



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

NOVEMBER 2016



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NEW ANTENNA INSTALLED ON WX4BCA REPEATER

Our WX4BCA repeater now has a new antenna. Initial reports are that coverage has been significantly increased! See Buzz's article, "From the Backacre" Pg.3 for details.



Photo by J.D. Van Sickle

SAVE THE DATES

Sundays @ 4:30 PM

Weekly Butts County
FM Training Net
147.285- PL 131.8

November 7

Monthly BCECA
Meeting, Fire Station
#7, 7:00 PM

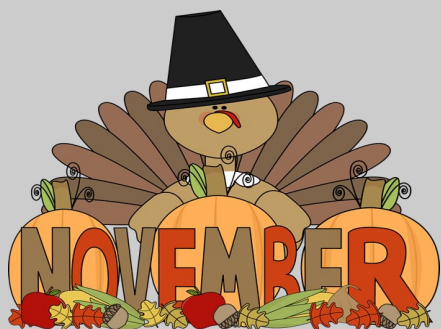
November 19

Hungry Hams
Lunch Box, 7:30 AM
V.E. Session, BC Rec
Building, 9:00 AM

WX4BCA REPEATER 147.285- PL 131.8



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

**November**

November 5-6 — Stone Mountain Ham Fest
November 7 — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, 5:30
 Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7
November 15 — Newton County Club Meeting.
 NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM
November 19 — Hungry Hams, Lunchbox Restaurant, 7:00 AM
 V.E. Session, BC Recreation Department, 9:00 AM

December

December 8 — Annual Family Christmas Party @ Buckner's
 Restaurant, Jackson, 6:30 PM
December 17 — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, Jackson, 7:30 AM
 NVIS Antenna Project Session, Fire Station #7
December 20 — Newton County Club Meeting.
 NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM
December 25 — Merry Christmas!



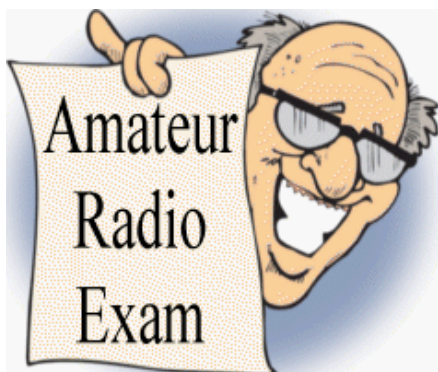
Online Articles / Sites of Interest to Hams

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR YOU OR FOR A HAM FRIEND FROM HAM CRAZY

http://www.hamcrazy.com/index.php?main_page=advanced_search_result&search_in_description=1&keyword=ares&x=0&y=0

TWO EXCELLENT WEB SITES FOR HAMS

<http://www.hamradioupdate.com>
<http://www.hamradiodaily.com>

**Spalding County**

Saturday,
 November 12
 9:00 AM

Spalding Regional
 Hospital
 601 South 8th Street
 Griffin, GA

Butts County

Saturday,
 November 19
 9:00 AM

Butts County
 Recreation Center
 Ernest Biles Dr.
 Jackson, GA



FROM THE BACKACRE — BUZZ (K3GWK) Butts County Emergency Coordinator

The big news for October was the club's approval to hire a professional tower climber and purchase a new antenna for the WX4BCA VHF repeater. A Comet GP-3 dual-band antenna was purchased and Mick Blackmon from Blackmon Site Services did the climb and antenna swap.

The existing antenna, a four-bay stacked folded dipole array, had been on the tower for over thirty years – with no maintenance. We believe there were corrosion induced issues with that antenna which caused high noise levels when it was used as a repeater antenna. That antenna was fed with 7/8" hard-line of the same vintage, so not only did we have an antenna swap planned, the Tech Committee wanted to check the condition of the hard-line also. No sense changing the antenna and having a feed line issue.

While Mick was on the tower, David Burnham and Mike Crowe tested the hard-line with a Time Domain Reflectometer – sort of radar for coax. Fortunately the hard-line was found to be OK so the antenna swap was completed. The new antenna has a gain of about 5 dbi; the old antenna had an advertised gain of 6 dbi so we have not really lost any performance. The new antenna seems to be performing quite well; signal reports have been encouraging. Members who could not hear the repeater can now use it. The project was an expensive one but well worth it.

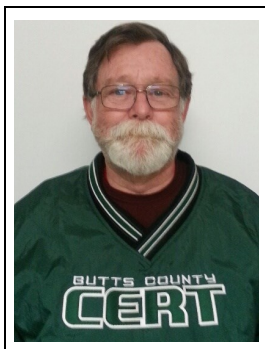
Future plans call for operating both the VHF and UHF repeaters from the hospital site using the new antenna. The repeater operating on one antenna again frees up a second antenna (which was being used as the repeater transmit antenna) for general station use.

JR Wallen (KM4VHO) has joined ARES so our *ACTIVE* membership is now 31 with 9 *PENDING* (KG4GHM, KM4KZM, KM4PKD, KM4QMH, KM4VHO, KM4VPS, KM4VPY, KM4YCD and N3TLH). There were seven activities in October (175 Hours). A total of ten nets: five FM Phone and five WL2K tests (50 Hours). Our weekly WL2K test averages eight messages. Remember, when you send your Sunday WL2K test message to WX4BCA and WX4GMA, use an ICS-213 form, WINMOR or Packet

if possible.

We had a pretty poor showing at the October digital training – only five of our ARES team members attended. The training was excellent; Mike Crowe (AJ4GU) and SEC David Benoist (AG4ZR) did a great job explaining Fldigi and Flmsg and getting everyone who attended “up to speed” on those two important digital tools. Plans are underway for more digital training in 2017.

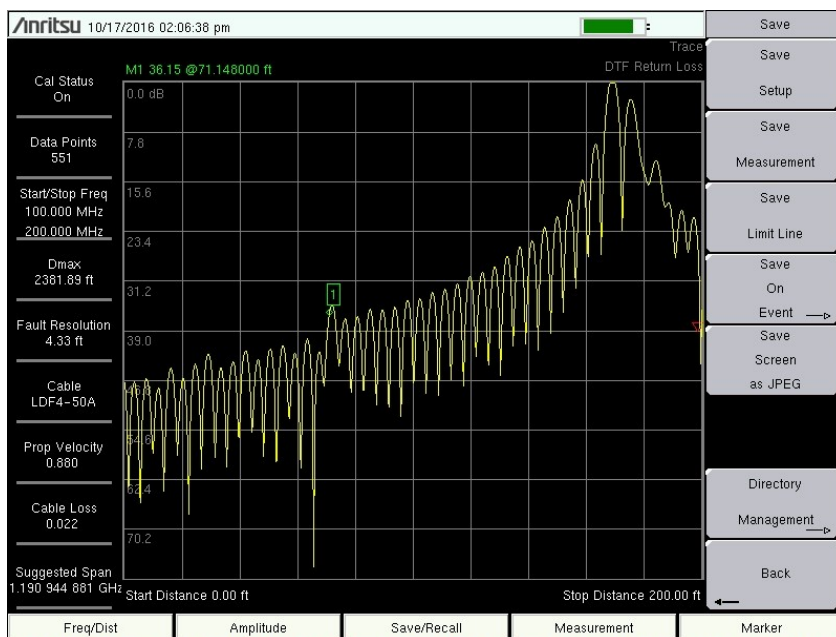
One of the issues we found during the SET was difficulty passing message traffic using Fldigi and Flmsg. Training and practice is the key to improvement. There are several digital opportunities each week including Ken's Sunday MT63-2K message after the FM training net. Area digital nets are announced by the Yahoo calendar. Butts County ARES is a “digital pace-setter” in Metro Atlanta. THANKS!



“Spin for Kids” was a blast. A big thank-you to all the Butts County ARES Team members who assisted Morgan ARES with this special event: W4DED, KK4QJR, KW4AQ, AJ4GU, KW4VB and K3GWK. The ride organizers were *very* appreciative of the support ham radio played. We have been invited back next year.

The Stone Mountain Hamfest is the weekend of November 5 and 6 (yep two days!). There will be plenty of vendors, tail-gating and some really good forums. This is a great time to pay your ARRL dues, just see Doctor Gene at the ARRL booth. Hamfest

tickets are available on-line. <http://stone.mountainhamfest.com/>



The November meeting will feature a presentation, by the hospital's Chief Nursing Officer, Lisa Johnson on HIPAA and how it relates to our support of Sylvan Grove. Hospital response team members are encouraged to attend.

Thanks for all you do.
73,
Buzz Kutcher K3GWK
Ω



November 7 Meeting

Lisa Johnson

Chief Nursing Officer, WellStar

Explains HIPPA laws for Ham Radio
Emergency Operators

Hospital Team will receive
Flu Shots!

- **Pre-meeting Dinner @ Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM**
- **Meet at Fire Station #7, 7:00 PM**
- **Drawing for Door Prizes**



ANTENNA INSTALLATION PICS BY J.D. VAN SICKLE





Circuit Schematic

This is a highly detailed and humorous hand-drawn circuit diagram. It features a variety of electronic symbols and components connected in a complex web. Key elements include:

- Power Sources:** A 12V battery at the top left, a 50V battery in the center, and a 240V AC source on the right.
- Components:** Numerous resistors (e.g., 120Ω, 5Ω, 8mm), capacitors (e.g., 1μF, 1k9), diodes, a 666 timer IC, and a 555 timer IC.
- Humorous Annotations:**
 - "GLUE OPEN" near a switch symbol.
 - "SCARAB BEETLES" next to a component labeled "BROWN BLUE ORANGE".
 - "SOLDER BLOB" pointing to a cluster of lines.
 - "MAGIC SMOKE" near a cloud-like shape.
 - "ARENA" inside a circular component with radiating lines.
 - "HOLY WATER" at the bottom right, next to a bowl icon.
 - "TAKE OFF SHIRT WHILE WIRING THIS PART. COH, YEAH, I LIKE THAT." near a light bulb.
 - "NOT A RESISTOR; WIRE JUST DOES THIS" near an 8mm resistor.
 - "YES 3 LITERS ?" near a capacitor.
 - "TO SCALE" near a small circle.
 - "TEAR COLLECTOR" near a funnel-like shape.
 - "MAY USE AN ACTUAL SANDAL INSTEAD" near a sandal icon.
 - "HOLDING PEU" near a rectangular component.
 - "BURY DEEP BUT NOT TOO DEEP." near a ground symbol.
 - "OH, SO YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH A WHIZ AT EE 201?" near a complex resistor network.
 - "VIBRATOR" near a coil symbol.
 - "PI 500V" near another coil symbol.
 - "NECK STRAP" near a strap icon.
 - "ELECTRIC EEL" near a wavy line.
 - "HOT GLUE" near a glue gun icon.
 - "WARM FRONT" near a weather symbol.
 - "CAUTION" with a warning triangle.
 - "PULL THIS WIRE REALLY TIGHT" near a wire being pulled.
 - "H-C-H" near a junction point.
 - "TOUCH TONGUE HERE" near a tongue icon.
 - "5Ω (DECOY)" near a resistor.
 - "HIRE SOMEONE TO OPEN AND CLOSE SWITCH REAL FAST." near a switch.
 - "ELECTRONICS SINGLE FILE" near a stack of chips.
 - "MOST EXPENSIVE CHIP AVAILABLE" near a chip icon.
 - "ARDUINO, JUST FOR BLOG CRED." near another chip icon.
 - "120Ω OR TO TASTE" near a resistor.
 - "1μF" near a capacitor.
 - "1k9" near a capacitor.
 - "1MI (1KM)" near a scale bar.
 - A compass rose showing North (N), South (S), East (E), and West (W).
 - An arrow pointing "TO CENTER OF SUN".
 - A label "I-95" near a road-like path.
 - A label "YARN" near a string-like path.
 - A label "GLUE OPEN" near a switch.
 - A label "666 TIMER" near an IC.
 - A label "? " near several points in the circuit.
 - A label "OMIT THIS IF YOU'RE A WIMP." near a component.
 - A label "MORAL RECTIFIER" near a diode bridge.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near another junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a third junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a fourth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a fifth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a sixth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a seventh junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near an eighth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a ninth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a tenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near an eleventh junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a twelfth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a thirteenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a fourteenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a fifteenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a sixteenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a seventeenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near an eighteenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a nineteenth junction.
 - A label "H-C-H" near a twentieth junction.



THE GEORGIA CONFERENCE – STATEWIDE VHF NETWORK

The person who got me into amateur radio is my first cousin, Neil (N4SSI). Neil is one of the most excited hams I've ever known. As a Technician, he enjoyed doing "2m DX." Didn't know there was such a thing?

Neil could hit repeaters in far-away states from his QTH on his farm in rural Laurens County (must be something in the soil!). When he became a General, Neil got his DXCC in just a few days (a little exaggeration—but not much!).

I had been seeing some emails Neil sent out about a new thing called the "Georgia Conference." The Georgia Conference piqued my interest because it involves Echo Link. I've been using and enjoying Echo Link since my Tech days.

Here's the skinny. Echo Link allows the linking of repeaters and individual hams through its "Conference" mode. The Georgia Conference is a linked network of several South and Middle Georgia repeaters and individual hams who serve as "Sys Ops."

Hams can now communicate with other hams from Macon to the Georgia coast on 2 meters via the Georgia Conference. Unfortunately, there isn't a repeater in North Georgia tied into the system (yet) but hopefully some repeater trustee

will soon realize the benefits of linking up.

I've decided to set up a Sys Op station at my QTH near Griffin. All I need is a 2m base radio, computer and interface. Here's how it works:

I set my base 2m transceiver on a simplex frequency and add a receive PL tone. I connect the 2m radio via an interface to my computer. The computer is connected to Echo Link as a Sys Op. The Echo Link node I'm connected to is the Georgia Conference.

Once connected, I will be able to talk to hams all over Central and South Georgia from my truck or HT (so long as I can hit my QTH's antenna). A repeater would certainly have a better range, but my base radio is serving as an Echo Link repeater!

If you're interested in the Georgia Conference, look it up on Echo Link and do some listening. It has become very popular. Also you can see the repeaters

and individual Sys Ops who are linked to the Conference.

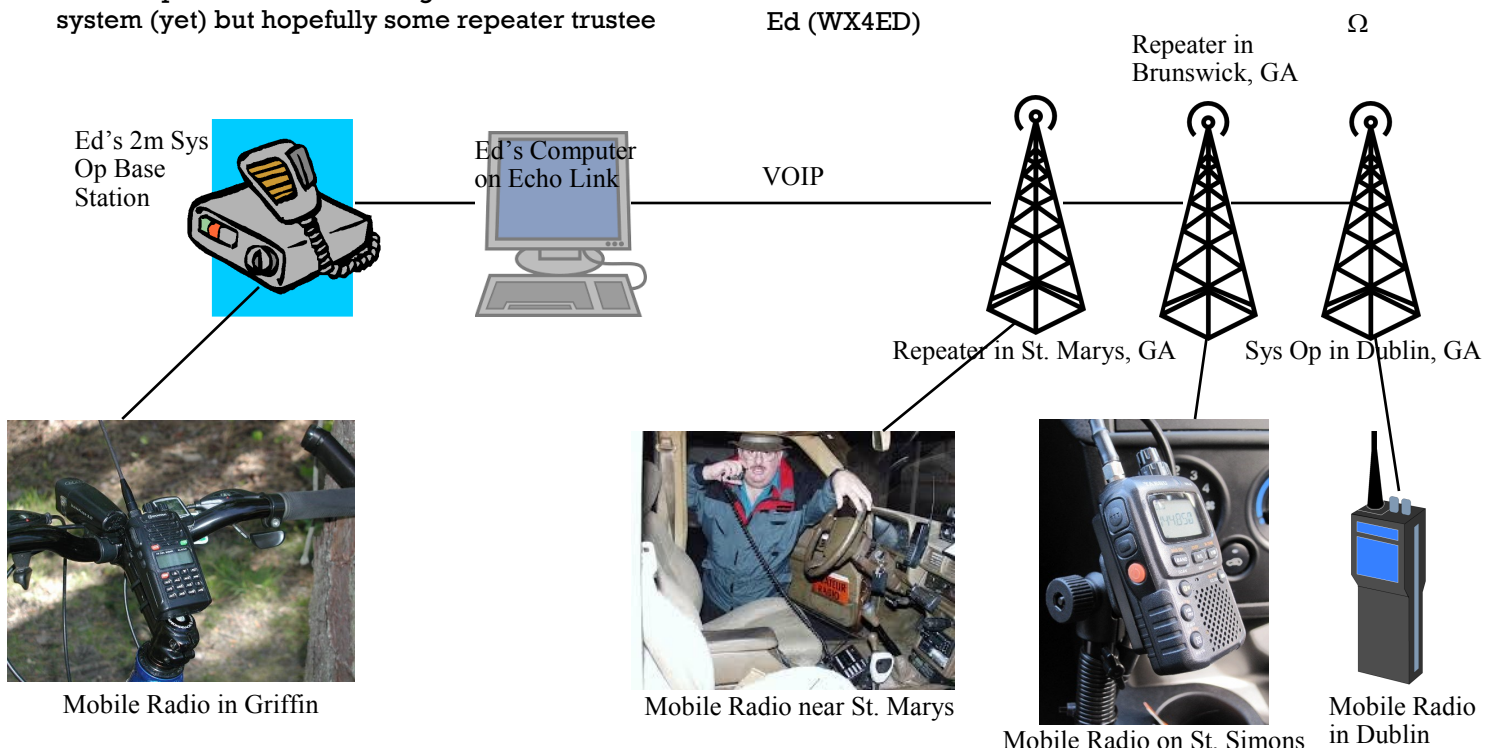
As soon as I get my system up and running, I'll publish the simplex frequency and PL tone. Then, when you're in Griffin or Zebulon, you can access the Georgia Conference from your mobile unit. See the pictorial diagram below for clarification.

73,

Ed (WX4ED)



Ed (WX4ED)



Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234
770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net

Net Control Station Roster

November

Mark KM4NRP

December

Darlene KK4BKF

January

Elaine KW4AQ

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

**BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**

President

Buzz Kutcher K3GWK
k3gwk@arrl.net

Vice-president

Dan Darsey W4DED
w4ded@arrl.com

Secretary

Darlene Ragon KK4BKF
lragon@aol.com

Treasurer

John Lipscomb IV
john.lipscomb@delta.com

Public Information Officer

Ed Hoard WX4ED
edhoard@yahoo.com

Club Photographer

J.D. Van Sickle KM4DHS
jvan12@charter.net

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

Emergency Coordinator

Buzz Kutcher K3GWK
k3gwk@arrl.net

A.E.C. / V.E. Team Admin.

Dan Darsey W4DED
w4ded@arrl.com

A.E.C. / CERT Team Liaison

David Ridgeway KK4SUO
dpridgeway@bellsouth.net

A.E.C.

David Burnham AK4EM
burnham1078@gmail.com

SKYWARN Coordinator

Elaine Stachowiak KW4AQ
ubudogems@hotmail.com

Technical Coordinator

Mike Crowe AJ4GU
aj4gu@bellsouth.net

Director, Butts County

OHS/EMA
Glen Goens KJ4TV0

Net Manager

Ken Wallis KM4HOS
kawallis@charter.net

Weekly Training Net:

Sunday 21:30 GMT

4:30 EST 5:30 EDT

WX4BCA Repeater 147.285- PL131.8

Jackson, Georgia

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 (5:30 pm) GA ARES D-Rats Net on the GA ARES Port

Sunday (21:30Z) Butts CO FM Training Net — 147.285 MHz (131.8 PL) Winlink: WX4BCA

Sunday (22:00Z) GA ARES SSB Net — 3975 KHz (LSB) Winlink: WX4GMA

Sunday (9:00 PM) SE Weather Net on D-Rats

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

Monday (8:30 pm) Central GA District Digital Net — 3583 KHz (PSK-63/125) Center 1000 Hz

Tuesday (7:30 pm) NW GA Digital Net — 3853 KHz (USB) or 7042 (PSK-125) Center 1000 Hz

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

Wednesday (9:00 pm) SE Metro 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