



# THE REPEATER

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## OCTOBER 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.

## HAMS OUTREACH TO YORK, PA. MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

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Due to his vacation, the President's Ponderings will return for the November issue.

On Friday morning, club member Buzz, K3GWK assisted fellow HAM Brian Klimes, K3BEK, with an Amateur Radio demo. Brian was at the York, PA middle school where Buzz's daughter teaches and where his grand-son is a 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. They used Echo-Link and the Keystone VHF Club's W3HZU VHF repeater.

His grandson, Jacob is at the radio.

### Butts County

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### 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)

10 to14—Butts County Fair, Opens Nightly 6:30 PM+

20—Zombie Run & 5K (J-burg) Butts Co. Kiwanis Club

21— TECH SATURDAY: Tape Measure Antenna Build?



### 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**\*\*\*\*\*



### JANUARY

8— Monthly Club Meeting (rescheduled due to New Year's Day) Exchange Club,

13— Georgia ARES Meeting (GPSTC 09:30 AM)

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

# MEMBER BEACON



**The Repeater welcomes Nancy Phillips, K4NEP, to our monthly member spotlight feature. Let's get to know him better through his personal perspective of the diverse hobby of HAM radio.**

## Nancy Phillips — N4NEP

There was a Ham Cram offered on Jan 26, 2017. It must have amused God that I was interested in taking the class, because he let me pass my Technician test. Luckily for me, the classes for General began the very next week. He made me work for that one, but 8 weeks later, I passed the General.

Not really sure what sparked my interest to even consider taking the Ham Cram. It may have been from my experience in the Navy. Any opportunity you have to take an advancement exam during Service, take it. If you don't pass, nothing changes. If you pass, if nothing else, it's a pay increase. Also, it's a hobby that you don't see everyone else doing. That makes it cool.

My 1<sup>st</sup> radio was a Kenwood TH-f6A handheld. A little 5w HT which allowed me to sign in on Net every weekend. Can't do a Moon Bounce with it, but it's a nice little radio. My 2<sup>nd</sup> radio was loaned to me by my mentor. A little 2m Icom V8000 that I could use to get my feet wet. My husband recently found an Icom 880H, like the one at the hospital I'll be using when I get a little more training under my belt.

I've heard of Kenwood since I was very young. They make a really good radio. Icom was new to me, but I like the looks of both the Icom 7300 and the Yaesu 991A. And then, what self-respecting ham doesn't want for a Kenwood TS99900? I gotta learn how to use that V8000 first.

At the April Ham club meeting, the guest speaker talked about little bitty radios you could build. LITTLE – like, the size of an Altoid can! Something similar to that is the tiny little computer called a Raspberry Pi. For some reason, I find those quite fascinating. One day, I'd like to build a circuit board for a radio. That's the mechanic in me talking. Another thing I'd like to do someday, is a Moon Bounce, but I have to save up for that long-distance bill.

My husband, Jeff, is a ham, too. KN4FRG. Jeff is working out of town right now. When I told him back in January that I was going to take this class called a Ham Cram, well, the challenge was on. In just 3 months, Jeff had his Amateur Extra license. What's more infuriating, he scored 100 on the test. Still threatening to get mine one day, but I have managed to acquire my General and VE licenses, and have passed the CERT course, as well, in the meantime.

We bought Jeff an Icom 7300 on May 15th. In just 60 days, Jeff has logged over 540 contacts, including several countries. My claim to fame so far is a contact with WIAW (the ARRL station) during my 1<sup>st</sup> Field Day event. Whatever. Jeff has his station set up in the den at the farm. He's got all kinds of stuff going on there. He has an antenna in the front yard, one on the back side of the house, one hanging off the den roof, one on his truck; he has the Icom 7300, some mobile unit in his truck, a couple of handhelds, and all the assorted other stuff, like a Signalink, a power supply, probably enough cables to restring fencing around one of the pastures -- there is one thing I can boast about -- I can send a WL2K 213 message via the computer and Jeff doesn't know how yet. And I'm the one who can't load new software onto a computer. Here at the house, the most convenient place to set up my new Diamond X200A antenna just so I will have something to work with, is right outside the mudroom at the back door. We have a new garage, with a big room over it. That will eventually become Jeff's Ham Shack. I shall rule over the Kingdom of Mudroom. I shall hang a shingle outside, as well.

One of the members was telling me about a group of hams he's part of, called the Geritol Club. That cracks me up. They talk every day. That's wonderful. Our club thinks we should try to get more young people interested in ham operation. In order to get more young people interested, we'll need to make it sound more interesting. We could change the name of the club to something like 'Freq Club.' More advertising will be needed. We could all start by wearing T-shirts that read 'Freq Club 147.285'. Tell me that won't get you some questions.

It's been 8 ½ months since that Ham Cram class. I've participated in 3 antenna parties, 4 5K runs, have my General license, have a VE license, completed the CERT course, some of the FEMA classes (not a fan!), participated in Field Day, have recently taken over the membership chair position, got to teach a couple of the recent Technician classes (enjoyed that), and have just set-up my own ham station. There are SO MANY fields of interest in ham radio operation. I am floored by all the different avenues one can take in this hobby. And in addition to the FUN part of it, amateur radio operators play a hugely important role in emergency communications. Whatever your interests, there is something for you.

Most of my life has been working with plants & animals, or mechanical in nature. This whole electronics thing is so foreign to me. However, without having ever opened an Amateur Extra book, I managed to get 19 of 37 required correct answers my 1st time out taking the Extra test. That's 51%! There's hope! I'm *still* working on passing the Extra exam, but, hey, it is a much less dangerous challenge than driving a school bus, halter training horned bulls, or testing F4 Phantom jets. It's also a lot less exhausting than teaching Ball Room Dancing. And it's FUN!



## NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE – K3GWK



First I would like to thank the members of our Hospital Response Team who responded to the activation at Wellstar Sylvan Grove Hospital: Dan Darsey (W4DED), Glenn Wyatt (KK4GNO), Ken Wallis (KM4HOS), Mark Baker (KM4NRP) and Mark Clark (NI2Y). The hospital station operated for over thirty-six hours; most of that time it was powered by a very loud, diesel generator. Our station turned out to be the sole back-up communication system for Sylvan Grove. Even though the power was out in Jackson, the phone and Internet system remained in operation, so our services were never used but we were on site and ready if needed. Thanks again...

Our ARES activity for September totaled 201 Ham Hours. **The community impact value of that time was approximately \$4,000.00.** There were four training opportunities (39 Ham Hours). We had one Miscellaneous Activity (8 Ham Hours). Our ARES team was involved in six Emergency Operations (134 Ham Hours). Not only was our hospital team active but BCECA members, Mike Crowe (AJ4GU) and Rudy Williams (KA9LAD) assisted the ham operation at the State Operations Center in Atlanta. There was one Public Service Event, a VE Session (20 Ham Hours).

We have thirty-six hams on our ARES roster; there are eleven GA ARES DEPLOYABLE members, nineteen "ACTIVE" members and seven PENDING members (+1). The PENDING members must complete a Basic ARES course, IS-100, IS-700 and IS-802 to achieve full ACTIVE status. If you are not sure what courses you have completed or what you need to achieve full ACTIVE status, check your page on the GA ARES Database (<https://www.gaares.org/>). "It's not rocket science!"

Remember our weekly FM Training Net has moved to Tuesday evening, 19:30 Local Time. The net meets on our VHF repeater, WX4BCA 147.285+ (131.8). The net is in two parts; the first part is a voice net and the second part is a digital training opportunity. Not having the 30 minute time limit allows more time for NBEMS digital practice. Net activity is down; make sure the new day

and time are on your calendar. **The WINLINK 2000 test has not moved to Tuesday evening.** Continue to send your WL2K messages, using the ICS-213 form, to WX4BCA and WX4GMA on Sunday afternoons. Include your weekly *Digital Activity Report* in that message. NBEMS and WINLINK 2000 are two important tools in our kit, take advantage of these excellent training activities. Our well trained staff is standing by to help you.

Yesterday (06OCT2017) morning I received a text message from my middle school teacher daughter Pam. It was "Vocation Day" at York Suburban Middle School and a York local ham (W3BEK) was in her class room demonstrating ham radio. He was just using VHF to talk to local York County hams using the W3HZU repeater. She wondered if there was any way I could talk to the students "long distance". The W3HZU repeater has an EchoLink connection so for the next two hours I fielded questions and talked to the classes about ham radio. I was able to speak to my grandson Jacob and one of his buddies. Interesting morning... Talking to Jacob's Poppy was the hit event of the day. I am thinking of selling "I talked to Poppy" tee shirts.

Words of contesting wisdom, "Always submit your log." I recently received a large envelop from the "Mother Ship in Newington". To my surprise it contained a certificate proclaiming that K3GWK had been the Georgia Section's winning low power, single operator SSB station during the 2016 ARRL 10 Meter Contest (also 1<sup>st</sup> in the Southeast Division and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the United States). Pretty cool but sadly that doesn't win back the "Blue Pig".

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**



## Home Power System Backup Thoughts

Do you have an alternate power source?

When backup power for your home is considered, several thoughts come to mind. What do I want? Do I want a total a total backup system or just a partial backup system? The ideal time for planning and installation is before construction is started. It can be done after construction is completed, but it is difficult and more costly.

Lets look at some ideas for power backup. You may chose to use more than one of these plans. Most of these plans involve sending power via an alternate path either automatically or manually to one or more items.

A very elementary system would consist of installing a number of 12 volt light bulbs throughout the house, with the wiring connected in parallel and extended to a 12 volt battery in an out-of-the-way location. This system could either be controlled manually or automatically.

A second method is to select a few circuits the can be manually reconnected to be fed by an alternate power source. Circuit selection should consider lights, refrigerator, freezer, furnace blower motor and other. Care must be taken so as **NOT** to parallel your alternate source with the utility company sower source. Paralleling power sources require some special equipment and other requirements including permission. This method does provide an alternate power source for some of the circuits, but it requires installing and removing electrical connections each time you use an alternate power source. This would have to be done by a person who understands the electrical situation completely.

A third method is to select a few circuits and connect them to a transfer switch and then to the regular panel. This transfer switch can be operated automatically or manually but it should be a "non-shorting" type. A "non-shorting" transfer switch in one where the contacts break before they make.

A fourth method is a whole house system. The house panel would need to run to a "non-shorting" transfer switch and then to the utility company. It also can be manually or automatically operated.

With each of these methods, the power supplied by the alternate power source should match the load. A smaller alternate power source may only have enough capacity for some lights and several appliances, but not for the range or an air-conditioning unit. There are alternate power sources that will supply the whole house. You need to select what size is required. The alternate power source can be fed by solar, gasoline, natural gas, propane gas or another type.

I have two solar powered power units. One of the units operates ok but it doesn't have the capacity to provide power for an extended period of time. I plan to look into modification of this unit when time permits. I have not an opportunity to see how well the other unit works. If you are considering a solar unit, talk with someone who has a unit with which they are satisfied with it's operation.

I chose method 2 for my house. After living with this method for several years, I would choose another method. I am considering a change to method 3. One of the reasons for a change of methods is that method requires a "qualified" person to execute method 2. Method 3 or 4 could be operated by anyone by following a preset list of instructions once a method has been put into place.

There are other methods and arrangements that are available. There are a lot of details that need to be considered before you invest in a system. For instance, the cost factor is a huge item. How much reconstruction will be required with each method considered? These ideas will give you a starting place for determining what kind of system you what or whether you decide to pass at this time.

Whit  
wa4vbx

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

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### Net Control Station Roster

#### September

Darlene KK4RBKF

#### October

Elaine KW4AQ

#### November

### BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

#### President

Ed Hoard WX4ED  
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#### A.E.C./ Sheriff's Dept. Liaison/ PIO

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#### A.E.C.

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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](http://gaares.ratflector.com:9000) RMS Express/Winlink - send ICS-213 to [WX4GMA@Winlink.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 Ramblings—NI2Y

### Reminder:

## GEORGIA Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Providing service to all of Georgia

[- Join Us - This network can make a powerful difference](#)

1. For the ARES badge: Georgia Section - ARES Identification Card Requirements for New or Renewal Revised: 23Jan16

### Training Requirements

NIMS ICS Training: <http://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx> • IS-100: Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100 • IS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents • IS-700: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction • IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction

Gwinnett County ARES: <http://www.gwinnettares.org/training.htm> • Gwinnett ARES Basic Skills Online Test

More information for the process after ICS Training: <https://www.gaares.org>

{The ARES badge is not a club requirement but is required for certain ARES activities. More ARES deployable members will add depth and capabilities to our emergency operations and radio locations}