



## THE REPEATER BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COCOMMUNICATIONS

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

JUNE 2017



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## THE PRESIDENT'S PONDERING—ED HOARD WX4ED



Field Day is rapidly approaching and Mark NI2Y's team has done a great job of preparation. There are yet two more prep activities on June 10 and 17; I hope you will be present for each of these important meetings. This year we will do a good bit of set-up on Friday, June 23 so we can reserve our energy on Saturday for making contacts.

Field Day is our opportunity to prove that we can set up, operate and survive in emergency-like conditions. It's also a wonderful way to introduce friends, relatives, neighbors and associates to our hobby. Start thinking of who you can invite to come by and see our team in action. This year we are adding a PA system that will be tied into one of the radios so visitors can hear what's being said by the contacted stations. It should add to their understanding of what we're doing.

Just a word about our monthly programs. For such a relatively small club (and one located on the very fringe of Metro Atlanta), we have some of the best speakers and programs available. Many thanks to Buzz K3GWK for his numerous contacts in the amateur radio world and his ability to do a little "arm-twisting" in getting speakers to drive long distances to be with us.

June is going to be a busy month with the Atlanta

Ham Fest on the 3<sup>rd</sup>; Club Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Hungry Hams and Field Day prep on the 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>; Set-up on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Field Day on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. After Field Day, Gigi and I are headed for Florida!

I will be attending the Jackson City Council meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> to receive the proclamation from the Mayor and City Council proclaiming the week of June 25<sup>th</sup> Amateur Radio Week in the City of Jackson. We deeply appreciate the City's recognition of our club's contribution to auxiliary emergency communication in Jackson and Butts County.

Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. If your dad is still alive, you are blessed. My dad passed away 25 years ago at the age of 82. Dad was a "carny;" he owned and operated a small amusement park and provided the carnival rides and entertainment at County Fairs throughout Central and South Georgia. Dad was multi-talented. For many years he was a professional sign painter (hand-lettering). He was foreman of the sign shop at the Warner Robins air base during WWII.

Dad was a frustrated entertainer (hence his profession as a carnay). He loved to do sleight-of-hand tricks for children; he could ride a bicycle backwards; and he was a master at card tricks. Dad lost his left index finger in a Ferris Wheel accident. He loved to get a group of kids together and do sleight-of-hand. Invariably, one kid would notice his missing finger and ask, "How did you lose your finger?" Dad would respond, "I'll tell you if you promise not to ask another question. It was bitten off."



Thanks for all you contribute to the hobby. When all else fails ... WX4ED

### SAVE THE DATES

**Sundays @ 21:30 Z**  
Weekly Butts County  
FM Training Net  
147.285- PL 131.8

**June 5**  
**Dinner—5:30 PM**  
Monthly Training  
Meeting, Exchange  
Club 7:00 PM

**June 10— 9:00 AM**  
FD Tech Saturday

**June 17— 7:30 AM**  
Hungry Hams Lunch  
Box, FD dry run

**June 23—25 FD !!!!!**

**WX4BCA REPEATER 147.285- PL 131.8**

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



### June

- June 3** — Atlanta Hamfest  
**June 5** — Monthly Club Meeting , Exchange Club  
 Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM  
**June 10** — FD Tech Saturday, Tech Saturday  
**\*June 12**— 6:00 PM Butts County Board of Commissioners declaration of  
 Amateur Radio Week Everyone plan to attend  
**June 13**— Newton County Club Meeting.  
 NC Law Enforcement Center, 7:00 PM  
**June 17**— Hungry Hams, Lunchbox Restaurant, 7:30 AM, FD final dry run  
 Tech Saturday  
**\*June 20**— Jackson City Council declaration of Amateur Radio Week Everyone  
 plan to attend  
**June 24, 25, 26** — Field Day, Kersey Pavilion

### July

- July 4**— Independence Day  
**July 8** — Technician Class Day 1, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM  
 Gordon West via Skype 12:00 Noon  
**July 10** — Monthly Club Meeting , Exchange Club  
 Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM  
**July 15** — Hungry Hams, Lunchbox Restaurant  
 7:30 AM, Technician Class Day 2, 8:00 AM — 4:00 PM  
 Amateur Radio Testing Session



## Online Articles / Sites of Interest to Hams

<http://research.noaa.gov/News/NewsArchive> NOAA Begins Transition of Powerful New Tool to Improve Hurricane Forecasts



## Technician License Prep Classes – Reminder



Goodbye HAMCRAM :(  
 But wait !...Hello 2 day Technican Class :)  
 Spread the Word !

Dates & Times

July 8 - 8:00 AM to 4:PM

July 15 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Limited Class Size to 14 Students

To reserve a seat contact:

Dan Darsey



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

### FROM THE BACKACRE...

I hope everyone is getting psyched up for our primary, “numero uno” exercise, Field Day. Mark and his committee are doing an excellent job organizing the event. Looks like we will be ready to go as a 2A station and regain our number one position. Darlene has sent out a request for picnic information; number attending and picnic support. I believe our Grill Markster is going to be back again this year – looking forward to those hamburgers. David (Our IT Guru) is ready to get our network set up and running. We will again be using a wired network. Wire has proven to be more reliable than wireless with the logging program we will be using. I will be the GOTA Guy this year and I am looking forward to the challenge. Those of you who are new to Field Day can get your feet wet at the GOTA station before you enter the contest fray. Gonna be another great Field Day.

HAMNET-MESH... Mark (NI2Y) and I have been experimenting with HAMNET-MESH. If we can get it working, we will have an Internet bridge operating between the BC DPH office and the pavilion. That will give us a way to demonstrate Internet ham radio programs to visitors and track our QSO progress, online. We can also use it from the GOTA Station to SPOT our call on the DX Cluster system. If you have an old, unused Linksys 54G router stashed away somewhere, dig it out and bring it to a meeting. It may be possible to repurpose it as a HAMNET-MESH device.

D-STAR UPDATE... Not much new on the D-STAR repeater. It is on the air as a stand-alone machine. If you have a UHF D-STAR radio you can use it to talk to other local D-STAR stations. Our Internet connection has not been opened up; a request to the hospital's IT folks has been submitted. Now we wait. One more time: Thank You to Mike (AJ4GU) and David (AG4ZR) for their assistance.

Our ARES activity for May totaled 297 Ham Hours; the value of that time was just about \$7,100. There were eight training opportunities (136 Ham

Hours) and two Public Service events (66 Ham Hours). The organizers of the Jackson Football Alumni 5K were, once again, very appreciative of our assistance. Just being out on the course is support for the runners and we were there, ready if needed. Great job everybody! Melvin was NCS again this year. Mark reports we have been invited back for the 2018 event. The other May Public Service event was the VE Session. Dan reported one new Extra. Good report from Ken regarding digital activity, our use of ICS-213 forms during our weekly WL2K test is nearing 100%. Ken asks that we use this weekly report to submit our individual digital activity. Ken is back to providing a post FM net exercise message using Fldigi over our repeater, this is another good training opportunity. Participation in this test is not what we would like though, stick around after the net and participate.



Our ARES roster now stands at thirty-four (+1). There are nineteen ACTIVE members and five PENDING members (Alan Levy, WA4KFV, has joined our ARES team). The PENDING members must complete a Basic ARES course, IS-100, IS-700 and IS-802 to achieve full ACTIVE status. No change since last month: Eight ACTIVE members still need to complete a Basic ARES Course. Remember to include Butts County (EC Buzz Kutcher K3GWK) when you register for the Gwinnett Basic ARES course. Eight need ICS-100, twelve need to complete ICS-700 and eighteen need to complete ICS-802 (ESF2, Communications). If you have any questions about the training requirements, see me or any of our Assistant ECs. It is very important that you all complete this training so you will understand our role and how our “customers” function.

New CERT members: KM4NRP, K4NEP, KN4EGS, AK4EM, KM4PKD AND NI2Y

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

Thanks again for all you do for ARES and for Amateur Radio.

73, Buzz (K3GWK)





## Gordon West is coming to town !

July 10 , Saturday, at noon, by way of live video, Gordon West will join us during our first offering of a two day technician class.

He is excited about our club's activity and will be present via video chat.this July

Please don't miss this great opportunity to meet with the one and only Gordo.



## FIELD DAY UPDATE – 2017

It is now the month of Field Day.

Remember that this is everyone's event.

The operator and logger rosters are filling slowly especially in the evening hours.

Please volunteer for these positions.

The rosters will be present at our meetings for in order to complete the sign up process.

73, Mark/N12Y, FD coordinator



The 2017 CERT class conducted the last class on May 30 offered by Glen Goens.

Five of our club members graduated from the course.

Erion ( KA4AUE ), Nancy Phillips ( K4NEP ), Dave Burnham. ( AK4EM ), Mark Baker. ( KM4NEP ), Mark Clark ( NI2Y )

Several club family members also participated in the training. Michelle Burnham (KM4PKD) Natalie Burnham, Nora Burnham and Patti Clark



# Is That Dan (W4DED) Flying the Space Shuttle ? Mike (AJ4GU) and Dan (W4DED) Attend Hamvention 2017

## 2017 Hamvention

Since 1952, every spring, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) put on the Dayton Ham Fest. It was estimated 30,000 Amateur Radio Operators from around the World would invade Southern Ohio for three days. This year the Hamvention moved to a new location, Green County Fair Grounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Six buildings and Tents were occupied by every major radio manufacturer displaying their latest and greatest. All the major retailers have booths where they sell everything dealing with amateur radio. You can go from one vendor to another looking for the lowest price. Deals can be found.

Forums were held thru out the three days in four classrooms. Topics included MARS, Antennas, DXing, Digital Modes and many more.



Dan lands the space shuttle in a simulator

The flea market area is located in the infield of a horse race track. 1300 spaces are spread thru out this area with new and used items. You are sure to find something you cannot live without. Wear your walking shoes.

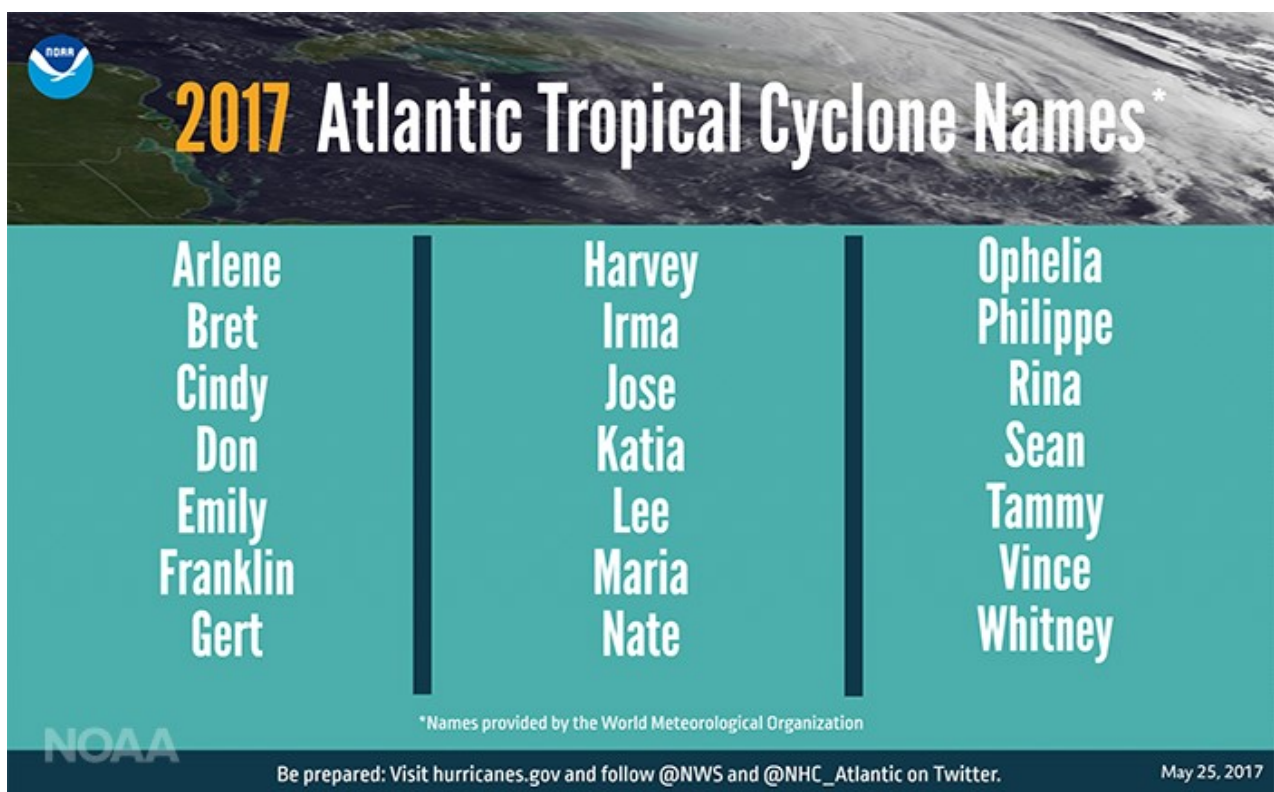
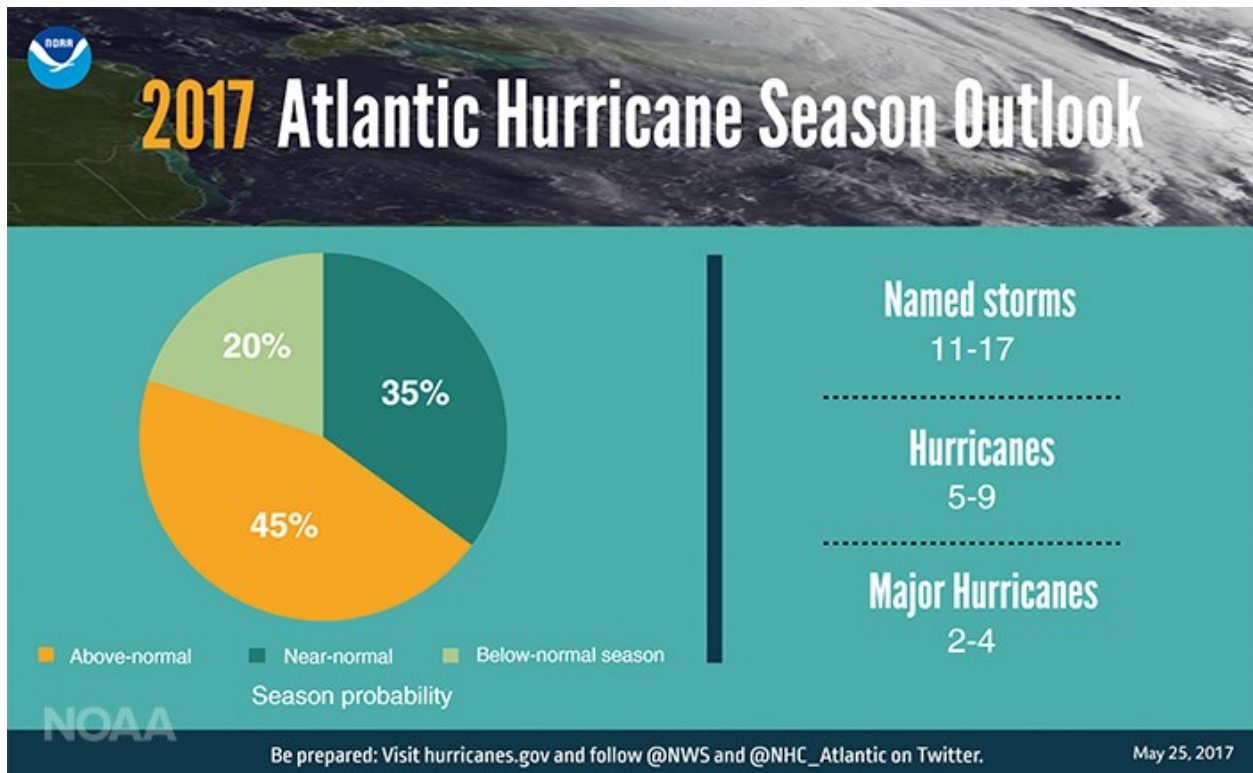
As with every new location, problems were experienced especially with parking. I have confidence DARA will have the problems worked out by next year.

If you plan to go, I would recommend going up a day early and visit the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It was a great experience.

By Dan Darsey (W4DED)



# THE REPEATER BUTTS





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

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**Net Control Station Roster**

**June**

Melvin KK4QJR

**July**

Mark NI2Y

**August**

Melvin KK4QJR

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

**BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR  
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J.D. Van Sickle KM4DHS  
[jvan12@charter.net](mailto:jvan12@charter.net)

**Weekly Training Net:**

**Sunday 21:30 GMT  
4:30 EST 5:30 EDT  
WX4BCA Repeater  
147.285- PL131.8**

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

**Emergency Coordinator**

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**Director, Butts County**

**OHS/EMA**  
Glen Goens KJ4TV0

**Net Manager**

Ken Wallis KM4HOS

**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 - send ICS-213 to port: [gaares.ratflector.com](http://gaares.ratflector.com):9000**

**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)**

**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 **Mark Clark (NI2Y)**  
[NI2Y@arrl.net](mailto:NI2Y@arrl.net)

# Editor's Page - Closing Thoughts

## Disruptive Technology



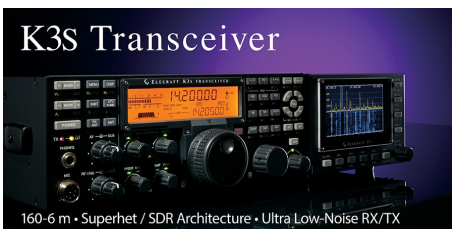
So, what is this talk about “disruptive technology”? This not so new buzzword resurfaced in a lecture by Rob Sherwood (NC0B) at this year's Contest University and created much post event internet discussion. I think I recall that the expression “game changer” has been used for the same phenomenon. But every now and then a new term must be born. Who cannot forget or would like to forget “paradigm shift”? Either term suggests that new technology changes the market place and fuels competition. Perhaps the most recent major example of disruptive technology started with the release of the first iPhone. Samsung, Microsoft, Goggle and of course the Chinese all jumped to attention.

A current example in the amateur radio world is the disappearance of a major US based crystal manufacturer. DSP technology drastically reduced demand for IF crystals. International Crystal Manufacturing Co., Inc. finally was shuttered in May.

Mr. Sherwood used the ICOM IC-7300 as an example of disruptive technology for the amateur radio transceiver market (approximately 10,000 units were sold worldwide in the first year of its release).

Technology that changes the market and consumer's buying habits must obviously speak to significant consumer appeal. The result is a pressure to force competitors to rethink their products and issue a competitive response.

SDR or software defined radios are hardly new. Elecraft, Flex and Apache are three noted makers that beat ICOM to the table well in advance. They offer excellent performance, specifications and innovation. The IC-7300 however entered the market as an entry level priced product with a standalone design that does not require a separate computer and features a touch screen. Most notable has been the 7300's price point.





# Let the Games Begin!



From now on the choices should only become more interesting. Every radio is a compromise, but less so as the price increases. Features such as power output, number of knobs, size of the display screen, inputs, outputs, programming and more will be the topics of endless discussions and opportunities for radio manufacturers to pick and choose from to compete.

We must not forget however that some of the leading contesters still use older transceivers that have top notch performance and utility that stand up favorably to more contemporary equipment. Also, do not forget that an efficient antenna remains a basic requirement in the shack setup.

Ultimately the consumers will decide. Forums will continue with discussions about simplicity versus complexity, knob quantity and presence, noise floors, back panel ports, timely program updates timeliness, display size and content, built in antenna tuners, overall appearance and price.

So, stay tuned to the forums for each new radio to be released or that is already on the market. Promoters and detractors will be passionate as we know when it comes to one's favorite product. Personal preferences play a big part.

Will Kenwood and Yaesu offer similar products? Some prognosticators are already suggesting that they are lagging and might be in decline. Both are notable players who will not likely fall off the map soon. The commercial market for their radios is their major income source and supports the amateur radio divisions to some extent. Remember Mark Twain's quote that the rumors of his death were premature. SDR receivers are already numerous and can be found in kit form, circuit board platforms, USB fobs and a variety of offerings. Many SDR transceivers are already on the market with QRP transmitting power.

So, what is to come from Kenwood, Yaesu, Baofeng, Woxoun and others? Time will tell. It promises to be interesting to watch.

73,

Mark/N12Y

Newsletter Editor

