

THE REPEATER

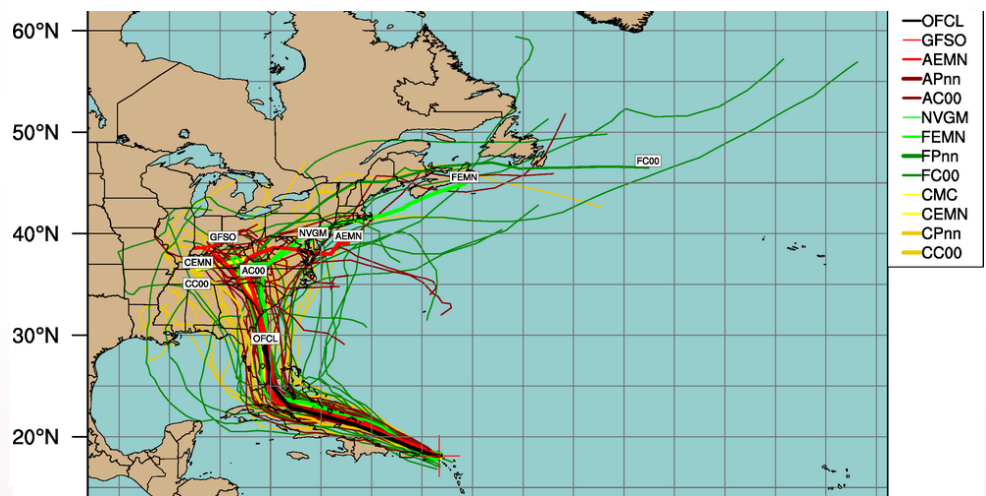
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SEPTEMBER 2017

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.

HURRICANE IRMA

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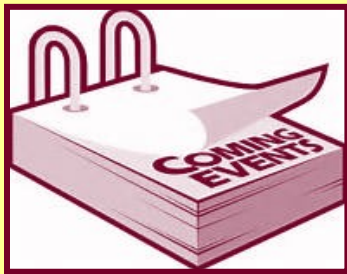
EARLY HURRICANE IRMA PATH PROJECTIONS

Butts CountyEmergency

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234

770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net





2018
 January 13 — GA ARES Meeting (09:30 AM at GPSTC)
 January 20 — GARS TechFest & Chili Cook-Off



September

SEPTEMBER

18— Monthly Club Meeting (rescheduled due to Irma) Exchange Club, Topic : NPOTA Activities, Speaker: Chuck McCord, KK4TKU
 16— VE Session
 23—Hungry Hams, 7:30 AM at the Lunchbox



October

2— Monthly Club Meeting, Exchange Club
 Topic Raspberry Pi and Amateur Radio - Jim Reed, N4BFR
 Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM
 7—Simulated Emergency Test (SET) more info soon
 11—N. Fulton Club Ham Jam —Tickets on-line
 20—Zombie Run & 5K (J-burg) Butts Co. Kiwanis Club
 21— TECH SATURDAY: Tape Measure Antenna Build?
 28—Jackson Alive Festival 9AM — 4 PM



November

4 & 5—Stone Mountain Hamfest (Breakfast?) Tickets on-line
 5—End of DST
 6—Monthly Club Meeting, Exchange Club
 Pre-meeting dinner, Mesquite Grill, 5:30 PM
 11—North Fulton Club's HamJam—Tickets on-line
 13—Veteran's Day
 18—Hungry Hams & VE Session
 23 —Thanksgiving



December

07 Family Christmas Dinner (7th Anniversary) – Buckner's Restaurant 18:30
 16—TECH SATURDAY - OPEN
 25— *******CHRISTMAS*******

Hungry Hams meet on the 3rd Saturday at the Lunchbox restaurant in Jackson (07:30)

MEMBER BEACON



The Repeater welcomes Ken Wallis, KM4HOS, to our monthly member spotlight feature. Let's get to know him better through his personal perspective of the diverse hobby of HAM radio.

Thank you Ken for your contribution to our club and The Repeater

KEN WALLIS - KM4HOS

1. In which year were you first licensed? Jan. '15

2. What aspect of HAM radio first interested you in the hobby? Had a buddy in grammar school who's Dad was a Ham, thought it was cool to talk to somebody a long way off w/ a radio you own'd & had in your den, not like telephones that somebody else controlled. HAM radios would always get my attention after that.

Then while in the Navy, back in '81 I wuz flyin' fm Diego Garcia up to Hormuz one night, a 5 hr flight. I didn't know it at the time, but my Navigator/Communicator (radio op) was a HAM and on long transits he'd CQ his callsign w/ 'aeronautical mobile' attached to it and make all sorts of HF contacts (P-3's had 2 REALLY good HF sets) Well... just so happen'd that THIS night every Boy Scout in Australia was campin' out (still asleep) on their annual Jamboree somewhere in the 'outback'. So when their 'JOTA' station heard an ' /AeroMobile' call for a QSO they got kinda excited, but when Doug told 'em he was a US Navy P-3 in the middle of the Indian Ocean, every one of them boys woke up and decided they needed a HAM Radio merit badge IMMEDIATELY... You can guess what happen'd after that, Doug got wore out pretty quick, plus he still had to do our navigatin', so the rest of our 14 man krew became 'instant Hams' and took turns at Doug's radio station learnin' how to deal w/ 'pile-ups' for the next 4 hrs that night yakkin' w/ all the Boy Scouts. It was alotta fun, the kids were all excited and my krew gotta real kick out of it all too.

Then in the summer of '14 at a TEA Party mtg over in Barnesville, they had 2 local HAMs do a presentation on HAM radio as it pertained to Emerg Preparedness. As in the past, I perked up and listen'd purty intently, cool... yeah, when I getta 'round tuit'. But I told Anna about it when I got home, along w/ my long lost interest in HAM radio.

Well, come around Christmas that year, Dan, W4DED, put an add for a HAM-Cram in the Jackson Prog-Arg newspaper, I don't read, but Anna duz, and she sed that Dan sed that I could 'git a HAM radio license in ONE DAY!! Well... by cracky, WHY NOT?? So I got my Tech license that Jan, and my general after the BCECA's class in March. So here I am, 2 years (and guzzillions of \$\$\$, hrs of radio, digital, & EmComm classes, antenna parties, and 20 lbs heavier fm all the Hungry Hams, etc) later, enjoyin' the 1st hobby I've ever had that didn't involve me travelin' all over workin' on old airplanes in museums or playin' drums in a rock 'n roll band. I would say it's relaxing, but... NOT!!

3. What type of radio was your first radio? a Yaesu FT-8800 R/E.

4. What is your favorite radio? a Yaesu FT- dx 1200 sittin' in my office.

5. Which aspect of HAM radio interests you most now. EmComms & digital, go-kit.

6. What future area of HAM radio would you consider learning more about? how to operate (correctly) my 1200, really got alot of bells/whistles I know nuthin' about.

KEN WALLIS - KM4HOS

7. Are any of your relatives licensed HAMs ? No, but got an old High School buddy that Anna & me (and half my band) went to 1st grade with who's been a HAM for 30+ yrs. He'd been after me for along time to get a HAM license, but I never had/ made the time. He about broke out in tears when he heard me on an HF at Bluebirds & Bluegrass in the spring of '15, he was in AZ at the time.

8. What is your most interesting contact? On Field Day '15, Sunday around 4 AM in the bustling metropolis of Jackson, Ga at the Rec Ctr's Kersey Pavillion, I was workin' 40m when this guy answer'd my call fm the SS Mercy hospital ship in the Coral Sea, halfway between Australia and Bouganville. Well... so much for 'quick' contacts, I was a newly minted HAM I wanted to know ALL the particulars, so the bonafide ragchew began. Turn'd out he wuz a ret'd Navy Chief like Dan and me, but when he ret'd he went back to sea as a civilian, ya know it's the 'You can take the sail- or outta the sea, but you can't take the sea outta the sailor' kinda thing. He wuz 'off watch' at the time and a licensed HAM so... knowin' it was Field Day '15 back in the States he went up to the Mercy's radio room to kill some time yakkin' w/ all the state-side radio operators tryin' to make points at their bivouac sites. We had a nice chat, shame he was usin' the ship's callsign, so I never got his, think he wuz 8,600 mi away, give or take a few... small world jez gittin' smaller.

9. Are there any licensing and/or operating regulations that you would like to be changed?

No, but ignorance is bliss. Glad they got rid of the Morse Code requirement back in '07 or I'da never known...

10. Where is your station located? (example: inside house or other location) In my office, next to the kitchen (and the coffee pot!!)

11. What kind of antennas do you use? a Buckmaster 7-band Off Center Fed dipole I got fm Mike, it's about 60' up in the trees around my house. Had used an 80m ctr fed that I made myself that worked OK, Europe and all that, but had alot of RFI in the shack, this one's better and I don't need to use an external tuner w/ it.

12. How could amateur radio attract more young members? Think it's pretty attractive already to the academic type kids, we just gotta get out there and sell it, let 'em SEE it. It is kinda expensive tho for 'a hobby'.

13. Which club activity do you enjoy most? All of it, sep for all the 'paperwork', ugghhh.

14. What advice would you give to new HAMs? Get involved w/ the club and go to every event we do, mtg's, Hungry Hams, antenna parties, training sessions, tech Saturdayz, cuz you're always gonna learn something fm it. We got a LOTTA talent in this klub's leaders.

15. Is there any information about you or comments that you would like to add? Nah, I'll start my next novel when I got more time. Appreciate your work on 'the Reapeter' Mark.



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS— DR. ED HOARD /

WX4ED

President's Ponderings September 2017

Hurricane Harvey is proving to be the most expensive hurricane to come ashore in America. All of us remember the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina that hit the New Orleans coast in 2005. Although Katrina took more lives than Harvey (1,833 compared to 39 so far), the economic impact is expected to be greater. Katrina did \$100 billion of damage and Harvey's impact will be greater. By any measure, a hurricane hitting a major US city is devastating!

Those of us who are amateur radio operators are familiar with the term "when all else fails." And in Houston, Texas and the surrounding areas—all else failed!

According to Jeff Roberson of the Associated Press, amateur radio operators have stepped up after electricity and cell towers in Hurricane Harvey's path shut off. Roberson writes:

"These radio enthusiasts have been using their hobby and expertise to help emergency responders, hospitals, and shelters communicate by sending important data about barometric pressure, damages, wind speed, and wind direction to help response efforts."

"320, or 4% of the 7,804 cell sites in the region are out of service," the Wall Street Journal has reported. And although most cell towers have backup batteries, batteries only last about 8 hours, and if they're flooded or their equipment is blown away, they're toast.

Since Katrina, when hams were also deployed, they've received some government funding to help bolster repeater systems along the gulf coast. Now there are more amateur radio operators registered in the United States than at any other point in history, according to the ARRL.

Unfortunately, the public doesn't always hear about the valiant efforts made by ARES groups who come to the rescue when traditional forms of communication are down. I subscribe to a national email network of amateur radio club Public Information Officers. The main theme of the emails since Hurricane Harvey is the ineffectual effort by clubs and PIOs to adequately get the word out to the news media.

We have a great PIO in Mark Clark. Mark keeps our club and its activities in the spotlight through our local print and electronic media. But public information dissemination should be the job of every member of our club. We must take advantage of disasters like Harvey to inform the public about the role of amateur radio in general, and the Butts County Amateur Radio Club (BCECA) in particular.

On a related note, I'm looking forward to Darlene Ragon's presentation to the club on November 6. For many years Darlene has been a prepper anticipating any natural or man-made disaster. Darlene made a presentation to my church family last month on "Family Preparedness." A large group of

our members turned out on a Wednesday night for two hours to hear Darlene talk about basic preparedness.

Darlene is also a prepared ham. In the event of an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) anything with a computer chip will be disabled. There are computer chips in almost everything electronic and mechanical. And EMPs not only come from a nuclear explosion, but also from the sun itself. In fact, our delicate planet barely escaped an EMP last month. Scientists say that it would have rivaled the Carrington Event in 1859 when a solar storm was so intense, it took out all telegraph stations.

If we were to be hit with an EMP (either from bomb blast or solar storm) our unprotected radios would be rendered inoperable. That is, unless we have wisely protected them by using a Faraday cage. Darlene will tell us how to construct just such a cage at our November meeting.

September is going to be busy for our club. We have already scheduled three of the four Saturdays and we will make a decision about another Saturday at our club meeting this month. See the calendar of events elsewhere in the newsletter and be sure to transfer these events and dates to your personal calendar.

I am excited about the new day and time for our weekly training net. Ken Wallis is doing a great job as our "Net Guy" and the move to Tuesday night should be a great advantage to us in getting more proficient digitally. Although I teach on Tuesday nights and will miss the net most weeks, I was in favor of moving the net so that we would have more time for the digital portion. It'll take me some time to break the habit of a Sunday net (this past Sunday night I tried to check in!), but I'm committed to making the transition!

Thank you for your service to our county and area by being active in our club. Please continue to "talk it up" by saying a good word about ham radio and about our club every chance you get.

When all else fails...

Ed WX4ED



NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE – K3GWK



August was a fairly quiet month for our ARES group. The antenna team was able to set up a dual-band vertical at the QTH of N4NEP (Nancy Phillips). She is now the “Voice of 2nd Street”, with a permanent home station and more powerful signal. There was also a productive antenna party at Mike’s (AJ4GU). He added another wire antenna to his array – this time a multi-band folded dipole. He reports that the new antenna is playing well. Remember if you need help with an antenna project, just ask. 1-800-ANT-ENNA

Freida and I spent a relaxing week at the beach. Our daughter, grandson and son-in-law were with us this year and we had a really great time. I took my hand held satellite antenna along hoping to hear one or two passes of a LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellite. I had a hamsat tracking app installed on my phone, the antenna assembled, watched a couple of hours of YouTube videos on satellite operations and thought, “piece of cake.” Far from it; I never heard a peep from any of the passes. I did create quite a spectacle though, standing on the beach waving a three foot antenna around. Fortunately no one asked what I was doing. *Back to the old drawing board...* I did manage to get a VHF FM packet beacon message digipeated through the ISS from my home station. It is neat to see the text indicating another station heard your packet signal retransmitted by the space station’s packet radio and your callsign show up on the world-wide packet map (<http://www.ariss.net>).

Our ARES activity for August totaled 202 Ham Hours.

The community impact value of that time was

\$4,270.00. There were six training opportunities (86 Ham Hours). We had two Miscellaneous Activities (116 Ham Hours), both related to antenna installations. August was the last month for the Sunday evening training net. That net will move to Tuesday evenings, starting at 19:30 Local. The new net will continue the FM voice check-ins but will provide more time for NBEMS training – more opportunity for practice and Elmering. GA

ARES is again asking for WL2K test messages to be sent to WX4GMA on Sundays. Our Sunday WL2K test will continue also; send your Digital Activity Report (using an ICS-213 form) to WX4BCA and WX4GMA. That report is how our Net Manager KM4HOS tracks what our group is doing regarding the recommended digital modes and our use of ICS-213 forms for messaging. Ken tallies those hours and message quantities and reports up the GA ARES chain to our District Digital Guy – Mike, AJ4GU. It is very important to report digital activity.

We have thirty-five hams on our ARES roster; we lost one member and gained two. Alan Levy (WA4KFV) has returned to his home state of Louisiana. Mike (AJ4GU) and Rudy (KA8LAD) have transferred their ARES affiliation to Butts County. Maybe Alan will come back and operate Field Day. There are eleven GA ARES DEPLOYABLE members, nineteen “ACTIVE” members and five PENDING members. The PENDING members must complete a Basic ARES course, IS-100, IS-700 and IS-802 to achieve full ACTIVE status. Many of our current ACTIVE members have not completed those courses – as I mentioned last month, it’s all about resiliency and knowing what our served agencies expect. Knowing how they operate is important, it is what they expect.

The annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is coming up fast. It will be held on October 7, 2017. The final state SET plan has not yet been released. Mark your calendars and reserve that date. Our portion of the exercise will involve portable operations and message handling. Our county drill will probably include several ESF entities and should qualify as an exercise for our county EMA.

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)



WHIT'S WISDOM

Whit Smith—WA4VBX



Under the Counter Light

Do you want an under the counter light? With a few parts and a little work you can install this light.

I have done two of these installations using a 2 foot fluorescent strip light. The first one was hung on the bottom of a wire shelf, and the second was hung on the bottom of a wood shelf. The light could be mounted vertically on the side if desired.

The first thing is to decide what size of light and how long it would be. Provide a 3-wire cord (if not furnished with the light) and a cord strain relief. Provide a pull chain switch mounted inside the light fixture. As an alternate the switch can be installed on the cord that feeds power to the light. If you mount the switch inside the light fixture, you will need to put the switch on the same end as the cord, and so that the pull chain hangs down.

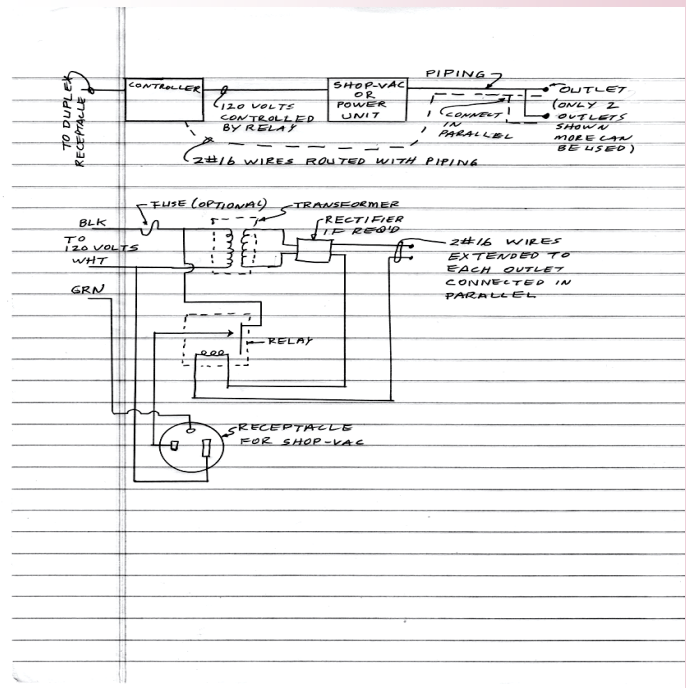
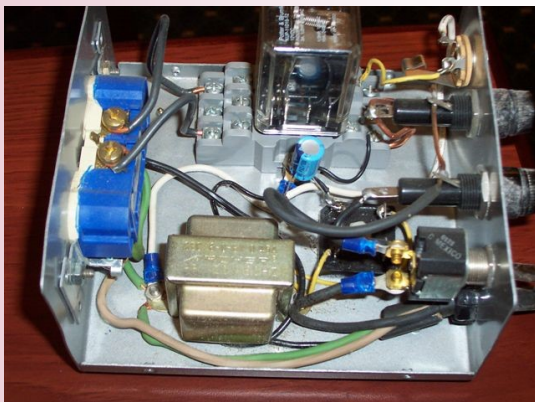
When mounting on a wire shelf, attach 2 clips to the side of the light fixture. 2 screws, 2 clips, 2 washers, 2 nuts as well as 2 holes in the side of

the lighting fixture are required. All of these parts can be found at a hardware store.

When mounting the fixture under a wood shelf, drill a hole in the top and bottom of the fixture at each end. Use a deck screw (or similar wood screw) to attach the fixture to the bottom of the shelf. Be sure to provide a wood block about 3/4" square and at least 1/2" thick to be held in place by the deck screw. This block allows for air circulation around the fixture.

If desired, a panel of some sort could be installed in front of the fixture to hide the back of the fixture. I chose not to put a panel on both of my installations. A panel could be attached to the back of the light fixture, but be sure to use spacers. Be sure not to restrict the air flow around the fixture.

Below are figures that show details.

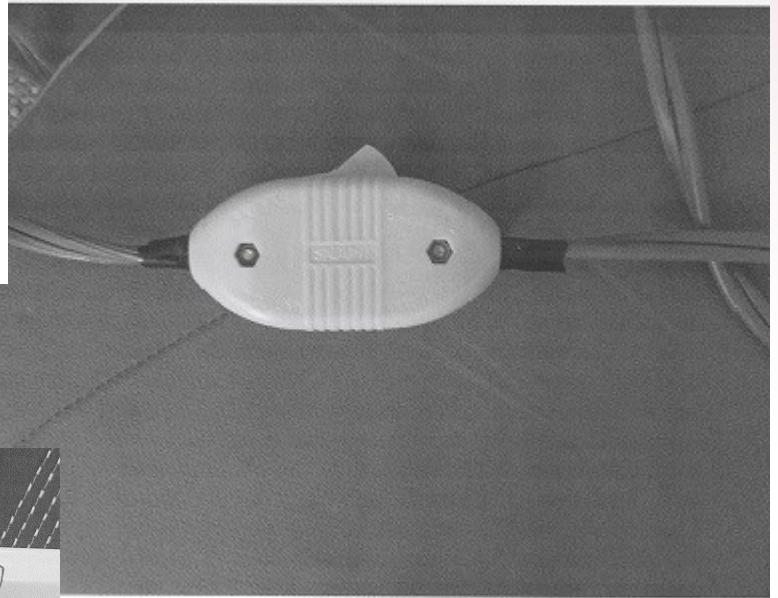


Under the Counter Light— Project Photos

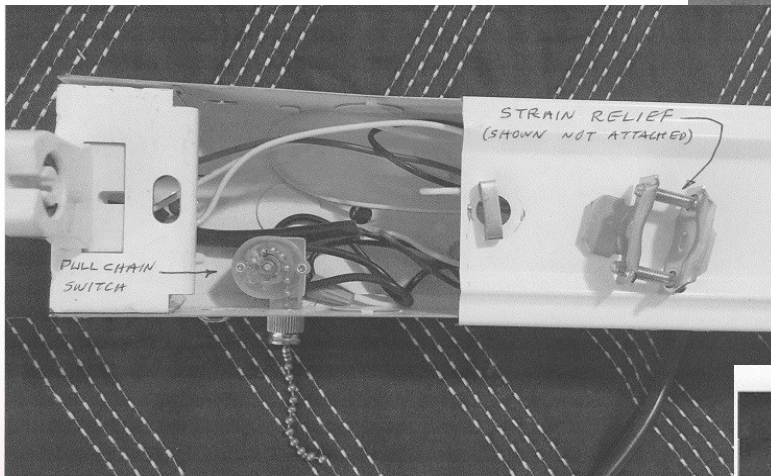


CLIP ATTACHES LIGHT FIXTURE
TO WIRE SHELF

WHIT'S WISDOM

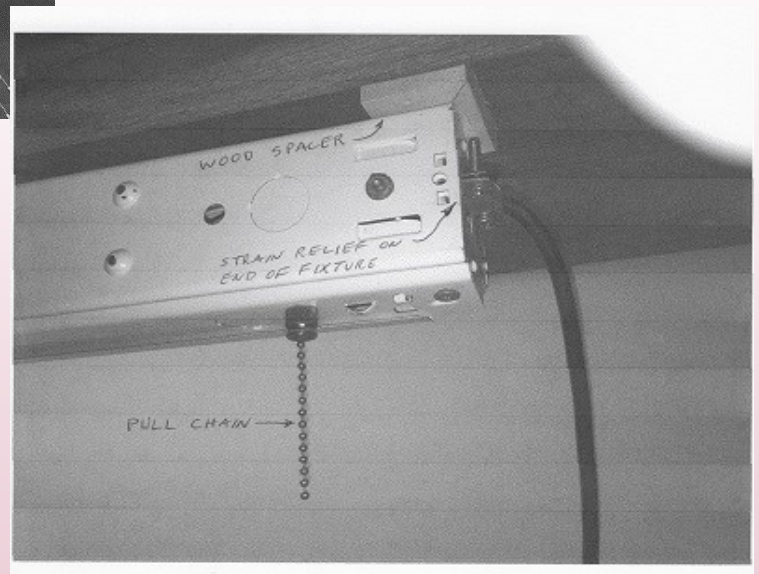


IN LINE SWITCH



Whit's Wisdom is a series of shack savvy articles depicting projects that enhance the radio amateur's equipment and shack.

We thank Whit, WA4VBX for his regular contributions to The Repeater.



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

September

Darlene KK4RBKF

October

Elaine KW4AQ

November

BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

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Weekly Training Net:

FM Tuesday 7:30 PM

BUTTS COUNTY/SOUTHERN CRESCENT HF/VHF/ UHF NETS

Sunday (4:30 PM) GA ARES Digital Net — September: Program: D-RATS - send ICS-213 to port: gaares.ratflector.com:9000 RMS Express/Winlink - send ICS-213 to WX4GMA (WX4GMA@Winlink.org) RF WINMOOR preferred over Telnet

Sunday afternoon BCARES WL2K ICS-213, Include a weekly Digital Report to the attention of the Net Manager, KM4HOS RF WINMOOR preferred over Telnet

Sunday (5:30 PM) GA ARES D-RATS - send ICS-213 to port: gaares.ratflector.com:9000

Tuesday (7:30 PM) Butts CO FM Training Net and Digital Training — 147.285 MHz (131.8 PL) Net begins with voice check-ins followed by an NBEMS Digital Practice Net. WL2K test messages using an ICS-213 form will be accepted. Winlink: WX4BCA, RF WINMOOR preferred over Telnet

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)

EDITOR'S NOTES

This post appeared in of all places the IC-7300 Yahoo Group.

Although the topic is the ongoing concern about public safety radio and impacts on amateur radio, the blue text paragraph is an interesting view about our need for ongoing training and learning.

From: Ed Humphries ed@humphries.com [ic-7300]
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 9:10 AM
To: ic-7300@yahogroups.com
Subject: Re: [ic-7300] Possible Guilty Party for Killing Bands Today

Okay, gone off-topic here, but:

It is natural for authorities to want to CONTROL any and everything they use; to include, of course, communications. But that has always been true. Witness the Navy not wanting to release amateur radio post-WWII.

Sat-phones and hard cells (and portable cell systems) etc. are limited in several ways. But all that is irrelevant - amateur radio is NOT in competition with public safety radio. Where did this idea come from? We complement, supplement, and support - and we provide valuable secondary links, humanitarian communications (health & welfare messages etc.), as well as peace of mind to many people at multiple levels.

It is true that many hams are ill-equipped and under-trained/drilled for emergency/public service work. And self-deploying folks only hurt our image. As a group we need to be life-long learners and innovators - and we need to get way better at selling the things that we do well.

Amateur radio is not "last" - at least not in many if not most communities (that is why we have MOUs and SOW agreements) - what communication is "last" is really too far off-topic to discuss.

"Irrelevant?" Only if you let yourself be.
Personally, I don't think so.

On 9/10/2017 8:00 PM, Joe joe@45retire.com [ic-7300] wrote:
> Ya. Ham radio is more likely a last and irrelevant response now days.
> First response is satphones and even hardened cellular network.
>
> Joe K7JOE

--
Cheers, Ed Humphries, KT4ED