

THE REPEATER

- / -

MARCH 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.

BCECA Elects a New VP

THE BCECA WELCOMES OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Nancy Phillips – K4NEP

2 – CALENDAR

3 – WHIT'S WISDOM

4 – POETRY CORNER "ODE TO ED"

5 – REMINDERS

6 – NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE

7 – REPORTS

8 – MEETING MINUTES

9 – CLUB DIRECTORY

14 – SCHEDULE OF NETS

15 – QRM

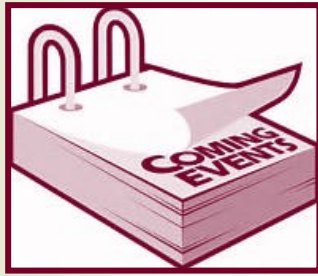


Butts County

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234

770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net





MARCH

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

21 – VE Session (Please note the date change)

17 – Publix Marathon

18 – Georgia Publix Marathon Sunday, March 18, 2018



APRIL

2 – Monthly Club Meeting ; Exchange Club ; SDR Receivers – Greg Mann

21 – Tech Saturday: Blue Bird & Bluegrass Special Event



MAY

7 – Monthly Club Meeting ; Exchange Club; ECHO-LINK – John Lipscomb, KA3SME

12 – VE Session (Please note the date change)



JUNE

4-Monthly Training: Field Day Preparation

16-Tech Saturday: Field Day Logging Review (Station 7)

22-Field Day Set Up – Tim Kersey Pavilion

23-Field Day – Tim Kersey Pavilion

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



WHIT'S WISDOM

Whit Smith—WA4VBX



REGULATED POWER SUPPLY

How much load will your power supply deliver and will it maintain the desired voltage?

Most regulated power supply has a desired voltage (dc) of 13.8 volts. (Most of them have an internal adjustment for setting the voltage output.) Most are regulated to less that 5.0%, and they come in all ampere ranges. Switching power supplies are more efficient than other types.

Consider the following power supply ratings. This is not a complete list or a recommendation, it is some that I have run across.

Make	Model	Continuous	Surge	Regulation
—Astron	RS-7A	5 amps	7 amps 50% duty cycle	_____
—Radio shack	22-506	10 amps	_____	Less that 5%
—Pyramid	PS-14K	12 amps	14 amps surge	.28 volt @ 12 amps
—Astron	RS-20M	16 amps	20 amps 50% duty cycle	.1 volt @ 16 amps
—Pyramid	PS-21K	18 amps	20 amps surge	.28 volt @ 18 amps
—Astron	RS-35K	25 amps	35 amps surge	_____

Power supplies have a continuous rating, an intermittent rating, a surge rating, or some other rating on which data may be hard to find. Some of these ratings are confusing or not descriptive enough. If you have a power supply that has a label of 20A. but has a continuous rating of 16A., it makes you wonder if it should be labeled 16A instead of 20A. If you don't know all of these ratings and what they really mean, it would be a good idea to limit the load to about 80% of its continuous rating. Before you buy or replace a power supply, it would be a good idea to talk to others and get the benefit of their experience. The real problem is heat dissipation. If the pass transistors are run over their maximum limit, they are likely to go into thermal runaway and then destroy themselves, and when this happens, your built-in crowbar circuit should protect you equipment from over voltage conditions. Don't skimp on the power supply. It provides "life" to your equipment. If you have to limit the power supply capacity for whatever reason, run the equipment with the transmit power reduced so as not to overload the power supply.

ODE TO ED

In a Firehouse in Jackson, across from the highway,
There on a form, I wrote out my name.
Thought I'd give it a stab, so I came to a HamCram,
I was going to try this new game.
When my grade finally hit me, I said I'm no quitter
I thought I'd try out a dream.
I know nothing of radio, so here ever after
I'm after what frequency brings.

In the mirror I saw him, and I closely watched him.
I thought how he looked out of place.
He walked on over and sat down beside me,
He had a strange look on his face.
His hands were not calloused - he looked like a preacher,
At first, I thought I'd be saved.
With his hands lifted high, and his face toward the sky,
He turned to the students and said,

You've picked a fine time to try ham radio!
To HamFests, and Fun Runs, and Field Days we go!
We have some fun times, increase our waistlines,
And after this training you'll feel
You've picked a fine time to try ham radio!

After the HamCram, I studied for General.
My knowledge of all this was so small.
From lights on the waterfall
To diodes and what-all
We were being guided so well.
Then he retired and so he informed us -
Claims there'd be no changing his mind.
We couldn't hold him, but no need to scold him,
These words will come back time after time.

You've picked a fine time to leave us, Ed Hoard,
With 40 some hams and new Techs in the field.
We've had some fun times, increased our waistlines,
But this time the hurtin' won't heal.
Fine! Just go ahead and leave us, Ed Hoard!

___ Nancy Phillips, Feb 2018





The time to spring forward is near. On Sunday, March 11, Daylight Saving Time for 2018 will begin at precisely 2 a.m.

We will lose an hour of sleep when 2 a.m. becomes 3 a.m., and while some people love gaining the extra hour of afternoon daylight, most don't enjoy losing the extra sleep.

Fire safety officials recommend changing those batteries at least once a year and replacing the detectors every 10 years, even if they're hard-wired.

2018 ARRL Field Day is June 23-24



Help wanted:

The Field Day Chairman position is open.



NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE – K3GWK



Jeff Cantor (K1ZN) was our February meeting presenter and he is the author of the *Nifty Guide to Adventures in DXing*. I'm sure many of you have one or more Nifty Guides, probably a "Mini Manual" for your radio – I have several; they are a useful companion to the manual that came with your radio. "Huh, so that's what the button does."

There are several, very good ham radio operating guides available ranging from the *ARRL Operating Manual* to Bob "Mr. Sound" Heil's "Ham Radio Handbook" and the "Wirebook" by Press Jones (AKA: The Wireman). Jeff Cantor's book is another good guide to ham radio operating essentials. Jeff draws on his years of ham radio experience to provide a good overview of the DXing side of our hobby. In his book he explains DXing, DX operating practices and setting up a basic ham radio station. There are sections on propagation, DX Spotting and logging. The logging chapter goes in to on-line QSL databases, the "Ins & Out's" of QSLing and several of the on-line logging systems – LOTW, Clublog and the OQRS system for QSLing with big gun DX stations and expeditions. It is a quick read and a good reference; there are tables with information on propagation, beacons and contesting and a chapter on awards – certificates and paper chasing. At the back of the book there is a list of the current DX entities and their prefixes. This is definitely a book you will want to put on your ham radio book shelf.

FT8 is still the primary mode of HF operation here at K3GWK. The ARRL's grid square chase is in its second month. Not only does the chase provide an opportunity to work new grid squares, it is a great way to add to your Worked All States (WAS) list and also a way to add counties to your log and eventually earn the CQ Magazine "County Award" – more wall paper. To get on FT8 all you need is an HF radio and a Signalink. The WSJT software is free. Our March presenter, Chandler Friedman (W2NP), will tell us all about it. See you all at the clubhouse on March 5th.

In the February 21st edition of the ARRL's ARES E-Letter contained a link to the 2017 Annual ARES Report. Here are some interesting stats from that report:

GA ARES Members: 1,615 (#3)
 GA ARES Events: 8,488 (#2)
 GA ARES Volunteer Hours: 71,748 (Value \$1,731,996.00)
 US ARES Members: 31,332 (2016: 27,754)
 US ARES Volunteer Hours: 718,930 (Value \$17,354,958.00)

ARES ACTIVITY FOR February:

NETS: – Remember our FM nets have moved to Tuesdays at 19:30
 Public Service: 2 (18 Ham Hours)
 Drills, Tests and Training: 7 (91 Ham Hours)
 Emergency Operations: 0
 Miscellaneous: 2 (29 ham Hours)
 Total Hours: 139 (Value \$3,307.00)

MEMBERSHIP (01/31/2018):

Deployable: 10
 Active: 15 (**All Basic ARES Requirements Complete: ONLY 2**)
 Pending: 6 (Need to complete Basic ARES, IS-100, IS-700 and IS-802)
 Total: 31
 Inactive: 2 (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

As of our most recent meeting, reports will be presented during the meeting.

Reports submitted to the Repeater will still be posted.

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

Net Manager's Report

from the Butts Co 'Chief Cat Herder' (spell that: Net Mgr)

February '18 was a good month for our BCECA, had over 120 net chk-ins, avg of 30+ per week. Really appreciate your efforts as some of y'all have a hard time makin' it home from work in time for the Weekly Trng Net.

We're still in need of Net Controllers; Buzz, K3GWK, cover'd February for us, but we still need to fill the sched each month for the rest of the year. For any of you thinkin' about takin' a turn at it, consider bein' the Alternate NCS for a session or two. In case the primary NCS goes off the air or has problems and can't complete the net, we need an Alt to step in and take over. Normally, just requires keepin' a log for the voice and digital chk-ins, then sendin' it to NCS on digital at the end of the digital portion of the net, you can make a 'macro' and fill it in as the Net progresses. Alt NCS is good practice for eventually takin' the NCS slot for a month. I can send you my 'macro' files that'll give you a head start for our net if you're interested. Can also get you started on bein' a Winlink Net Logger, just lemme know.

As far as digi-trk'g goes **REMEMBER** - I DON'T track y'all's 'MESSAGES', I ONLY track the number of net chk-ins, by mode, and the number of ICS or ARRL Forms you tx & rx during those chk-ins. Check the Yahoo grp 'files' under 'Weekly Training Net' and you'll find an 'individual' digi-trk'g form, fill it out as you do diff nets during the week, then total 'em up and send 'em to me every Sunday and I promise won't bark at you any more.

The Ga ARES Digital Net sched for March looks like we're doin' the PSK 'Traffic' and D-rats nets. The 'traffic' net is at 2100Z (1600L till Mar 11 when we 'spring fwd' to EDT, then it's at 1700L), on 3.583 USB, using BPSK-125 at 1500 Hz on the waterfall. Use an ICS-213 to chk-in and tell him if you have TRAFFIC to SEND to somebody and/or whether you CAN or CAN'T HANDLE traffic for this area in your chk-in 213. Don't forget the Ga ARES 'voice' net at 2200Z (1700L for a wk or so, then 1800L) on 3.975 LSB. ALL these nets are open to anybody and everybody, you don't have to be an ARES type to participate in any of 'em, ALL chk-ins are welcome and appreciated.

Side note - on Net 'times', some are suffix'd with a Z (Zulu or UTC), others are L (Local), the ones advertised in Z time are held year-round at THAT Z time, the local times chg when we go back & forth fm EST to EDT. The Nets that are advertised in L time are held at THAT 'local' time whether you're in EST or EDT, could be called ET (Eastern time), but then Elaine would be thinkin' 'Elapsed Time' and backslide into racing cars instead of racing Buzz on radios for QSO's, but I digress...

All for now, have a GREAT month, Ken, KM4HOS

VE Report:

The VE team conducted a session on Saturday, 3 Feb with 5 people testing. End results was 1 Extra, 1 General and 3 Technicians passed. 100 %. Thanks to the VE Team members who joined me to make this a success: Buzz K3GWK, Greg KI4NWD, Ken KM4HOS, Nancy K4NEP, Tony N4TZY, and John Reynolds W4TXA. Our next VE Session will be 12 March (Please not 9 AM at the Butts County Recreation Center).

Hospital Report:

The monthly Hospital Net held on 4 Mar. was very successful. Contacts were made via Winlink and HF. Entries were made into the GHA911 WebEOC database. Our only problem was DStar. We had technician issues with ICOM 5100. Thanks to Ken KM4HOS, Glenn KK4GNO and Mark KM4NRP who joined me to make this happen.

Next Hospital Net is scheduled for 4 March. We are always looking for new members for the Hospital Team. Let me know if you would like to join the team.

Dan Darsey W4DED.

February Meeting Minutes submitted by Darlene Ragon, KK4BPK, BCECA Secretary

Meeting Began at 1900 Meeting Concluded at 2050

Attendance at Meeting: Pete Acevedo; Mark Baker; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Neil Martin; Alfred McClure; Melvin Mosier; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis

VE Team: Dan Darsey

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway

Field Day Committee: Mark Clark (Editor's note---this position is open)

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips

Public Information Officer: Mark Clark

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb

Club Old Business:

Club New Business: Nancy says she has contacts to have our logo embroidered on tee shirts if anyone is in need of a new Club shirt. Contact Nancy for information.

I am not sure if a motion was made to present past President, Ed Hoard, a plaque for his service. Something was presented by Buzz Kutcher and seconded by David Ridgeway but I have no notation of a membership vote. If anyone can help me clarify this please contact me, my apologies.

Coming Events: Our Club annual dues will be due the first of March; please try to pay in a timely manner if at all possible.

We will be teaching another Technician License Class in July this year; details to follow.

Monthly Program: Tonight we enjoyed an enthusiastic presentation from Jeff Cantor, K1ZN, on DX communications.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$42.00 for the Repeater fund this evening. Many thanks to everyone for their support.

**BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS
AUXILIARY**

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

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

kawallis@charter.net

President

Elaine Stachowiak KW4AQ
ubudogems@hotmail.com

Vice-president

Nancy Phillips K4NEP
topazmeadows@yahoo.com

Secretary

Darlene Ragon KK4BKF
lragon@aol.com

Treasurer

John Lipscomb IV KA3SME
john.lipscomb@delta.com

Public Information Officer

Mark Clark NI2Y
NI2Y@arrl.net

Club Photographer

J.D. Van Sickle KM4DHS
jvan12@charter.net

Emergency Coordinator / E.C.

Buzz Kutcher K3GWK
k3gwk@arrl.net

A.E.C. / V.E. Team Admin.

Dan Darsey W4DED
w4ded@arrl.com

A.E.C. / CERT Team Liaison

David Ridgeway
KK4SUO
dpridgeway@bellsouth.net

A.E.C. / Sheriff's Dept. Liaison / PIO

Mark Clark NI2Y
NI2Y@arrl.net

A.E.C.

David Burnham
AK4EM

Weekly Training Net:

FM Tuesday 7:30 PM

Please see page 10 for a more detailed list of local and relevant nets for BCECA and BCARES members. Thank you to Ken Wallis, KM4HOS for his time and effort to coalesce the various net lists into one that is applicable to our club and members.

Nets

Recommended training nets for Butts Co operators

Sunday

Metro ARES FM Net - 1st Sunday ONLY at 1600L,
WA4ASI repeater, Covington, 146.925 -, 88.5 PL
KK4GQ repeater, Fayetteville, 145.210 -, 131.8 PL
KC4AQS repeater, Paulding Co, 145.805 +, 100.0 PL

Ga ARES/BCECA WL Express Net - Send an ICS-213 to WX4GMA and WX4BCA by **2200Z**. (1700L EST, winter/1800L EDT, summer) Include a weekly Digital Activity Report for the previous week (Sun-Sat). Please use a Winlink RF gateway; Winmor, packet, if capable; otherwise use Telnet.

GA ARES Digital Nets - 2100Z (1600 EST, winter/1700 EDT, summer), **3.583 MHz USB**.

Ga ARES **PSK 'Traffic'** Net - send an ICS-213 to WX4GMA NCS, ctr on **1500 Hz**.

Ga ARES **PSK 'check-in'** Net - **even** numbered months, center on **1000 Hz**, 'text' check-ins only and will run concurrently w/ the PSK 'Traffic' net.

Ga ARES **D-Rats** Net - **2130Z** (1630 EST/ 1730 EDT), **odd** months, port: gaares.ratflector.com.

GA Section HF Net - 2200Z (1700 EST/1800 EDT), **3.975 MHz LSB**., voice, by callsign prefix.

SE Weather Net - 2100L, D-Rats/D-Star, on sewx.ratflector.com. D-STAR voice on REF004A

Tuesday

Butts County Emergency Communication Training Net - 1930L, WX4BCA repeater, 147.285 MHz, + offset, 131.8 PL, begins with voice check-ins followed by an NBEMS Digital Net. WL Express message accepted if not sent the previous Sunday, send to WX4BCA w/ digital activity rpt.

Wednesday

SE Metro Digital Net - 2100L, WA4ASI repeater 146.925- & 444.800-, 88.5 PL. MT63-2KL, center 1500 Hz WL - ICS-213 to K4NCR, D-Rats on gaares.ratflector.com

Thursday

NCRC/ARES/RACES FM Net - 2000L, WA4ASI repeater, 146.925- & 444.800-, 88.5 PL. WL - K4NCR.

*** for numerous other training opportunities, see the **BCECA Yahoo group** website, and/or the **Ga ARES** website for other Nets w/ days, times, frequencies, protocols, etc. for your training convenience.

QRM – Miscellaneous Ramblings

Raffle Items— Please search your stuff for donations to the Repeater Fund raffle items.

Proposal for expanded Technician License Privileges

02/28/2018 From the ARRL

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League's proposal.

The Wellstar SGH Hospital Station Relocation



**Sunday, March 18,
2018
7:00 a.m.**

**Bluebird and Bluegrass
Festival – April 21, 2018**

