operating properly, you should get an electrician to check your wiring and make the necessary corrections. If the utility supplier's is not operating properly, they should make the necessary repairs, and you need to re-measure your voltage after the utility repairs are made.

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

**Net Control Station  
Roster**

**April**

Darlene KK4BKF

**May**

Buzz K3GWK

**June**

Mark KM4NRP

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**