

THE REPEATER

- / -

JANUARY 2018

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

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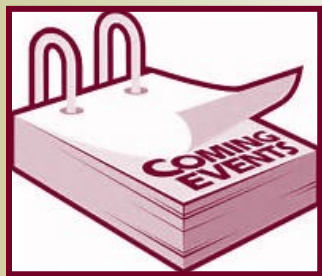
2018

Butts County

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234

770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net





JANUARY

15 (Note Date Change) — Monthly Club Meeting (rescheduled due to New Year's Day) and Georgia Championship Game ; Exchange Club: SGH Volunteer & HIPAA Review - Mark Austin

13— Georgia ARES Meeting (GPSTC 09:30 AM) - Don't forget to register.

**20—Hungry Hams—Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM
GARS Tech Fest and Chili Cook-Off Lawrenceville.**



FEBRUARY

3 — Tech License Class and Special VE Session (Station 7)

5— Monthly Club Meeting ; Exchange Club; Jeff Cantor, K1ZN - Adventures in DXing and IOTA

17— Tech Saturday



MARCH

5— Monthly Club Meeting ; Exchange Club; W2NP - FT8 and Other JT Digital Modes

17— VE Session

18— Georgia Publix Marathon Sunday, March 18, 2018



2— Monthly Club Meeting ; Exchange Club ; SDR Receivers - Greg Mann (?)

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

MEMBER BEACON



The November Repeater features our on Mark Clark. Let's get to know Mark better through her personal perspective of the diverse hobby of HAM radio.

Members are encouraged to contribute to this column. At this time this is the last article for this series

Mark Clark—NI2Y

In which year were you first licensed? 1980 then lapsed for the mid 1980's until January 2016

What aspect of HAM radio first interested you in the hobby? In my childhood I was an avid broadcast shortwave listener. I have been a lifelong tinkerer and enjoy experimental aspect of the hobby. Each shack is in effect an experiment in grounding, antenna theory, and power supply.

What type of radio was your first radio? My very first radio was Knight Kit Star Roamer home built receiver. When I resumed the hobby, my first radio was a Kenwood HT.

What is your favorite radio? The ICOM IC-7300 which has remote capability and an internal sound card..

Which aspect of HAM radio interests you most now. The integration of computing with amateur radio for digital modes.

What future area of HAM radio would you consider learning more about?

Are any of your relatives licensed HAMs ? I had an uncle who worked for AT&T in Allentown, PA. He had all kinds of equipment including teletypes and home built radios.

What is your most interesting contact? WA1A

Are there any licensing and/or operating regulations that you would like to be changed? My preferences vary day to day. I certainly agree with the changes that "opened" our hobby to more members. A special code proficiency category could co-exist in parallel as an add on certification to encourage preservation of this original digital mode.

Where is your station located? It is in my shop. I have to take extra precautions to limit and protect my equipment from dust. The remote capability permits me to use the HF radio from inside the house. I am also able remotely disconnect power and the antennas for safety. So far there is no remote management set up for my UHF/VHF radio.

How could amateur radio attract more young members? This topic is a frequent conversation among HAMs. Involved parents seem to be a key influence. The hobby is competing with life's other distractions. Despite this fact the numbers are growing. The digital modes would seem to offer appeal to the text and non face to face styles of conversation of the youth.

Which club activity do you enjoy most? The monthly presentations at our meeting. They are well thought out and we are fortunate that our program director is able to attract excellent speakers and topics for our programs.

What advice would you give to new HAMs? Participation in a group is very beneficial. The aggregate knowledge can get one through the bumps in the road. Keep it simple for the first year.

Is there any information about you or comments that you would like to add? Everyone will meet challenges along the way. Some are frustrating. Reach out for help and help is on the way.

NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE – K3GWK



Whew, what a year we had. In addition to our usual schedule of training and events we added three 5K races to our list of support opportunities. We now assist with three reoccurring, Butts County race events – all of them use Peachtree Road Race approved 5K courses. Funny though that even with all that and the excellent coverage we receive from our local media, our VE Team, holding two Tech Classes, Field Day and the BB&BG special event, we are still the best kept secret in Butts County. On my list of ham radio related resolutions is more promotion of our radio club. I had the opportunity to try out a public service group presentation recently and received good reviews. I'd like to get that presentation in front of all of Butts County's civic organizations. If any of you know a member of one of these groups (Lions, Exchange Club, Rotary, etc), let me know.

We ended the year with a total of 106 Training Nets, 74 Drills and Training Events, 21 Public Service opportunities, 6 Emergency Operations and 28 Miscellaneous Events; total Ham Hours for 2017 was 4,547. In Georgia the estimated value of volunteer hours is \$24.39 so our value to Butts County was over **\$110,900**. Not bad – thanks again for all you do.

We have a great club year shaping up, more guest presenters (DX'ing, SDR Radios, Satellite Operations, Grounding, etc.). We will kick the year off with a HIPAA update and Sylvan Grove Volunteer update. It is important that we grow our support for Sylvan Grove Hospital – we played an important role there during the IRMA event. The hospital has given us permission to relocate and expand our station. We are still struggling with the internet connectivity issue. Internet security is a big issue, especially for a hospital network. If hospitals want our help, Internet access is a problem to be solved.

I've become radio-active again, thanks in part to Dr. Joe Taylor (K1JT) and his digital modes. FT8 and JT65 are my favorites with FT8 the current "flavor of the month". My original SSB (all band) Worked All States award

took me years to complete, 1988 to 2008. I have all the contacts I need for a Digital WAS – it took the month of December to complete. Being retired helped a little. HI!

I'm looking forward to the GA ARES Convention on January 13 down at GPSTC. We are so lucky to only live 15 minutes away, every BCECA member should plan to attend. Hopefully, you have been able to register for the classes you wanted. The Advanced SKYWARN Class was one of the sessions on my "Must Do" list along with DRATS, ICS Forms and the Digital Q&A session.

ARES ACTIVITY FOR OCTOBER:

NETS: 12 (4 Voice, 4 WL2K and 4 NBEMS) – Remember our FM nets have moved to Tuesdays at 19:30

Public Service: 0 Events

Drills, Tests and Training: 5 Events (57 Hours)

Emergency Operations: 0

Miscellaneous: 0

Total Hours: 85 (Value Added \$2,073.15)

MEMBERSHIP:

Deployable: 10

Active: 15 (All Basic ARES Requirements Complete: 1)

Pending: 7 (Need to complete Basic ARES, IS-100 and IS-700)

Total: 33 (-2 from November)

Inactive: 8 (No activity in the last 90 days – all it takes is a WL2K message)

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)





REPORTS

Please send reports to NI2Y@arrl.net in advance of the publication of the Repeater.

NET MANAGER'S REPORT

Need some Net Controllers for Feb and later on...

(we had 5 last yr, KW4AQ, KK4BKF, K3GWK, KK4QJR, KM4HOS),

not much different than a voice-only net except for you need to be savvy w/ FLDigi and have a set of macros. (had 3, BKF, GWK, HOS)

You need to be savvy w/ WL Express, w/ WX4BCA password, etc (had 2, NI2Y, HOS)

Not too difficult if the village idiot (that'd be me) can handle it, just takes practice & organization.

Gonna be tough in a real situation, AJ4GU's gonna be in ATL, K3GWK will be in EOC or maybe ATL, W4DED & WX4ED might be stuck in Fayetteville & Zebulon, I might be on da road, so... are we gonna be able to DO what we SAY we can do. Can we handle the Hospital & BCHD (and EOC if Buzz is in ATL). Bein' a Net Controller will show you where you need to get better organized, w/ your radios, computer, logging and troubleshootin', so when an 'event' occurs, and things are moving and CHANGING fast, you're flexible enuf to flow w/ it. Our ARES group needs a Plan B, right now we're marginal on Plan A. We need to have more redundancy to handle the unexpected.

Digi-tracking:

Monthly AVG for digital activities last year was 127+, (1528 contacts)

up thru Aug was 129+ (w/ 4-150 months)

after Sep's Net chg to Tues. the monthly avg drop'd to 123+, (4 month period)

finished the yr w/ 147 in December, GOOD month, would be good to keep it that way.

When reporting digital activity each wk, the final entries are not MSG's... they're FORMS like ICS-213's or Radiograms. A simple, typed FLDigi chk-in is a 'message', but we don't track those, we track forms used during our nets, total forms, forms tx'd & forms rx'd.

Membership Report - Jan 2018

We have 38 regular members, 2 Special members, and 1 Life Member, for a total of **41**.

Nancy Phillips, chair/K4NEP

BCARES REPORT – Please refer to the Notes from the Bachacre

2018 Program Calendar

08JAN2018	Monthly Training: SGH Volunteer & HIPAA Review - Mark Austin
13JAN2018	GA ARES Meeting - GPSTC (09:00 until 16:30)
20JAN2018	Hungry Hams** (Repeats Monthly, 07:30 at the Lunchbox)
20JAN2018	Tech Fest - GARS (Lawrenceville)
27JAN2018	Tech License Class (Station 7)
03FEB2018	Tech License Class & Special VE Session (Station 7)
05FEB2018	Monthly Training: Jeff Cantor, K1ZN - Adventures in DXing and IOTA
17FEB2018	Tech Saturday: General Class Session (Station 7)
05MAR2018	Monthly Training: Chandler Freidman, W2NP - FT8 and Other JT Digital Modes
17MAR2018	VE Session
02APR2018	Monthly Training: SDR Receivers - Greg Mann (?)
21APR2018	Tech Saturday: Blue Bird & Bluegrass Special Event
07MAY2018	Monthly Training: ECHOLINK - John Lipscomb, KA3SME
19MAY2018	VE Session
04JUN2018	Monthly Training: Field Day Preparation
16JUN2018	Tech Saturday: Field Day Logging Review (Station 7)
22JUN2018	Field Day Set Up - Tim Kersey Pavilion
23JUN2018	Field Day - Tim Kersey Pavilion
24JUN2018	Field Day - Tim Kersey Pavilion
02JUL2018	Monthly Training: Ham Radio 102 - How repeaters work
14JUL2018	Tech License Class (Station 7)
21JUL2018	Tech License Class & VE Session (Station 7)
06AUG2018	Monthly Training: Test Equipment - David Burnham, AK4EM
18AUG2018	Tech Saturday - Coax and Connectors - Mike Crowe
10SEP2018	Monthly Training: DRATS
15SEP2018	VE Session
01OCT2018	Monthly Training : Grounding - Mike Crowe, AJ4GU
20OCT2018	Tech Saturday (Satellite Operations: John Kludt)
05NOV2018	Monthly Training (Flu Shots)
17NOV2018	VE Session
06DEC2018	Christmas Banquet - Buckner's Restaurant (18:30)
15DEC2018	Tech Saturday

Monthly Training Location: Exchange Club Building, Jackson Fairground (LOCATION OR DATE CHANGE)

Tech Saturday: BCFD Station #7, 08:30

Winter Technician Class: BCFD Station #7, 08:30 (27JAN and 03FEB)

Summer Technician Class: BCFD Station #7, 08:30 (14JUL and 21JUL)

General Class: BCFD Station #7, 18:30 - Every Thursday at 18:30, 08FEB through 15MAR

*VE Sessions are scheduled on the 3rd Saturday, bi-monthly, odd months, at 09:00. They are usually held at the Butts County DLS Community Center on Ernst Biles Drive in Jackson. Contact Dan Darsey (w4ded@arrl.net) for registration. (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov) Technician Class

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

Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

Butts County Emergency
Communications Auxiliary

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Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234
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Net Control Station Roster

If you'd like to serve as NCS, please email
Ken (KM4HOS), Net Manager:

kawallis@charter.net

BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

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A.E.C.

David Burnham
AK4EM

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 Ramblings—NI2Y

2018 — A New year

It is time to start a new year.

As we make our resolutions let's stop to think about 2017 and how we can move forward in 2018.

First of all I am thankful for the expertise and experience of all of our members. Some of our members serve as capable Elmers in our hobby and are generous with their time and teaching. The club setting is the perfect venue for this exchange often seen in our Tech Saturdays.

Many of the events of the year are annual events. Attendance and participation raise community awareness and promote our hobby. Have an elevator speech in mind for a time when you meet someone naïve to amateur radio. Despite our best efforts many still do not know who we are. Some events reaffirm our interest and commitment to emergency preparedness and the goal to provide our community with a "when all else fails" communication capability. All of this has value and importance.

Let us not forget the over reaching enjoyment aspect of our hobby. All work and no play would not keep the wheels on Ham radio turning.

Amateur radio is an extremely diverse hobby where nearly everyone can select and emphasize their own niche. While some expense is involved we have seen examples, for example QRP, where there is minimal investment needed to make contacts around the world. Locally, much can be done with inexpensive HTs which are made in China.

So for 2018 think about how you can contribute to our club and hobby. Change is inevitable. Consider leaving a personal comfort zone to lead the group, teach, learn a new skill, Net Control, and spread the word to the community. We will all be better off for it. Remember a Field Day coordinator and Band Captains are needed for 2018.

Finally, I wish each of you a healthy, happy and more prosperous New Year.

73,

Mark/NI2Y/Editor