



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

DECEMBER 2016



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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



SAVE THE DATES

Sundays @ 4:30 PM

Weekly Butts County
FM Training Net
147.285- PL 131.8

December 8

Annual Christmas
Dinner at Buckner's
6:30 PM

December 17

Hungry Hams
Lunch Box, 7:30 AM
NVIS Antenna Project
FS #7, 9:00 AM

WX4BCA REPEATER 147.285- PL 131.8



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



December

- December 8** — Annual Family Christmas Party @ Buckner's Restaurant, Jackson, 6:30 PM
- December 10** — ARRL 10 meter Contest
- 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!

January

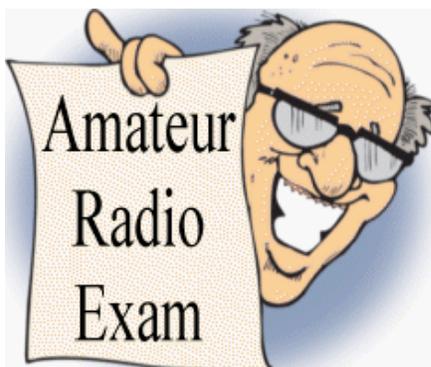
- January 1** — Happy New Year!
- January 2** — January Club Meeting, FS #7, 7:00 PM
Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM
- January 14** — Tech Fest, Gwinett County
- January 17** — Newton County Club Meeting.
NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM
- January 21** — State ARES Meeting, GPSTC Forsyth, 9:00 AM
- January 28** — Ham Cram & V.E. Session, FS #7, 8:30 AM



Online Articles / Sites of Interest to Hams

Many of us have Chinese HTs (Wouxon, Baofeng) and have trouble programming them. Dave Cassler KE0OG shows you how to program your radio using free software.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzkFVtyttKM>



Spalding County
 Saturday,
 December 10
 9:00 AM
 Spalding Regional
 Hospital
 601 South 8th Street
 Griffin, GA

Butts County
 Saturday,
 January 28
 4:00 PM
 Fire Station #7
 Colwell Rd.
 Jackson, GA



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

Hopefully you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday; that you gathered with family and friends and your favorite football team(s) won. Freida and I traveled back to Maryland for our annual family gathering. Also had a chance to visit with some of my Yankee ham radio buddies, including Ken Reid (KG4USN). Ken was the NCS for the Sunday Hospital Net and recently relocated to Annapolis, MD.

I don't know about you all but I am looking forward to our Family Christmas Dinner on Thursday evening (08DEC). Our group's first Christmas Party (and 1 year anniversary) was held in December 2011 at the fire station. We had cookies and cake. Most of the original group attended. The next year we moved the dinner to Ryan's at the truck stop. I think we did that twice and then moved to Buckner's. The event has grown every year. I hope to see many of you with your YLs, XYLs and Harmonics on Thursday evening.

A big thank you to Ken (KM4HOS) and Mike (AJ4GU) for their assistance with the duplexer change-out earlier this month. The duplexers we are now using are the set that was donated to the group by Whit Smith (WA4VBX) and re-tuned by Dr. Ron Johnson (WB4GWA). We also replaced the dilapidated cart with a new set of stainless steel shelves. The repeater cabinet, also donated by WA4VBX, will be installed soon and when that happens, both repeaters will be on the air from Sylvan Grove. The new antenna continues to perform well. With the exception of adding a pre-amp/pre-selector to the VHF receiver, there isn't much more that can be done to improve coverage.

I hope all of you who attended the November meeting enjoyed meeting Lisa Johnson and getting the update on the Sylvan Grove Volunteer Program. We are one of the few ARES groups that have been included in their local hospital's

volunteer program. We have a good situation at Sylvan Grove. Dan and his response team have done a great job of putting the WX4BCA station on the air for the monthly Hospital Net. Now, if we could just get some of the hospital's employees to attend a HamCram...

Our ACTIVE membership is currently 31 with 10 PENDING members on our roster. We had 8 nets in November, 4 FM Voice and 4 WL2K. Our WL2K activity continues to improve with more test messages being sent using WINMOR and ICS-213 forms. We had 4 activities in November. The total "ham hours" for November was 132, that includes 49 hours of net participation. Don't forget about the HF net (3.975 MHz) at 18:00 EST and the SE Weather DRATS Net at 21:00 EST.

Remember, December 17 is our antenna building Tech Saturday at Station 7. We have the antenna wire ready and should have a lot of fun building and testing our NVIS antennas.

The annual Georgia ARES meeting will be held at GPSTC on January 21, beginning at 09:30. There will be Forums and Training Sessions during the long lunch break. Attendees are encouraged to "brown bag" their lunch.

We have invited club member and local adventurer Karla Redman (KJ4TVP) to speak to the club about her Appalachian Trail hike from Georgia to Maine. I am sure we will enjoy her stories and have plenty of questions about her trip.

Dennis Wagner (KM4MHW) has moved back to Indiana so we are looking for a new Field Day Coordinator. Don't forget about the [10 Meter Contest](#) (Dec 9 & 10) and [Winter Field Day](#) (Jan 28 & 29). If you have any suggestions for training subjects for 2017, please let me know.

Thanks for all you do to support Butts County ARES and promote Amateur Radio...

73,
Buzz Kutcher K3GWK

Ω



First Anniversary BCECA Team



1st Anniversary BCECA



2016 IN PICTORIAL REVIEW

January



Ham Cram & V.E. Session — 1/16



February



General License Class — Jan-Mar



March



Ken (KM4HOS) becomes Net Manager



Ron Johnson of SERA speaks



ARRL The national association for **AMATEUR RADIO®**



2016 IN PICTORIAL REVIEW

April

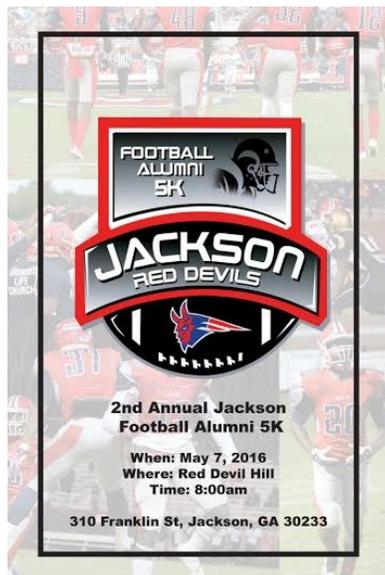


N.O.T.A. at Ocmulgee Nat'l Park



Special Event Station at BB & BG Festival

May



June



Field Day—Hot as Heck!

July



Monica (KK4KUF) wins ARRL Scholarship



Newbie Night



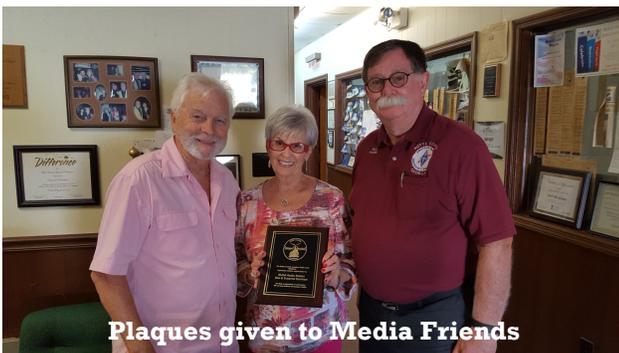
2016 IN PICTORIAL REVIEW

August



Simulated Emergency Test

September



Plaques given to Media Friends

October



New Antenna goes up at Hospital

November



Lisa Johnson from WellStar Sylvan Grove Hospital on HIPAA laws affecting Hams



Tech Notes

TECH NOTES — WHIT (WA4VBX)

Garage Door Opener

Have you ever tried to use your outdoor garage door controller and it didn't work because the 9 volt battery had lost its charge?

My garage door unit is a Genie powered by a 120 volt source. My outdoor controller is powered by a 9 volt battery. I measured the power draw on the 9 volt battery when it the unit is operated and it was about 25 milliamps (25 ma).

The next step is to find a power source for this outdoor unit. You can use the power source with or without a battery in parallel. If you want to use a rechargeable battery, the voltage will be about 7.5 volts. Either way the power source is relatively simple to make.

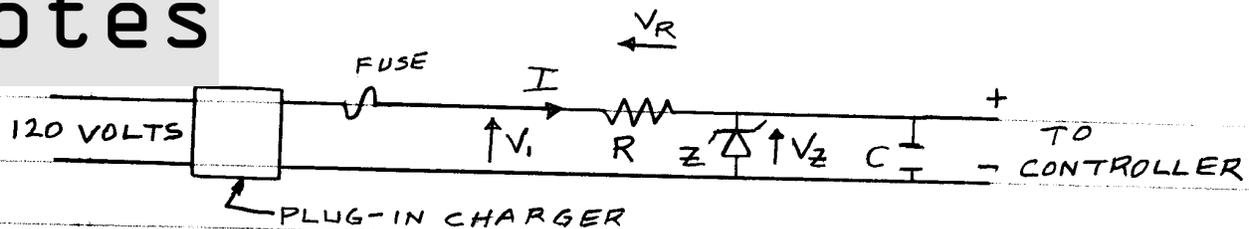
Most any of the 120 volt plug-in chargers will provide enough power for the outdoor unit. The next part is to get a charger that has a voltage that is useable. Some on the chargers provide alternating (ac) current and that will need a rectifier to change the ac to (dc) current. The other chargers provide direct current (dc). The voltage is measured to needs to be 7 to 9 volts dc with a 50 ma capacity. If you find a charger with about 9 volts dc, you can use is as is. If not, try to get one with the voltage to be about 12 volts dc. You can use a zener diode to regulate the voltage. If you can't find a dc charger, then use an ac charger with a bridge rectifier and either use a zener diode or a regulator chip to regulate the voltage.

The next page shows a diagram of a 9 volt supply.



Tech Notes

TECH NOTES - WHIT (WA4VBX)



V_1 = VOLTAGE OUTPUT FROM DC SOURCE (IN VOLTS)

V_Z = VOLTAGE ACROSS ZENER DIODE (IN VOLTS)

V_R = VOLTAGE ACROSS RESISTOR R (IN VOLTS)

I = CURRENT DESIGN VALUE (IN AMPS) THIS UNIT USES
25 MA OR .025 AMPS. USE ABOUT .050 AMPS

V = 1/4 AMP FUSE (OPTIONAL)

R = RESISTOR IN OHMS (V_R/I)

C = .01 MICROFARAD (μf) CAPACITOR (OPTIONAL)

P = POWER IN WATTS ($V \times I$)

Z = ZENER DIODE 9 VOLT

IF

$V_1 = 12V$, $V_Z = 9V$ & $I = .05$ AMPS

$R = (V_1 - V_Z) / .05 = 60$ OHMS (USE STANDARD VALUE OF
62 OHMS)

$P_{ZENER} = 9(.05) = .45$ WATT (USE 1 WATT MINIMUM)

$P_{RESISTOR} = (12 - 9)(.05) = .15$ WATT (USE 1/2 WATT MINIMUM)

WJ
11/27/16

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

December

Darlene KK4BKF

January

Elaine KW4AQ

February

Buzz K3GWK

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 KJ4TVO

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

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