



## 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

FEBRUARY 2017



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## MIKE CROWE AJ4GU — NAMED “HAM OF THE YEAR”



Congratulations to **Mike Crowe (AJ4GU)** for being selected “**Ham of the Year**” at the State ARES meeting in Forsyth last month. Mike is a selfless proponent of Amateur Radio and an unequalled “Elmer” to hams all across Georgia. We are fortunate to have Mike as a member and friend.

### SAVE THE DATES

#### Sundays @ 4:30 PM

Weekly Butts County  
FM Training Net  
147.285- PL 131.8

#### February 6

Monthly Training  
Meeting, FS#7  
7:00 PM

#### February 18

Hungry Hams  
Lunch Box 7:30 AM  
Tech Saturday  
FS #7, 9:00 AM

**WX4BCA REPEATER 147.285- PL 131.8**



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

February

**February 2,9,16,23** — General Class, FS #7, 6:30 PM

**February 6** — February Club Meeting, FS #7,  
Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM

**February 14** — Newton County Club Meeting.  
NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM

**February 18** — Tech Saturday, Lunch Box 7:30 AM

March

**March 2,9,16** — General Class, FS #7, 6:30 PM

**March 6** — February Club Meeting, FS #7,  
Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM

**March 14** — Newton County Club Meeting.  
NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM

**March 18** — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM  
V.E. Session, Jackson/Butts County Library, 9:00 AM



## Online Articles / Sites of Interest to Hams

Copy and paste the link below and see Ed Hoard (WX4ED) along with Jackson Mayor, Kaye Pippin, discussing Indian Springs:

<https://vimeo.com/200225248>

**General License Prep Class**

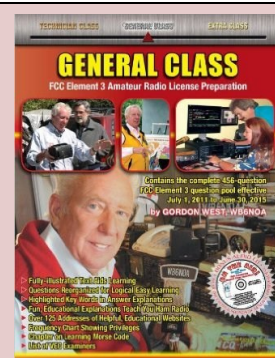
**February 2,9,16,23 March 2,9,16**

**6:30 — 8:30 PM @ Fire Station #7**

**V.E. Session — March 18**

**\*All-Star Faculty**

(\*Actually not—but we'll do our best to get you ready!)





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

January was a pretty busy month for ham radio in Georgia. The GARS TechFest came first on January 14. It was another excellent GARS event, plenty to look at and learn about, some good forums and also lots of great chili to sample. The hot dogs weren't bad either. TechFest is always worth the ride to Lawrenceville.

On January 21, fourteen of our ARES members attended the Georgia ARES Convention at GPSTC in Forsyth. There were several excellent presenters including Keith Stellman, Jay Jones and Ed Westbrook. Keith is the Meteorologist-in-Charge at the Peachtree City NWS office and he updated the group on new weather apps and updates to the weather radar system. I know Keith was torn between his speaking engagement and the approaching severe weather. He did not hang around long. Ed Westbrook gave an interesting update on the Georgia Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management's improved training program. All of the GPSTC or field-presented GEMA classes now include a final exam (NOT AN EASY TEST!) and a passing grade is required for credit. They plan to submit these courses for Continuing Education credit approval. Ed and his staff put in a full day Saturday so that ARES could use the facility. He was on the gate when we left. Ed also advised that interested ARES members could apply for seats in the classes held at GPSTC. You will need to create a profile on the GEMA Training website; make sure you include ARES membership and your call sign.

Jay Jones is the Coweta County EMA Director and a big proponent of ARES. He described his program and how his office interfaces with the Coweta ARES team. Steve Jonas (K4SDJ) talked about his experience during Hurricane Matthew and Huey Kemar (KI4NGD) gave an excellent presentation on messages and traffic handling. The highlight of the meeting, for us anyway, was the presentation of the "Ham of The Year" award to Mike Crowe (AJ4GU) and also to Bob Garza (KK4TLG). Mike is a founding member of our ARES team and radio club, our Tech Committee Chairman, a Metro District Digital ADEC and also an operator at the State Operations Center ham station. Bob is a Central District Digital ADEC and the EC for Monroe County. Congratulations to Mike and also to Bob!

I said goodbye to an old friend today. This morning I migrated my QSO log to N3FJP's *Amateur Contact Log* software. I have been using *WinEQF* since its release in the early 80's and it was a difficult move to make. The software is no longer supported so it is just a matter of time before a Windows update renders it useless. I will be calling on you AC Log experts for help. Maybe we need to form a "user group"? HI!

In January we put in a total of 319 Ham Hours; ten nets and ten events. I'd like to thank Mark (KM4NRP) for operating the Sylvan Grove station during the January Hospital Net. I was there also but Mark "had the conn."



In January we held five FM Training Nets and five WL2K tests. Tools for the Toolbox, so please check in to these (and other) nets and be sure to use the ICS-213 form for your Sunday WL2K test message. There were four drills or meetings (185 Ham Hours), five Miscellaneous Activities (46 Ham Hours) and the January HamCram and VE Session (54 Ham Hours). Thanks to Dan and the VE Team for staffing the HamCram testing session. VEs: AJ4GU, KA8LAD, KI4NWD, KW4VB, KM4HOS, W4DEL, WX4ED, K3GWK and Captain Dan (W4DED).

We currently have 31 ACTIVE members on our roster.

One more thing... My old Pappy used to say, "If you can't lick them, join them." I finally applied for and received a GA ARES BADGE. That brings the total of our DEPLOYABLE members to six. Thanks to David (KK4SUO), Dan (W4DED), Ken (KM4HOS), Mark (KW4VB) and Mark (KM4NRP) for completing all of the requirements and participating in our exercises. If you want to know what courses you have and what you need, you can check your GA ARES Database page or send me an email and I will return your current training status. Remember to include Butts County (EC Buzz Kutcher K3GWK) when you register for the Gwinnett Basic ARES course.

That's about it from Jenkinsburg Station. (Weather Underground ID: KGAJENKI2)

Thanks again for all you do...

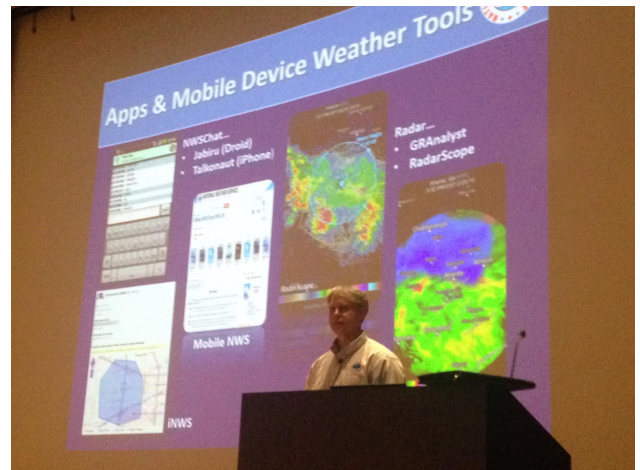
73, Buzz (K3GWK)

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## 2017 STATE ARES MEETING AT GPSTC



On Saturday, January 21, 11 members of the Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary traveled to the Georgia Public Service Training Center in Forsyth for the annual state ARES meeting.

Presentations included a discussion by Keith Stell, Chief Meteorologist for the National Weather Service; digital demonstrations during the lunch hour; a meeting of the Hospital Net with Steve Jonas (K4SDJ); orientation for new ECs with Dave Benoist (AG4ZR);



a presentation by Ed Westbrook, GEMA Training Director; and a discussion of the future of Digital in Georgia by Frank Dean (K4SJR).

The day began with a pre-meeting breakfast at Denny's Restaurant in Jackson.

Our Butts County Club is certainly "on the map" with two of our members having been named "Ham of the Year." Buzz K3GWK) two years ago and Mike (AJ4GU) this year!

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## BUTTS COUNTY CLUB IN THE NEWS!

**PUBLIC RECORDS**

Public records, including arrest reports, are in today's edition.

**A11**

JANUARY 11, 2017

**WEDNESDAY**

**NFL Power**

Griffinite shines in playoff game

**SPORTS, A8**





**The GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS**

## For Ham Cram, Amateur Radio Club to offer licensing during one-day class

BY THOMAS HOEFER  
THOMAS@GRIFFINDAILYNEWS.COM

The Butts County Amateur Radio Club will host its semi-annual Ham Cram on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fire Station No. 7 in Butts County.

According to the club's public information officer, Ed Hoard, the Ham Cram is an all-day class that prepares par-

### FIND OUT MORE

For more questions on the Ham Cram or the Butts County Amateur Radio Club, call Hoard at 678-920-8986.

ticipants for a technician class license exam to become an amateur radio operator. While the class itself is free, the FCC

exam — administered immediately following the class — comes with a \$15 fee.

The technician license, which only covers the first of three levels of testing in amateur radio, allows its holder to operate VHF and UHF radios, as they work on the FM frequency, said Hoard.

SEE RADIO/PAGE A2

## RADIO

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The second level is known as the general level and empowers those who achieve it to operate amateur radio communications around the world. For this level, the Butts County Amateur Radio Club will offer a two-hour class once a week for a total of 10 weeks scheduled to begin in February.

The third and last level is geared toward those interested in becoming teachers and mentors in amateur radio.

During the Ham Cram, Hoard explained, participants will go through all of the 400 questions of the exam and will be given the correct answers to those questions. The actual exam is then made up of those 400

questions with multiple choice answers.

"Our success rate is extremely high. It's at about 95 percent," said Hoard, who has had amateur radio communications to other operators in 80 countries, adding that even people who are not technical but have merely an interest in amateur radio can certainly pass the test.

Although amateur radio lets operators communicate with each other around the world, its perhaps biggest appeal is that it works when all other forms of communication fail — making it a vital back-up to emergency communications in a community.

"We are totally self-contained," said Hoard. "We have our own generators and battery back-up."

Hoard said amateur radio was a tremendous help in many ways

prior to the arrival of cell phones in that it allowed getting messages to military or missionary families. It also proved important during emergencies since then — such as 9/11, when cell phone communication was down for some time.

"If you are interested in becoming involved in emergency communications, how radio works and the technology behind it, then I would encourage you to take our class," said Hoard. "Amateur Radio is an exciting way to meet new people, make new friends, serve your neighbors, advance technology and have a whole lot of fun."

The Butts County Amateur Radio Club currently has 31 active members and meets on the first Monday of every odd month at 7 p.m. at the Butts County Fire Station 7, at 144 Colwell Rd. in Jackson.





## BUTTS COUNTY CLUB IN THE NEWS!

8A • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017

myjpa.com

Jackson Progress-Argus

# Ham-ing it up

## Amateur radio club offering all-day class

By SHERRI ELLINGTON  
sellington@myjpa.com

The Butts County Amateur Radio Club will offer its semi-annual "Ham Cram" class beginning at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 28. A Ham Cram is an all-day class that prepares participants to pass the technician class license exam and become an amateur radio operator.

The course will be held at Butts County Fire Station No. 7 at 144 Colwell Road, Jackson.

"Amateur radio is an exciting way to meet new people, make new friends, serve your neighbors, advance technology and have a whole lot of fun," club public information officer Ed Hoard said. "Amateur radio works when all other forms of communication fail, so it's a vital backup to emergency communications in your community."

The Ham Cram is free but there is a \$15 fee for taking the Federal Communications Commission exam and a driver's

license is required. There will be a license testing session held immediately following the Ham Cram. The license testing begins at 4:30 p.m.

"Ham radio is the original social media," operator Buzz Kutcher said. "Ham radio does not rely on infrastructure and is often the last-resort communications system."

Space is limited so pre-registration for the Ham Cram is encouraged. To register or for more information, call 678-920-8986.



Ham radio operators raise a hexagonal antenna as part of an Amateur Radio Field Day exercise. The Butts County Amateur Radio Club will offer an all-day technician class license exam course later this month for those interested in ham radio. (File Photo)

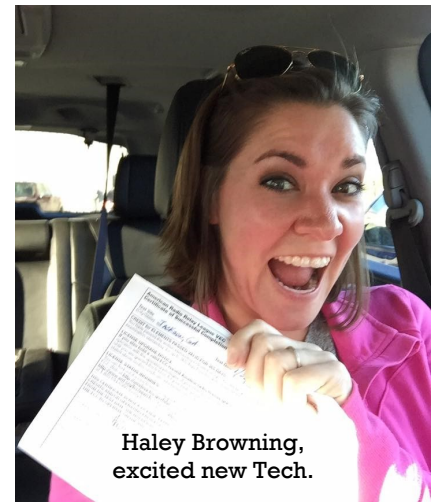
## HAM CRAM — ED HOARD WX4ED



On Saturday, January 21, the BCECA offered our 17th Ham Cram. A Ham Cram is an all-day class that prepares a prospective ham to successfully pass the Technician License exam. Our club has had some success with these Ham Crams and our pass/fail rate is pretty good.

Our latest class netted 5 new Techs! Their names are:

- **Alfred McClure**
- **Erion Starker**
- **Haley Browning**
- **Nancy Phillips**
- **Robert Bryant**



Haley Browning, excited new Tech.

When the FCC issues their call signs, we will publish those so you can QSO with these brand new hams! Congratulations!!

Additionally, there was one upgrade during the V.E. session:

- **Ian Kocher**  
(KN4ACV)  
General Class    Ω





**TECH FEST 2017 — DAN DARSEY W4DED**

Exactly what is Tech Fest? Most of you have attended a Ham Fest where you roam the grounds of tailgaters selling various items we all have to have. That is not Tech Fest. Tech Fest is a training arena, various clubs and organizations set up tables with subject matter experts and you

are able to speak to these experts one-on-one to gain knowledge and understand various subjects. This year the Atlanta Radio Club was showing Raspberry Pi applications for Amateur Radio; The Southeast DX Club was talking DX101; CW Ops with a display of many CW Keys and paddles; New Hams table; Emergency Solar Power Table; The North Fulton ARL had several tables to teach soldering and kit-building; DStar table; AMSAT for satellite communications and many more. This takes place in one large room where you can roam from table to table, getting as much information as you desire at your own pace.

Tech Fest also has forums. This year Hal Collier, W4IGE, did a presentation on "Emergency Power for Amateur Radio". This presentation explained which battery is best for Amateur Radio and how to charge it properly then explained how to use Solar Power for your radio. Very educational!

Then of course, there was the Chili Cook-Off. Anyone who knows me knows my favorite hobby is eating and the selections of chili were numerous.

Did I mention all this training and food is free!

I missed my granddaughter Monica, KK4KUF not being with me. She has attended the last 2 or 3 with me and always makes a new kit at the soldering tables. Last year she helped greet people and assisted in drawing for door prizes. This year her work schedule would not permit her to attend but hopefully next year she will be able to join me again. I hope you will join me next year for an excellent Ham Radio get together!

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

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

348 Patrick Circle  
Jenkinsburg, Georgia  
30234  
770-957-0779  
[wx4bca@arrl.net](mailto:wx4bca@arrl.net)

**Net Control Station Roster**

**February**  
Buzz K3GWK

**March**  
Ed WX4ED

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

**BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB**

**President**  
Buzz Kutcher K3GWK  
[k3gwk@arrl.net](mailto:k3gwk@arrl.net)

**Vice-president**  
Dan Darsey W4DED  
[w4ded@arrl.com](mailto:w4ded@arrl.com)

**Secretary**  
Darlene Ragon KK4BKF  
[lragon@aol.com](mailto:lragon@aol.com)

**Treasurer**  
John Lipscomb IV  
[john.lipscomb@delta.com](mailto:john.lipscomb@delta.com)

**Public Information Officer**  
Ed Hoard WX4ED  
[edhoard@yahoo.com](mailto:edhoard@yahoo.com)

**Club Photographer**  
J.D. Van Sickle KM4DHS  
[jvan12@charter.net](mailto:jvan12@charter.net)

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

**Emergency Coordinator**  
Buzz Kutcher K3GWK  
[k3gwk@arrl.net](mailto:k3gwk@arrl.net)

**A.E.C. / V.E. Team Admin.**  
Dan Darsey W4DED  
[w4ded@arrl.com](mailto:w4ded@arrl.com)

**A.E.C. / CERT Team Liaison**  
David Ridgeway KK4SUO  
[dpridgeway@bellsouth.net](mailto:dpridgeway@bellsouth.net)

**A.E.C. / Sheriff's Dept. Liaison**  
Mark Clark KW4VB  
[mercer17@live.com](mailto:mercer17@live.com)

**A.E.C.**  
David Burnham AK4EM  
[burnham1078@gmail.com](mailto:burnham1078@gmail.com)

**SKYWARN Coordinator**  
Elaine Stachowiak KW4AQ  
[ubudogems@hotmail.com](mailto:ubudogems@hotmail.com)

**Technical Coordinator**  
Mike Crowe AJ4GU  
[aj4gu@bellsouth.net](mailto:aj4gu@bellsouth.net)

**Director, Butts County  
OHS/EMA**  
Glen Goens KJ4TV0

**Net Manager**  
Ken Wallis KM4HOS  
[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, 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 **Dr. Ed Hoard** (WX4ED)  
[edhoard@yahoo.com](mailto:edhoard@yahoo.com)