



BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

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 REPEATER

DECEMBER 2014



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

The November meeting was well-attended with 17 members present. Buzz (K3GWK) called the meeting to order with all introducing themselves by call sign. It was noted that John (KA3SME) was absent due to his operating a special event station on the battleship *Missouri*. We will be interested to hear about his experience at next month's meeting.

Ed (WX4ED) gave the Net Manager's report. November's net control station is Darlene (KK4BKF). December's net control is David (AK4EM); January net control is Buzz (K3GWK); February net control is Ed (WX4ED) and March net control station is Darlene (KK4BKF). We encourage all club members to take a turn as net control to get comfortable with calling the net in the event of a natural or man-made emergency.

Buzz reminded us of the V.E. session on November 15 and the "Hungry Hams" breakfast at the Lunch Box restaurant before the V.E. session. (See elsewhere in the newsletter for the announcement of our three new V.E.s). Our next Ham Cram and V.E. session will be Saturday, January 17th at Fire Station #7 on Colwell Road.

Mike (AJ4GU) gave a report from the Technical Committee. Mike reported that the DMR digital mode has now been installed on the Piedmont Henry Medical Center repeater although the UHF repeater is not in operation. Mike recommended to the club that we install a new UHF radio at the Butts County 911 Center. He also recommended that we look for another site for our WX4BCA repeater. There was discussion about towers where we might place our repeater and even talk of erecting our own tower.

Elaine (KW4AQ) gave a brief report about a SkyWarn class possibly in March or April. Be sure to see Elaine's article elsewhere in the newsletter about her experience at Ham Jam.

Ed (WX4ED) asked club members to send him photos of their shacks. He had earlier requested club member bios for publication in the newsletter as a way of helping us get to know each other a little better.

Buzz gave an update on how our club fared last month in his report to the Georgia section of ARRL. During the month of October our club logged 423 hours of service and maintained 31 members on our club roster.

David (KK4SUO) brought a brief report about the OXCOMM class.

The State ARES meeting is again this year at "Gyp Stick" (GPSTC: Georgia Public Safety Training

Center) in Forsyth. The date is January 24. The meeting begins at 9:30 AM and club members are invited to meet for breakfast on our way down to Forsyth (time and place to be determined). Be sure to bring your "Go Kit" and receive an extra raffle ticket.

Mike discussed the upcoming Ebola Exercise to be conducted by Chief Glen Goens (KJ4TVO) and the Butts County CERT team. Buzz (K3GWK) and Darlene (KK4BKF) attended the class (see a report in Buzz's "From The Backacre" column).

March is the month we elect new club officers. Dan (W4DED) will chair the nominating committee to recommend four officers for the club: President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer.

Teaching time centered on DXing, DXpeditions and Beacons. See Buzz's article elsewhere in the newsletter. Ω



SAVE THE DATES

Weekly Butts County Training Net
Sundays at 4:30 PM

December Club Meeting / Christmas Dinner
Thursday, Dec. 4
6:00 PM
Buckner's Restaurant

HamCram
Saturday, January 17
Fire Station #7



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



December

December 4 — Club Christmas Dinner & Fellowship.
Buckner's Restaurant. 6:00 PM

December 9 — Georgia Geritol Gang Christmas Dinner. Blue Willow Inn
Newton County Club Christmas Dinner. Mama Maria's Italian Grill. 7:00 PM

December 25 — Christmas Day. Merry Christmas!

January

January 5 — Butts County ECA monthly meeting. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7

January 15 — Newton County Club meeting. 7:00 PM. Newton County
Law Enforcement Center

January 17— HamCram & V.E. Session. 8:30 AM. Fire Station #7
Testing to begin at 4:30 PM

January 24 — State ARES Meeting. 9:30 AM. GPSTC. Forsyth, GA



FROM THE V.E. COORDINATOR DAN (W4DED)

We would like to welcome three new members of our V.E. Team.

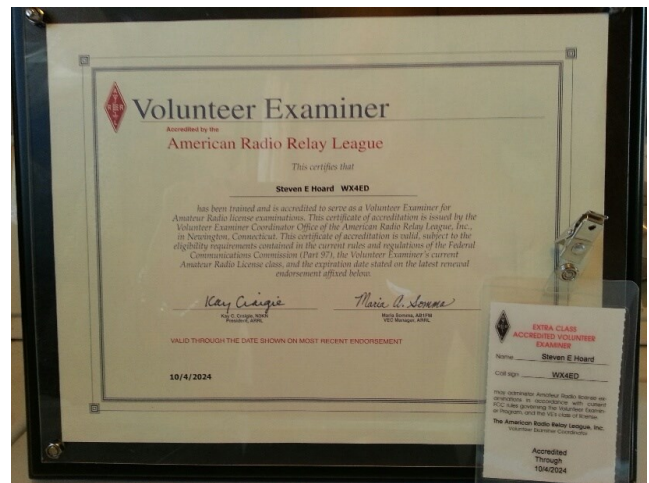
The following have completed the study course prescribed by the ARRL and have been certified by the ARRL as Volunteer Examiners. Ed Hoard (WX4ED), Ron Hall (N3RCH) and David Ridgeway (KK4SUO).

If you are a General or Extra Class Licensed Amateur, you can be-

come a V.E. and join the team.

Check out this website: <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve> or contact Dan Darsey (W4DED) at W4DED@arrl.net.

There will be a HamCram and V.E. Session on Saturday, January 17 at Fire Station #7. HamCram begins at 8:30 AM and testing begins at 4:30 PM. Ω



Ham Cram
January 17th
Fire Station #7

Please invite local persons who will be willing to get involved in our club! Only 12 spaces are available.



Annual Christmas Party
Thursday, December 4
6:00 PM





REPORT FROM HAM JAM 2014 ELAINE (KW4AQ)

I think Mel (KK4QJR) and I agree that this year's Ham Jam was very good. The speakers were informative and interesting. The Fulton County group organized a great program for the hams who were able to attend. Some hams came from as far away as South Carolina. This was my third year to attend the Ham Jam and I will surely go again next year.



The first speaker was Carol Perry (WB2MGP), a person who is a force to get youth interested in Amateur Radio. Carole is the highly recognized "Youth Programs liaison" for the ARRL and other organizations. She has moderated the Youth Forum and the Instructor's Workshop at Dayton Hamvention for many years. She is a popular keynote speaker and seminar leader at numerous teacher and radio conven-

tions across the country. Carole taught school on Staten Island from 1981 until her retirement in 2004, and created a curriculum to introduce amateur radio into the classroom. Her contributions to amateur radio have benefited hundreds of schools and thousands of students over the years. She also was an executive vice president for 16 years for Rapidcircuit, a Brooklyn-based electronics company. When the company relocated, Carole went back to her first love of teaching. Carol is an interesting lady who can help with supplies and radios for presenting a program for youth.

The next speaker was Carl Luetzelschwab (K9LA). Carl is a recognized expert on solar topics and propagation. He retired last year after 41 years of RF Design with Motorola and Raytheon (formerly Magnavox). Carl has been licensed since 1961 and his interest in propagation goes back to his college days at Purdue University. His website contains selected articles about propagation from his monthly Propagation column in



WorldRadio (now Practical Propagation in CQ Plus) and from his contributions to other amateur radio publications. Carl gave us lots of information about our sun and radio wave propagation—some of which was over my head.



The best speaker was saved for last. Martin F. Jue (K5FLU) is the founder and owner of MFJ Enterprises, a world-wide business that also includes such prominent brand names as Ameritron, Mirage, Vectronics, Cushcraft and Hy-Gain. Martin founded MFJ in 1972 and has seen the company grow into a dominant force as an amateur radio equipment supplier. He

holds electrical engineering degrees from Mississippi State University and Georgia Tech, and has seen the company he started in a small hotel room in downtown Starkville, Mississippi grow into an international concern with more than 200 dealers in the United States, 10 in Canada and 40 elsewhere in the world. In addition, MFJ is represented at about 25 hamfests every year. Martin told us about the beginning of his company in his college days and what has led the company to become what it is today. There is a three-part video called "The MFJ Story" on YouTube containing the talk Martin gave at Ham Jam. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-P7ie_qvHw).

All the Ham Jams I have attended have been really good and this one was no exception. I think Scout (KK4DOG) enjoyed the Ham Jam as well and that like me, he and Melvin are looking forward to next year's.

73,
Elaine (KW4AQ)
Ω



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT DAN (W4DED)

The Nominating Committee is receiving nominations for the following club officers:

President—The president presides over meetings, enforces the Constitution and By-Laws, maintains proper operating procedures and signs documents.

Vice-president—The Vice-president assumes the duties of the President in his absence.

Secretary—The Secretary keeps and maintains minutes of meetings, maintains a member roster, reads and initiates club correspondence. He/she is responsible to maintain a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws at all club meetings.

Treasurer—The Treasurer's duties are many primarily consisting of collecting, maintaining and dispersing club monies while keeping a detailed and orderly account of these funds.

Officers are elected for a period of two years and may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

The Nominating Committee will present nominations at the March meeting whereupon the members will vote for one candidate for each position. Please give your nominations to Dan (W4DED) at W4DED@arrl.net.

Ω



FROM THE BACKACRE — BUZZ (K3GWK) Emergency Coordinator

November kicked off with the Stone Mountain Hamfest. Turned out to be a cold and very windy day in the “Tailgating Area” but there were lots of good deals. The stuff I am looking for never seems to be there though. Inside the main building it was nice and warm, complete with free coffee and donuts from several of the Atlanta area clubs. I spent an hour at the Southeastern DX Club booth talking to visitors about DX’ing. The booth was located between two sources of free coffee. Location, location, location...

The ARES meeting was interesting. This was one of the first opportunities for the new GA Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) to meet with a large group of ARES members. David Benoit brought us up to speed on the Georgia ARES Database upgrade, future cooperation between ARES and MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) and plans for the up-coming state meeting.

One of the big issues in public safety communications is “Interoperability”. This is an issue in many

areas of the country, including Georgia, where on-scene, mutual-aid communications are difficult due to different frequencies and communication systems. Interoperability issues exist in ham radio EMCOM also. David explained there is a need for digital system commonality. Teams are being organized to investigate this issue.

The second Saturday of November brought HAM-JAM. I did not attend this year but Elaine (KW4AQ) and Melvin (KK4QJR) were there and enjoyed the speakers, especially Martin F. Jue, the founder and owner of MFJ. In addition to MFJ and all the equipment that they manufacture, Martin also owns Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, and Ameritron. American ham radio equipment manufacturers that were on the brink of failure and were re-vitalized by MFJ.

The presentation at our November training was

about propagation and the world-wide propagation beacon system. We also viewed an interesting video, produced by Ralph Fedor (K0IR), about DX’ing and Dxpeditions.

Mike Crowe (AJ4GU) mentioned that Yaesu is offering their System Fusion dual-band FM repeater to clubs at a deeply discounted price. The Technical Committee is looking into a location for a UHF repeater. We hope to have a report at the December meeting.

In November members of our ARES team participated in the planning session and the Table Top Exercise for the Butts

County OHS EBOLA exercise, “Out of Africa”. One thing I learned at the TTX was that Butts County is prepared. Sylvan Grove Hospital has purchased isolation gear, set up a special isolation area and has had several drills. Their preparations for EBOLA have honed their skills for dealing with any infectious disease. A series of questions are asked during admission screening and also by the 911 Dispatchers prior to sending an ambulance on a “general sickness” type call. Glen anticipates having a Full Scale Exercise in 2015.

On November 10 and 11 GEMA held a Winter Weather Exercise. The Butts County EOC was activated. For us the drill was very limited; I communicated with the EOC using a system called WebEOC

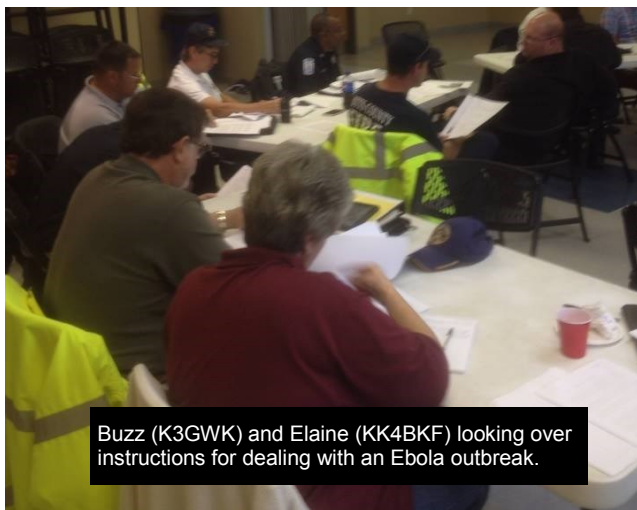
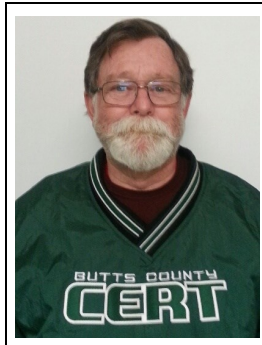
and was (thanks to a phone call from AJ4GU) able to check in to a net operated for the state SOC on HF, VHF and D-Star. Conditions on HF were very poor. Darlene (KK4BKF) called and listened but was unable to check-in to the HF net. Mike reported my D-Star signal through the Stone Mountain repeater was much better than my signal through the W4DOC repeater in Atlanta. Huh!

The November Butts County CERT training was a CPR refresher and was well attended by the ham members of CERT. The new Butts County Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Stacy Elmore, was surprised to find out that every CERT member at the training session was a ham radio operator. Stacy is not currently a ham but is studying for the Tech license using a manual from our club’s library.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in or visited our Special Event and Simulated Emergency Test on October 25th. I ran into Jenkinsburg’s mayor, David Nestor, when I paid the water bill earlier this month. Mayor Nestor thanked us (again) for our participation in the 125th Founder’s Day festival.

Elaine Stachowiak (KW4AQ) is working with the folks at Dauset Trails, preparing for our participation in the annual “Bluebirds and Bluegrass Festival” again this year. If you are interested in helping Elaine with this, please let her know at our next club meeting.

Thanks for all you do...
73,
Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK) Ω

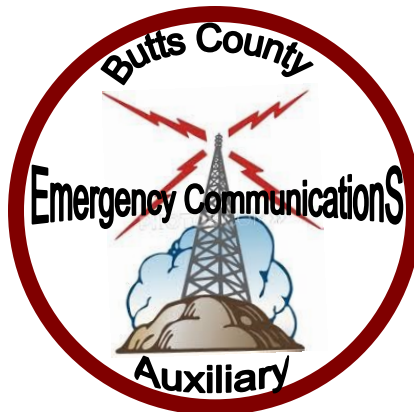


Buzz (K3GWK) and Elaine (KK4BKF) looking over instructions for dealing with an Ebola outbreak.

Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234
770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net



Emergency Coordinator
Buzz Kutcher
K3GWK
k3gwk@arrl.net

A.E.C. / V.E. Team Admin.
Dan Darsey
W4DED
w4ded@arrl.com

A.E.C.
David Burnham
AK4EM
burnham1078@gmail.com

SKYWARN Coordinator
Elaine Stachowiak
KW4AQ
ubudogems@hotmail.com

Technical Coordinator
Mike Crowe
AJ4GU
aj4gu@bellsouth.net

Director, Butts County OHS/EMA
Glen Goens
KJ4TVO

CERT Team Liaison
David Ridgeway
KK4SUO
dpridgeway@bellsouth.net

PIO / Net Manager
Ed Hoard
WX4ED
edhoard@yahoo.com

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

Net Control Station Schedule

December — John
(KA3SME)

January — Buzz
(K3GWK)

February — Ed
(WX4ED)

March — Darlene
(KK4BKF)

If you'd like to serve as NCS, please email Ed (WX4ED), Net Manager: edhoard@yahoo.com

Weekly Training Net:

Sunday 21:30 GMT

4:30 EST 5:30 EDT

WX4BCA Repeater 147.285- PL131.8

Jackson, GA

BUTTS COUNTY / SOUTHERN CRESCENT AREA NETS — HF, VHF & UHF

Sunday (5:30 pm) GA ARES Digital Net — 3583 KHz (USB) or 7042 (PSK-31) Center 1000 Hz

Sunday (5:30 pm) Butts CO FM Training Net — 146.715 MHz (146.2 PL) Winlink: WX4BCA

Sunday (6:00 pm) GA ARES SSB Net — 3975 KHz (LSB) Winlink: WX4GMA

Monday (8:00 pm) Walton CO ARES FM Net — 147.270 MHz (88.5 PL)

Monday (9:00 pm) Rockdale CO ARES FM Net — 147.210 MHz (162.2 PL)

Monday (9:00 pm) Southern Crescent FM Net — 145.170 MHz (146.2 PL) & 444.875 MHz (123.0 PL)

Tuesday (7:30 pm) GA CERT Digital Net — 3585 KHz (USB) or 7042 (PSK-31) Center 1000 Hz

Tuesday (8:00 pm) GA CERT FM Net — 146.805 MHz (100.0 PL)

Wednesday (8:00 pm) Newton Co 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)

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles and/or suggestions to **Ed Hoard** (WX4ED)
edhoard@yahoo.com

QRT