

THE REPEATER

- /



JUNE/JULY 2018

★ FIELD DAY 2018 ★



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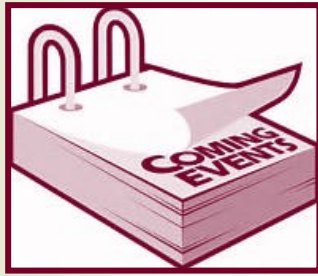
15—SCHEDULE OF NETS

16, 17—QRM: PIO HANDOVER

June 24 – 25, marked the seventh year for our club's participation in this Field Day national event promoted by the Amateur Radio Relay League. Proclamations for Amateur Radio Week by the city of Jackson and Butts county government leaders kicked off the Field Day season. The public was cordially invited to visit our site during the event. A "Get On the Air" station (GOTA) for the public complemented the 4A radio status with four active stations. This year Morse Code was well represented and a new innovative digital mode called FT 8 were added as more ways to make contacts during this fun competition.

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234

770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net

JUNE

4-Monthly Training: Field Day Preparation

11 – Declaration of Amateur Radio Week (17 – 24) by the Butts County Board of Commissioners at 6 PM

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

22-Field Day Set Up – Tim Kersey Pavilion

23 – 24 **Field Day** – Tim Kersey Pavilion

JULY

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

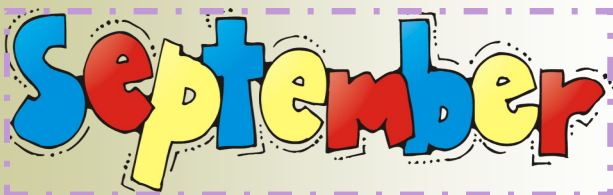
14 – Tech License Class (Station 7)

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

AUGUST

06 – Monthly Training: Ham Radio 102 – How repeaters work

18 – Tech Saturday – Soldering. Coax and Connectors – Mike Crowe

SEPTEMBER

10 – Monthly Training: DRATS

15 – VE Session

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



WHIT'S WISDOM

Whit Smith—WA4VBX

Another Circuit in Your Panel ?

A panel does not have any empty spaces and another circuit is needed.

Can this be added? The answer is yes, in most cases.

There are some things that need to be determined:

First, is the panel overloaded? If it is, then don't add a breaker. If not, then continue. Unless the panel has been heavily modified, it probably will not be overloaded. Check with someone knowledgeable before starting this project.

Second, determine which circuit must be temporarily disconnected. Don't pick a GFCI breaker or a AFCI breaker. GFCI (Ground fault circuit interrupter) and AFCI (Arc fault circuit interrupter) will be discussed in another article.

Third, examine the mounting configuration of the breaker mounting. A breaker is attached in two places. One is where it plugs onto the energized bus in the panel and the other place is where it fits into a slot to help hold the breaker in place. Not all breakers will fit in all panels. Be careful while looking inside the panel, it probably is energized.

Fourth, notice the interrupting rating of the breaker that was removed. It was probably 5,000 or 10,000 amperes. See the right side of the picture.

Fifth, get two thin breakers 15, or 20 amp., with the same ampere interrupting rating as the breaker removed. Two thin breakers(left side in picture) will fit in the space of the full size breaker (right side of the picture).

Sixth, install the thin breakers and reconnect the wire removed in the second step to one of the thin breaker.

Seventh, pull in the new wire for the additional circuit.

Eighth, install the new outlets, or receptacles complete with their required electrical connections. Start at the end of the new circuit and work towards the panel. By doing this, when you get to the panel, you know the circuit is ready to be energized. This is one method, there are others.

Ninth, connect the wiring in the panel to the new breaker.

Tenth, turn the new breakers on one at a time and check the circuits to be sure the voltage is correct and that there are no wiring errors.

If your panel is not overloaded, you can add more than one circuit by the above method. If you need much more than several new circuits, consider sub-feeding a new panel with whatever breakers are desired. Code requirements may vary depending on where you live.





NOTES FROM THE BACKACRE – K3GWK

I guess a live travel update from Amtrak car number 34092 would have been a good idea. That was our residence on the 23rd of May heading north along the Pacific Coast. We were on the ocean side of the train the whole way from LA to Seattle. Wow!

By now many of you have about the super duper vacation that Freida planned for our 50th wedding anniversary. Using a thirty day Amtrak Rail Pass, we traveled by train from Atlanta to Memphis. We took the long way (7,700 miles) with stops in New Orleans, El Paso, Tucson, LA, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago. Twenty-one days riding the rails. The trip put us on five different trains. First the CRESCENT from Atlanta to New Orleans, then the SUNSET LIMITED through Texas (there is a lot of Texas), New Mexico and Arizona to Los Angeles. We only changed trains in LA and then up the Pacific coast on the COAST STARLIGHT. We left that train in Seattle and boarded the west bound EMPIRE BUILDER for Chicago; three days in a two berth roomette, just slightly smaller than a ping-pong table. The last rail leg of our journey was on THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS to Memphis. Along the way we stayed with family and Coast Guard buddies. First two nights in NOLA then we spent a couple of days with Freida's niece, toured El Paso (Rosa's Cantina) and New Mexico. In Tucson we were on our own and visited a 200+ year old mission, Arizona University via trolley car, and some cool "hippie" shops in the university section of the city. It was very hot in Tucson, 105° when we left. Next stop was California (56°). We stayed in Emeryville, near Oakland, and spent two days sightseeing with a Coastie buddy and his wife. We rode a cable car, saw Lombard Street and had our anniversary dinner at Scomas (Fisherman's Wharf) with our friends. We didn't visit Alcatraz but we did pass it during a harbor boat tour, close enough. In Seattle we stayed with another Coastie couple, toured the city, attended a Mariner's baseball game and learned to play Mexican Train Dominos – no Starbuck's. We took a ferry boat to Bainbridge Island for breakfast, you knew there would be a breakfast involved, and then back on the train. Chicago was our next destination, this time as unaccompanied senior citizens. Don't ever find yourself in Union Station at rush hour. #MADNESS The Chicago stop included the Hancock Building's "365" observation



deck, the Navy Pier and a cruise on the Chicago River. We only stayed one night in Chicago then we boarded our last train, bound for Memphis – Beale Street, BBQ, 100 year old grease, the Peabody Hotel ducks, and Graceland. We stayed right across the street from The King's house. We were in Memphis two nights then a short ride on a Delta Jet back to Atlanta. Couple things I learned: You meet the nicest people on trains, share the window seat, bring a blanket, go with the flow, and be totally amazed by our wonderful country and its beauty. I think we visited 19 states, crossed the Continental Divide twice, climbed the Rockies and the Sierras, saw the Pacific Ocean and the coast (that was amazing), the Bakken Oil Fields and the White Sands dessert. We slept through North Dakota. I finally got a Rosa's Cantina tee shirt. It was quite a vacation; Freida and I really enjoyed it and we'd do it again. Maybe next time we'll go west on the California Zephyr and come back on the Santa Fe Chief. Yeah...

Our next Technician class is tentatively scheduled for July 14 and 21.

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

ARES* MEMBERSHIP (05/01/2018):

Deployable: 10
Active: 13
Pending: 7 (Need to complete Basic ARES, IS-100, IS-700 and IS-802)
Total: 30

If you are wondering why ARES members are required to complete the basic NIMS courses, review Homeland Security document HSPD-5. (<https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Homeland%20Security%20Presidential%20Directive%205.pdf>)

**ARES membership is NOT REQUIRED to participate fully in our radio club's activities.*

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

Thanks again for all you do for Amateur Radio.

73, Buzz (K3GWK)

Logging Those Contacts

**Another timely article from our very active long distance member, Jeff Phillips:
KN4FRG**

If you are an amateur radio operator there are several reasons for logging your contacts, but one must ask why. One reason could be for legal concerns, another could be for keeping track of those critical and needed DX contacts, and finally, of course, for personal reasons and/or bragging rights. With a decided reason, what are the choices one might have for a log? What information does a log contain? There are several questions a new or maybe seasoned operator might have regarding the best log or logging processes to keep a log for whatever reason the operator might have. I hope that this article will provide a little knowledge for those interested on the reasons for a log, its information, and the several types available either through paper and/or through electronic means.

The reason for logging any amateur radio activity generally falls into 3 categories including legal, operational, and personal. With legality in mind, a log of an individual's transmissions would be valuable in proving ones innocence in an interference complaint. In the operational realm, having a log of your past contacts, at least for me, is a precious resource when filling out that DX QSL card that may have taken months to arrive, especially for that last country for getting your first 100 DXCC, Worked All States (WAS), and other recognition. In a personal sense, a log could be a personal documented history reminding you of the people and places you contacted. A log also serves as a reminder of your participation in nets and the numerous contests. It is often a question I receive when speaking with other non-operators, "What is the longest and or first DX contact?", and without a log, I probably could not answer the individual. Our memories go away quickly. Now, I believe I have your interest, so, what information does a log contain?

In general, there are two essentials types of information. Every log includes information about your operation and information about the station you contacted. For your operation, record the date, frequency, mode and power output; for the contact station record their call sign, the time the contact started and ended, their signal report, and name and location (QTH). When you enter the date and time, using Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) or Zulu, its common name, is highly recommended. Using UTC eliminates confusion over time zones or daylight saving time, especially for those DX contacts, but you must remember to change the date at 0000Z, which could be anywhere from 4 PM to 7 PM local standard time for a North American station. This is an advantage of the computerized logging programs. They keep UTC date and time straight automatically. Of course, you are free to use local time as long as you indicate this clearly in the log. It is unwise to mix UTC and local times and dates together in the log; use one or the other. By the way, there are programs to align the time with your computer or other analog means to ensure the time you use sync's with all others across the World. The non-essential information is also a needed parameter.

Logging Those Contacts

KN4FRG

There are paper and electronic logging programs offered for free and/or for payment.

Computer logs are configurable and can automatically keep track of a wide range of information. Many include tools to control modern software to allow the operator to control their rigs. Rotor control is also available with some and many will automatically generate a great circle map from your location to any other point on the globe. Time and date functions for UTC, local and daylight savings are standard, but you can also find computer loggers that will display a gray line diagram for helping to plot propagation. There are also a number of logging programs available for contesting. Some are general contesting programs that record generic points and multipliers while keeping track of the basic information. Others have specific contests in mind and aim to help you maximize your score. Some are general contest loggers that have plug-ins available for those contests the operator has interest. Contesters usually use computers to log. Many of these logging programs offer the means to import or export saved logs or just contacts and present them to other logging processes. The Logbook of the World (LOTW) is an example. Okay, what are some free logs available via the Web?

Again, there are several, but this article will only touch on a few for your information. A logging process available via the Web that is free to maintain and use is through the QRZ Website with only an account. QRZ offers the means to log and confirm contacts with other operators. Below is an example of their logging process. One thing to remember is QRZ maintains the complete database of amateur operators allowing you to get the information quickly and helps you get to know the other operator during the conversation. QRZ also offers integration with LOTW allowing you to quickly confirm contacts through QRZ and LOTW.

The screenshot displays the QRZ.COM website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: 'Enter QSO', 'Database', 'News', 'Forums', 'Swapsheet', 'Resources', 'Contact', and 'KN4FRG'. Below this is a table of logbook entries. The table has columns for 'Date', 'Time', 'Frequency', 'Mode', and 'Contact'. A specific entry is highlighted, showing a contact with station K3CWWK on 2018-04-09 at 22:11 UTC. The entry details include frequency (7.232 MHz), mode (SSB), and a list of contacts. The bottom section shows a form for adding a new contact, with fields for call sign, frequency, mode, and a list of contacts.

QRZ's logging program is not necessarily a quick process, so, I would not recommend it for contest purposes. More information is available via the web at www.qrz.com. Another electronic logging process available through the web is EQSL.



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 Repeater.

NET MANAGER'S REPORT – JUNE

Butts Co Net Mgr's report for June Held 5 ARCoBC Nets last month, avg'g < 5 voice chk-in's per wk, and < 3 MT-63. WinLinks are < 7 weekly, not doin' too good for a 40+ member club. Still in need of Net Controllers, Buzz sign'd up for June and it's still up for grabs after that. Still need volunteers, preferably some new blood as we're startin' to 'dog out' the 3 or 4 folks that volunteer all the time. Preamble is in the Yahoo grp files and FLDigi macros are avail on request (complete w/ semi-pro training!!)

Preambles (voice & digi):

- the phrase 'Secure PRIOR to net closing...pls req to do so at that time', means: 'LET the NCS know when you bug out' fm either voice or digital session of the net.

voice - chk in as an in/out OR request to secure after you've made your 'comments'.

digi - chk-in when NCS calls for 'in/out's' OR req to secure as part of your 213 or text msg. The object of the game is to help NCS know who's still on the net without havin' to do a roll call to see who's still around... pretty much std/common HAM practice/courtesy esp. for an 'ARES' type event/net.

'Movin' the Net' discussion (AGAIN)

move to a later time Tues night??

move to a diff day of the week??

1. Ken can't do it on Sun or Wed.

if Sun or Wed, need more Net Controllerz, well-versed and organized in voice, digi, WL, logging and reporting... I can help w/ all those.

the BC Net Mgr's job is available for a replacement, arguably the best 'operator' training for a HAM we have in the club, even for a new guy. (I started 4 mos after gittin' licens'd)

In closing, lemme say that I realize that Amateur Radio is a very enjoyable 'hobby' for us ALL, and that our BCECA HAM radio 'club' does a GREAT job in providing this county (and neighboring counties) w/ an exceptional vehicle to GROW this 'hobby' thru promotion (the Club & ARRL), 'Elmer'ing, local community involvement (supporting community events, providing an Am Radio V/UHF repeater for the County) and FCC testing w/ our VE Program. We even have a training program providing Tech & Gen Class HAM courses, our 'Tech' Saturdays for 'hands-on' training, as well as providing a serious variety of Amateur Radio 'presentations' covering the whole gamut/scope of different facets of this 'hobby' each month at our meetings. We're VERY fortunate to have such an active, multi-interest Club like this here in the South Metro Atlanta area.

The BCECA also does a good job supporting the Ga ARES program. I realize that ARES prep & practice is almost like 'work' sometimes, requires time, & effort to get qualified and STAY current, and understand that it's NOT for everybody. As I write this all 10 ARES Badge-holders in our club have to take the 'latest, greatest, most up-to-date'st revisions of the courses we took to get the card, ugghhh. BUT... if yer interested, see da EC, Buzz, K3GWK, and see if ARES is for you. THEN... if you sign up, take/make time to participate, let's do our part to take some individual OWNERSHIP of the SUCCESS of this program here in Butts County.

Reckon that's all for this month, yer everluvin' Excedrine Headache #1, Ken, KM4HOS, Butts Co Net Mgr



REPORTS

JUNE Membership Report: Nancy Phillips, K4NEP

We finished 2017 with 39 members. Last week we gained Dana Persells as a new member -- Welcome, Dana! -- and we have 2 Special Members and 1 Life Member, bringing our official headcount to 43. But, dues are due by the end of this month, and we still have 8 who have not yet paid. Dues are \$20 per year, with \$5 for each additional household member, or \$15 for Students.

Please mail your dues to me at: Nancy Phillips, 348 W 2nd St; Jackson, GA 30233. Make the check out to Amateur Radio Club of Butts County [our new name].

__ Nancy Phillips, Membership Chair

VE Report: Dan Darsey, W4DED , VEC

The May VE Session ended with a new Tech. Congratulations to Dan Edwards of Jenkinsburg.

OPERATING TIP—From the ARRL

Use WWV to Detect Band Openings

This one was suggested by a post by Wayne, N6KR, on the Elecraft mailing list: Listen for WWV on 25 MHz to suggest if the 15 meter band is open to your location. A very strong WWV presence could also suggest that 10 meters is open. Note that this

ACTIVITY LOG (ICS 214)

1. Incident Name: Monthly Hospital Net		Date From: 6/3/2018 Time To: 6/3/2018	
		Date From: 13:50	Date To: 15:55
3. Name:		2. Operational Period:	
Dan Darsey W4DED	Recorder/Operator	5. Home Agency (and Unit): K4SGH Sylvan Grove Hospital	
6. Resources Assigned:			
Name	ICS Position	Home Agency (and Unit)	
Dan Darsey W4DED	Recorder/Operator	Butts County ARES	
Ken Wallis KM4HOS	Operator	Butts County ARES	
Glen Wyatt KK4GNO	Operator	Butts County ARES	
7. Activity Log:			
Date/Time	Notable Activities		
6/3/2018 13:45	Stationed Manned and placed into operation		
6/3/2018 14:27	Logged into WebEOC		
6/3/2018 14:40	Sent WinLink msg via DigiPeater 145.550		
6/3/2018 14:42	Checked into DStar Net		
6/3/2018	No Check into Net via HF		
6/3/2018 15:55	Station Secured		
8. Prepared by: Name: Dan Position/Title: Recorder Signature:			

EC MANAGER'S REPORT

Georgia ARES monthly report for May, 2018

Reported by: Butts County EC, Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK

Report ID# 10989. Report submitted by: K3GWK, Buzz Kutcher - EC

Total number of ARES members in your group is: 30

Change since last month: 0

Name of your Local ARES Net: BUTTS COUNTY FM TRAINING NET

Net Frequency: 147.285 PL 131.8

Day of the week: Tuesday

Time of the Net: 19:30 LOCA

Total of Nets this month: 10

NTS Liaison: GA ARES, GA SSB

Drills, Tests and Training sessions: 5

Drills, Tests and Training Man Hours: 54

Public Service Events: 2

Public Service Man Hours: 89

Emergency Operations: 0

Emergency Operations Man Hours: 0

Misc Activities: 0

Misc man hours: 0

TOTAL ARES OPERATIONS: 7

TOTAL ARES MAN HOURS: 143

Comments: 15 members attended the monthly training, a presentation by John Lipscomb, KA3SME, on Echo-link. Our ARES Team provided communication support for the 2018 Jackson Football Alumni 5K race: AJ4GU, AK4EM, K3GWK, K4NEP, KA3ZPM, KJ4PLJ, KK4BKF, KK4QJR (NCS), KK4SUO, KM4NRP, KM4PKD, KM4VPX, KW4AQ, NI2Y and W4DED. The hospital team operated K4SGH at Sylvan Grove Hospital during the monthly net: KK4BKF, KM4HOS, KM4NRP, W4DED. The Butts County VE team held a successful session, Dan Edwards is now KN4MMN. Ten nets and four NBEMS training sessions were held on the WX4BCA repeater (Tuesday at 19:30 Local). Our ARES team also supports the GA and Butts County Depts. of Public Health by providing operators for the Thursday morning D-Star net. 170 total ham hours, value \$4,197.30

**Butts County Georgia Emergency Communications Auxiliary
May 07, 2018
Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia**

Meeting Began at 1909 **Conducted by** Nancy Phillips **VP Meeting Concluded at** 2007

Attendance at Meeting: Pete Acevedo; Mark Baker; Mark Clark; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Melvin Mosier; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; Anthony Strite; Brent Strite; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt

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

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Report attached to the minutes.

VE Team: Dan Darsey VE testing session to be held on May 12, 2018 at Fire Station #7 at 0900.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe No report tonight.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak No report tonight.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis Report attached to the minutes.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway No report tonight.

Field Day Committee: June 7, 2018 will be a pre-planning meeting for Field Day. June 16, 2018, our Tech Saturday, will be the time for networking our computers in preparation for Field Day. Buzz Kutcher and Mark Clark will work on the mesh network and assist with updating the logging software. Buzz Kutcher volunteered to coordinate the family picnic this year.

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips No report tonight.

Public Information Officer: Mark Clark No report tonight.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher No report tonight.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1435.83 Repeater Fund \$1562.00 Total Funds \$2997.83

Club Old Business: The Bluebird Bluegrass Festival activity went well. Our Club had a digital station as well as voice and made several FT-8 contacts.

The Jackson 5K Race was well covered by our members. Race coordinator, Morgan Montez, was very pleased to have our assistance. Club members received Race Tee Shirts in appreciation; this was our third year in helping with the communications for the Race. For next year we need to coordinate with EMS for them to be on site during the race; for Net Control to have better communication with EMS and we need to have a station in constant contact with the 911 center.

Club New Business: Buzz Kutcher spoke about how our Club activities have progressed from ARES only to the installation of a Club Repeater requiring insurance to be purchased. At that point we identified our Club as the Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary. From there our service to the community as well as the interests and responsibilities the Club has assumed leads us to become a full fledged Ham Radio Club. In order to become a Ham Radio Club we must change the name of our Club. The new name of the Club must be changed in the preamble of the By-laws to the "Amateur Radio Club of Butts County" to be referred to as the "Club".

Buzz Kutcher made a motion to change the By-laws to reflect the afore mentioned name change to the "Amateur Radio Club of Butts County". Mark Clark seconded the motion and the motion was passed by all in attendance. Ken

Wallis made a motion to renew our Club's liability insurance which is due in July 2018. Dan Darsey seconded the motion and it was passed by all in attendance.

Coming Events: June 19, 2018 at 1800 there will be a proclamation presented in recognition of our Club at the Courthouse located in the Municipal Building. Please wear your Club shirts so we are easily recognized.

Monthly Program: John Lipscomb presented a very good introduction to using Echolink for communication purposes. Many thanks for him donating his time to teach this class.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: We raised \$36.00 for the Repeater Fund tonight.

May meeting Minutes submitted by Darlene Ragon, KK4BPK, BCECA Secretary

Amateur Radio Club of Butts County
June 04, 2018
Meeting Held at Butts County Fairgrounds Jackson, Georgia

Meeting Began at 1900 Meeting Concluded at 2030

Attendance at Meeting: David Burnahm; Mike Crowe; Dan Darsey; Buzz Kutcher; John Lipscomb; Neil Martin; Dana Persells; Nancy Phillips; Darlene Ragon; Mel Mosier; Whit Smith; Elaine Stachowiak; Brent Strite; Ken Wallis; Rudy Williams; Glenn Wyatt; Winfred Barnes; Mark Austin.

Office of Homeland Security/CERT: Director Glen Goens No report tonight; representative unavailable.

Net Manager's Report: Ken Wallis Buzz Kutcher volunteered to be Net Control for June 2018.

VE Team: Dan Darsey There will be a VE Session in July.

Repeater/Technical Committee: Mike Crowe Our Club still needs an internet connection at Sylvan Grove in order to use our D-Star Radio.

Skywarn Coordinator: Elaine Stachowiak No report tonight.

Hospital Team and Public Health Department Team: Dan Darsey and Ken Wallis The HF bands have been very poor quality recently but Winlink communications have been successful at the monthly Hospital Net. Health Department communications using the D-Star radio have been successful.

CERT Activities: David Ridgeway No report tonight; representative unavailable.

Field Day Committee:

Membership Chairman: Nancy Phillips Six members still need to renew their membership for 2018.

Public Information Officer: Mark Clark No report tonight; representative unavailable.

EC Report: Buzz Kutcher Our Club members donated 170 hours of volunteer/educational time for the month of May; this included 7 operations for a value of \$4197.00.

Treasurers' Report: John Lipscomb General Fund \$1280.83 Repeater Fund \$1627.00 Total Funds \$2907.83

Club Old Business: Elaine, our Club president, encouraged members to retain their membership with ARRL; Club affiliation with ARRL has many benefits including access to reasonably priced insurance for Club activities.

The Bluebird Bluegrass Festival activities on April 21, 2018 were again a good opportunity for the community to learn about Ham Radio and Club membership.

Please consider submitting an article or other tidbit to our Newsletter; Mark does such a good job providing us with an interesting newsletter every month. I know he would appreciate your contribution.

It was discussed using one of our Tech Saturday's to assist Ken Wallis with the relay mapping of the county low spots. Relay sites can be mobile stations positioned in low lying areas of the county while simulating a disaster situation.

The Butts County Police Department discovered our assistance with the Jackson 5K Race and commented how helpful our Club was to the race. Traffic control around the race site continues to need improvement.

A second vote on changing our Club's By-laws to reflect the Club name change was held and passed. Dan Darsey mentioned that the Club will need a new website due to the name change. It will be an \$8.00 month charge.

Club New Business: Nancy Phillips showed a sample of a new Club tee shirt with the new Club logo reflecting the change of name of the Club. No decision to purchase shirts was made tonight.

Coming Events:

Monthly Program: Field Day preparations were discussed at length tonight. We will install the antennas on Friday evening at 1830 on site. Concerns were voiced as to the whereabouts of the construction lights that we used for night time communications; still unable to locate them.

Everyone needs to bring comfortable chairs and lamps for their use while operating stations.

Buzz and Dan volunteered to bring coax cables for Club use.

Remember to bring your personal headphones if you have them to help with noise reduction while working at the station.

Final set up preparations will begin Saturday morning at 0900 following breakfast at the Lunch Box.

Bring lots of water to drink and fans if you have them available; the weather is forecast to be hot and humid.

The Family Picnic will begin at 1700; remember to coordinate with Buzz or Nancy on what you are contributing to the picnic. All food must return home with family members at the end of the picnic; there is no facility for storing food items.

Raffle Funds Raised this Meeting: Our club raised \$66.00 tonight for the Repeater Fund.

BUTTS COUNTY AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

Visit our website: www.bcgaares.orgButts County Emergency
Communications Auxiliary348 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
ragon@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

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 By NI2Y

Time for a Change

As of July I will take a break from my PIO position. Soon the Facebook, Repeater Newsletter and public announcement batons will pass to another club member.

I wish to sincerely thank several members for their assistance directly or indirectly for the PIO position:

1. Nancy – I appreciate your Publisher know how and edits for the Repeater.
2. Jeff – Many thanks for the excellent articles for the Repeater
3. Whit – A sincere thank you for the Whit's Wisdom content for the Repeater every month.
4. Buzz – Without Buzz I would have forgotten news media announcements, articles, etc.. His institutional knowledge is legendary.
5. Ken – You are into everything and always provide informative Net Manager's Report, DPH Net organization and reports. He is there even when it is not his week for a net.
6. Dan – Thank you for the steadfast hospital team organization and reports.
7. Mike – He is the man with the stuff and the technological expertise.
8. Elaine – Our president keeps us "Skywarned", wins the contacts award, and is true blue to the NPOA initiative.
9. Darlene – I appreciate the excellent monthly minutes and your perspective on the fundamental benefits of "when all else fails" hobby.
10. John – You pay the bills and let us know if we are still solvent. Thank you
11. Melvin – Mr. Net Control for many of our events and proof that a hobby can be for everyone.
12. Rudy – You remind us that there still is a need for Morse Code and you are there for the Health Department Net.
13. The Michelle and David, Nancy and Neil, Dan and Monica – Thank you for demonstrating that our hobby can be a family experience.
14. J.D. – Thank you for your great pictures of our activities.
15. Brent – I appreciate your club involvement and keeping our link to Monticello's activities.
16. Glenn – You are there for the hospital team and plenty of the events, thank you.
17. Mark B. – Thank you for your support of the hospital team.
18. Pete – You are a loyal Field Day supporter as well as your contributions as a consumable and seating specialist.
19. Jesse – Thank you for the moral support for the Newsletter.
20. Entire club – Thank you to all of the club for your help and support.

QRM – CONTINUED

Time for my recommendations for the Newsletter (just a few)

Consider a monthly or bimonthly Newsletter edition depending upon the season and activities.

More article contributions from our club members can only make the Newsletter more interesting and helpful.

73, Mark/NI2Y

News From the ARRL

Attendance Dips at Friedrichshafen's Ham Radio 2018:

Organizers of HAM RADIO <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/> 2018 June 1-3 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, report that attendance at this year's show was down slightly from 2017. The official count of radio amateurs, Scouts, and Maker Faire attendees was 15,460. That's down by 1,650 from last year.

"HAM RADIO has confirmed its position as the leading Amateur Radio exhibition," organizers said. "It once again proved to be the Mecca for Amateur Radio operators from around the world, the place where the ham spirit is alive."

"Radio Scouting -- The Adventure of Youth Amateur Radio" was the theme for the 43rd edition of the international Amateur Radio exhibition. Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Chair Steffen Schöppe, DL7ATE, said Friedrichshafen is a social occasion and the emphasis on Scouting was a plus.

"For years, we had been talking about how the Scouts could really present themselves on a big scale here, and this year it actually happened. Visitors were very interested in this topic, especially the young ones," he said. DARC is a HAM RADIO sponsor.

One commercial exhibitor reported that, despite fewer visitors, their new products sold out on the first day of the 3-day event.

ARRL fielded a contingent of representatives to HAM RADIO 2018, headed by President Rick Roderick, K5UR.

Show organizers conceded that the date for this year's show was "not ideal" because of conflicting events, and the drop in attendance was not unexpected. Next year, HAM RADIO will return to its traditional late-June position on the calendar. It will take place June 21 - 23, 2019.

QRM – CONTINUED

GEORGIA DISTRACTED DRIVER REGISTRATION

HAMS DO NOT HAVE A BLANK CHECK FOR USING A RADIO WHILE DRIVING
BUT SPECIAL USE CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST

O.C.G.A. § 40-6-241.2

Current through the 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

§ 40-6-241.2. Writing, sending, or reading text based communication while operating motor vehicle prohibited; prohibited uses of wireless telecommunication devices by drivers of commercial vehicles; exceptions; penalties for violation

(a) As used in this Code section, the term "wireless telecommunications device" means a cellular telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a stand alone computer, or any other substantially similar wireless device that is used to initiate or receive a wireless communication with another person. It does not include citizens band radios, citizens band radio hybrids, **commercial two-way radio communication devices, subscription based emergency communications**, in-vehicle security, navigation devices, and remote diagnostics systems, or amateur or ham radio devices.

(b)

No person who is 18 years of age or older or who has a Class C license shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while using a wireless telecommunications device to write, send, or read any text based communication, including but not limited to a text message, instant message, e-mail, or Internet data.

No person shall operate a commercial motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while:

Holding a wireless telecommunications device to conduct a voice communication;

Using more than a single button on a wireless telecommunications device to initiate or terminate a voice communication; or

Reaching for a wireless telecommunications device in such a manner that requires the driver to maneuver so that he or she is no longer in a seated driving position properly restrained by a safety belt.

The provisions of this Code section shall not apply to:

A person reporting a traffic accident, medical emergency, fire, serious road hazard, or a situation in which the person reasonably believes a person's health or safety is in immediate jeopardy;

A person reporting the perpetration or potential perpetration of a crime;

A public utility employee or contractor acting within the scope of his or her employment when responding to a public utility emergency;

A law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services personnel, ambulance driver, **or other similarly employed public safety first responder during the performance of his or her official duties;** or

A person engaging in wireless communication while in a motor vehicle which is lawfully parked.

Any conviction for a violation of the provisions of this Code section shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$150.00. The provisions of Chapter 11 of Title 17 and any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the costs of such prosecution shall not be taxed nor shall any additional penalty, fee, or surcharge to a fine for such offense be assessed against a person for conviction thereof. The court imposing such fine shall forward a record of the disposition to the Department of Driver Services. Any violation of this Code section shall constitute a separate offense.