



# THE REPEATER

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APRIL 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.

## The Radio Amateur's Code from 1928

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### The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

*- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928*

#### Butts County

348 Patrick Circle  
Jenkinsburg, Georgia  
30234

770-957-0779  
wx4bca@arrl.net





### 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



### JULY

02JUL2018 Monthly Training: Ham Radio  
102 – How repeaters work

14JUL2018 Tech License Class (Station 7)

21JUL2018 Tech License Class & VE Session  
(Station 7)

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

## NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE – K3GWK



It is always great to visit the family up north but 10" of snow was not a welcomed addition to our recent trip. Freida and I are glad to be back home. Thanks for all the birthday wishes. Our BCECA Glee Club needs a little more practice though. HI!

To all who attended the Annual ARES Meeting, thanks for sending in your training certificates.

Those of you who did not attend the March club meeting missed a great presentation. Chandler Freidman, W2NP, took time out of his California relocation preparations to visit our radio club and speak to us about the WSJT modes, specifically FT8. Not only was his presentation very informative, his live demonstration of FT8 was successful (how often does that happen?). Thanks to Chandler's Go-Kit and AJ4GU's dual band NVIS antenna several 40 meter FT8 contacts were made during our meeting. So, how many of you got the FT8 bug from Chandler's talk? 'Anyone, anyone...' This is a great time to get on the air with FT8. The ARRL is running a yearlong "grid square chase" competition where monthly grid squares worked are tracked and posted. Both month and year data is collected, not only number of grids worked but also number of QSOs per month. Getting involved in the chase is fun in itself but the activity also gets you on your radio, not only chasing grids but working DX as it appears. In my case, I have added three "All Time New Ones" to my DXCC tally. I know, I'm retired and can spend lots of time on the radio (LOL) but that's not the point. Getting on the air with a DX Cluster running lets you know when those "needed spots" appear. Because the WSJT modes use every available HF band it is a good way to learn about propagation, too. So download the software, fire up your radio, Signalink and PC and have some fun. If you need some help getting started, please let me know.

I need to mention our Sunday Winlink2000 Test. Most of

our recent weekly WL2K tests have 100% of the participants sending their check-in report using an ISC-213 form. That is great! Often the poor atmospheric conditions make using WINMOR difficult. Of course there is always TELNET available, but here in Butts County we are all about using RF whenever possible. Mike Crow, AJ4GU, in addition to providing an HF WL2K Gateway, has one that uses 2 meter Packet (AG4GU-10). It is on 145.550 SIMPLEX and can be either hit directly or through the K4NCR-7 digipeater (145.550) located in Covington. *No TNC required.* Just let our digital guys know if you need help getting set up on this effective alternative to WINMOR.

No update on the WX4BCA UHF D-Star repeater's connection to the Internet and the worldwide D-Star network.

### ARES ACTIVITY FOR March:

NETS: 8 (34 Ham Hours) – Remember our FM nets have moved to Tuesdays at 19:30  
Public Service: 1 (21 Ham Hours)  
Drills, Tests and Training: 6 (62.5 Ham Hours)  
Emergency Operations: 0  
Miscellaneous: 3 (30 ham Hours)

Total Hours: 147.5 (Value \$3,560.65)

### ARES 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

*\*You do not have to be a member of ARES to participate fully in our radio club's activities.*

That's about it from Jenkinsburg Station. (Weather Underground ID: KGAJEN-KI2)





## 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

**Ga Hospital Net rpt:** The Easter Bunny (that'd be Darlene, KK4BKF) left us 3 chk-in's on the Ga Hospital Net Sunday. We got a WL, ICS-213 chk-in on HF, an HF voice chk-in, and a D-Star chk-in thru Stone Mtn. Thx to the K4SGH crew for another successful month. If you're interested in bein' a part of this Response Team, pls get in touch w/ Dan, W4DED, for more information.

**BCHD Net rpt:** chk'd into all 5 Ga Health Dept Nets this month. Thx to the flexibility of the Health Dept Response Team for makin' that happen. We have 4 operators now and optimally would like to have 8 so we can provide an operator/logger team familiarized w/ the station for an 'event'. We test the station **every** Thurs morning at 08 - 0900 during the Ga Health Dept Net, so each op/log team would only have to do 1 Thurs each month down at the BCHD w/ a 5th Thurs being a Response Team mtg. If you're interested pls contact Ken, KM4HOS, for more details.

### VE Report:

**The VE Report this month: No testers for the March VE Session. Next session is May 12th at Fire Station #7.**

# March Meeting Minutes submitted by Darlene Ragon, KK4BPK, BCECA Secretary

Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1900 Meeting Concluded at 2030

**Attendance at Meeting:** Mark Baker; David Burnahm; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Steve Dillon; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Alfred McClure; Melvin Mosier; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; David Ridgeway; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Erion Starker; Brent Strite; JD VanSickle; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Rita Dillon; Freedman Chandler.

**Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens** No report tonight

**Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis** February 2018 was a good month for our BCECA; we had over 120 net check-ins, for an average of 30+ per week. I really appreciate your efforts as I know some of you have a hard time making it home from work in time for the Weekly Training Net.

**VE Team: Dan Darsey** The next VE testing session will be March 17, 2018 at the Butts County Recreational Center. Those testing should arrive at 0900; VE's please arrive at 0845 to set up the facility. The next Technician Class License training will be July 14 and July 21, 2018. More details to follow at a later date.

**Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe** No report tonight.

**Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak** Elaine thanked members that attended the tour of the Peachtree City National Weather Service facilities on Tech Saturday. She thought this visit was more informative than the first tour our group participated in. Our Club members continue to look forward to working with the NWS as Storm Spotters.

**Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis** No report tonight.

**CERT Activities: David Ridgeway** No report tonight.

**Field Day Committee:** No report tonight.

**Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips** Nancy began taking membership dues at our meeting tonight.

**Public Information Officer: Mark Clark** Mark said the March issue of the Repeater newsletter will be released the end of this week. Last chance to share articles for the newsletter with him. Please consider writing a small article of interest to the newsletter; we all have some memory of a ham experience worthy of sharing. Thanks to Mark for his efforts to produce such a fine newsletter.

Mark also queried was there any interest in having a Buy-Sell-Swap section in our newsletter. Contact him for further discussion or we will discuss it more at next months' meeting.

**EC Report: Buzz Kutcher** Buzz inquired about the individual certificates attendees received from the annual Georgia ARES meeting we attended in January. He created a list of those who certificates he has not yet received. Buzz is collecting that data so that it can be recorded into our personal databases on the Georgia ARES website. Please contact Buzz if you are having difficulties in obtaining proof of your attendance. Buzz also requested that attendees of the training sessions at GPSTC please fill out the emails they are receiving containing evaluation forms so that the quality of the programs or other session concerns may be addressed and improved for next year.

**Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb**

## March Meeting Minutes submitted by Darlene Ragon, KK4BPK, BCECA Secretary

**Club Old Business:** Elaine encouraged Club Members to check and be sure that they continue their membership with the ARRL; by maintaining the required percentage of members we qualify for ARRL affiliation and reasonably priced accident insurance for Club activities. Elaine asked for an update from Ken Wallis on the mapping of Butts County for Club coverage. Ken said he was in the process of acquiring a radio powerful enough to reach most of the county. He also mentioned that he would need 2 mobile stations to assist with the mapping. Our Club will delay offering General Class License training at this time due to lack of interest but the class would be available again after the planned Technician Class License training in July 2018. The time for renewal of our Club membership begins in March; please forward your annual dues to Nancy Phillips, our Membership Chairman. Individual dues are \$20.00 yearly and a family membership \$25.00. It is amazing to me how much our Club accomplishes with such reasonable dues.

Nancy reminded members again that custom embroidered ARES badges are available from 'Trophy Ladies' industry as well as nice quality tee shirts. Her contact only charges \$6.00 for the nice embroidered emblems. Now is the time to order lighter weight tee shirts for the coming season. Sylvan Grove Hospital provided a 6 foot table for the Ham Radio Station at their facility. The station has been moved from its' original location to an adjoining longer wall which gives operators more room in which to hold nets and run exercises. Many thanks to those who worked so hard in making the transition at the station.

**Club New Business:** Our Club President, Elaine, said the next new business was the nomination and election of a new Vice-President for our Club. Dan Darsey made the motion to elect Nancy Phillips as Club Vice-President; JD VanSickle seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the membership. Many thanks to Nancy for agreeing to serve in this capacity! If everyone does a little bit of the load, the job gets done.

**The Club is in dire need of a Field Day Chairman.** Mark Clark has the lists, forms and documents from last years' successful Field Day so the blueprint is in place for success again this year. We just need someone to volunteer to head up the efforts to keep us all progressing towards the final goal of a smoothly run Field Day exercise. The Club would welcome the participation of a pair of joint chairmen working together if that is something you would entertain. Please consider volunteering to help organize our Field Day event. The event venue has already been reserved for that weekend; Ken Wallis has volunteered to be Digital communications captain; Rudy Williams volunteered to be 20m band captain and Elaine is serving as the 40m band captain. Elaine shared with the Club a business card that had been created by a member of the Astronomy Club she attends. It gave a great first impression with a photo of a galaxy taken by an amateur astronomy photographer in the club and the internet web address of the Club for further information for those interested. Elaine thought that perhaps our Club might be interested in creating such a card for those interested in Ham Radio. This would be an effective way to give prospective hams the basic information on our Club and how to find out more about our organization and its' activities. Elaine said that we will resume having committee reports at our monthly meeting rather than uploading them to the Yahoo Group. Buzz made a motion for the Club to purchase 2 UPS units, APC Brand; one for emergency backup power to the Hospital Ham Radio PC and the second one for our repeater located in the Hospital Ham Station. Each unit should cost approximately \$70.00 each. Elaine Stachowiak seconded the motion and it was passed by all members present.

**Coming Events:** The Publix Marathon, to be held on March 18, 2018, is still in great need of volunteers to help man the rest stops on the course. Please contact Buzz for further information. There is a 100 mile Bike Race sponsored by the Atlanta Race Club and assisted by the Atlanta ARES Club to be held on May 5, 2018. If you can volunteer please contact Buzz for further information. April 21, 2018 is the annual Bluebird Bluegrass Festival held at Dauset Trails. Our Club has participated by sponsoring an educational booth there for several years. Please consider participating in this day of fun activities, contact Elaine to volunteer as she is the Chairman for this event. The gate opens at 0900 for booth set up; with a group breakfast preceding.

Our April 2, 2018 monthly meeting will host Greg Mann to enlighten us on SDR radios. This mode is becoming popular and will be very interesting.

**Monthly Program:** Freedman Chandler gave a presentation on the use of the digital mode FT-8. He had a live connection with the airways and made several documented contacts while discussing the use/set up of this popular contact/DXing mode. We certainly appreciate such an informative introduction to this digital mode.

**Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting:** We raised \$65.00 for the Repeater Fund this evening. Please look around your ham station, tool shed or garden produce for items of use to help us raise money for the support of our Club Repeater.

Respectfully submitted by Darlene Ragon, Club Secretary March 6, 2018

**BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS  
AUXILIARY**

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

Butts County Emergency  
Communications Auxiliary

**348 Patrick Circle  
Jenkinsburg, Georgia  
30234  
770-957-0779  
[wx4bca@arrl.net](mailto:wx4bca@arrl.net)**

**Net Control Station Roster**

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

**[kawallis@charter.net](mailto:kawallis@charter.net)**

**President**

**Elaine Stachowiak KW4AQ**  
[ubudogems@hotmail.com](mailto:ubudogems@hotmail.com)

**Vice-president**

**Nancy Phillips K4NEP**  
[topazmeadows@yahoo.com](mailto:topazmeadows@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**

**Darlene Ragon KK4BKF**  
[lragon@aol.com](mailto:lragon@aol.com)

**Treasurer**

**John Lipscomb IV KA3SME**  
[john.lipscomb@delta.com](mailto:john.lipscomb@delta.com)

**Public Information Officer**

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

**Club Photographer**

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

**Emergency Coordinator / E.C.**

**Buzz Kutcher K3GWK**  
[k3gwk@arrl.net](mailto:k3gwk@arrl.net)

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

**Dan Darsey W4DED**  
[w4ded@arrl.com](mailto:w4ded@arrl.com)

**A.E.C. / CERT Team Liaison**

**David Ridgeway**  
**KK4SUO**  
[dpridgeway@bellsouth.net](mailto:dpridgeway@bellsouth.net)

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

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

**A.E.C.**

**David Burnham**  
**AK4EM**

**Weekly Training Net:**

**FM Tuesday 7:30 PM**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BCECA/>

**Butts Co Em Comm Aux**

## NEW REPEATER

**The Griffin VHF D-Star repeater is operating from the Spalding Hospital as a stand-alone machine (just like our UHF repeater). It uses 145.480- MHz. The Spalding club has asked that we try it.**

# 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

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



**4th Annual Jackson Football Alumni  
5k  
May 5, 2018 8:00 AM**



**2018 ARRL Field Day is June 23-24**



## QRM – Miscellaneous Ramblings

### NEWS FROM THE ARRL- A NEW CEO



News New ARRL CEO Comes Aboard Facing Challenges and Change  
04/04/2018 ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, moved one floor down at ARRL Headquarters earlier this year to assume leadership of the organization with an overarching goal of promoting the League's mission, "To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio." Shelley has spent much of his tenure at ARRL Headquarters toiling out of the limelight, so he's a bit of an unknown quantity within the greater

Amateur Radio community. But, he brings to his new position nearly 3 decades of experience as ARRL's Chief Financial Officer. Shelley intends to leverage that background in his role as CEO, enabling him to hit the ground running. "I am familiar with the issues that matter to ARRL members and the Amateur Radio community at large," Shelley pointed out in his inaugural "Second Century" editorial "Advancing Amateur Radio, Together," in the April issue of QST. He acknowledged that with both ARRL and Amateur Radio undergoing "a great deal of change," not all League members will necessarily be on the same page, but he believes disagreement about the way forward "can be healthy, and bring new perspectives to light." At the same time, he encouraged individuals to "remain respectful and constructive" in discussing issues about which they may not agree. "In my opinion, fulfilling ARRL's mission means doing so for all Amateur Radio operators, regardless of their license class, level of technical ability, or particular interests within the wide range of activities that Amateur Radio has to offer," Shelley allowed. Increasing the number of younger radio amateurs will benefit both the avocation and ARRL, he said. And despite any generational rift — perceived or otherwise — between older and younger hams, "There's more to enjoy than ever before — Amateur Radio in 2018 looks and sounds different than it did in 1968 or even in 1988 — and licensing numbers indicate that people are still interested in exploring Amateur Radio." Blazing the trail for Amateur Radio's future should involve all hams, Shelley believes, noting that for more than a year, a team at ARRL Headquarters has been looking into how to better define the needs of radio amateurs "in the various generational and interest groups, and plan for how ARRL can respond to those needs" effectively. ARRL's research, he said, has made clear that all radio amateurs want help, regardless of license class, experience, and interests. "They want help figuring out which activities to get involved in, what kind of gear they need for those activities, and where to find like-minded fellow hams," Shelly wrote, urging radio amateurs to be there for each other. "[We] all need to keep our vibrant and varied community moving forward amid great change," Shelley concluded. "Let's keep encouraging others to join our wonderful hobby, let's keep talking to each other, and let's keep teaching each other — after all, that's the tried-and-true ham way. It's how we've gotten this far." The ARRL Board elected Shelley as CEO in January, to succeed Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, who has retired. As Shelley himself nears his own retirement over the next 18 months, the League continues to advertise for applicants to fill the CEO position on a long-term basis.