



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

FEBRUARY 2014



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LOCAL HF AND 4
VHF/UHF NET
SCHEDULES

UPCOMING DATES TO SAVE

- Sundays @ 4:45 PM
Butts County FM
Training Net
- Monday, February 3
BCECA Training Meet-
ing @ Fire Station #7
- Monday, February 10
Extra Class Study Grp
- Monday, February 24
Extra Class Study Grp

BUZZ KUTCHER (K3GWK) NAMED "HOTY" RUNNER-UP

On Saturday morning, January 25, several of the Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary team braved the sub-freezing temps and gathered for breakfast at the Atlanta South 75 Truck Plaza. David (KK4SUO), Melvin (KK4QJR) along with Scout (KK4DOG), Mike (AJ4GU), Buzz (K3GWK), Dan (W4DED), Monica (KK4KUH), and Ed (KK4GNH) enjoyed a delicious breakfast before heading south to Forsyth to attend the 2014 **Georgia State ARES** meeting. Newton Maddox, newly licensed ham (no call sign yet) joined us later at the Training Center. The Georgia Public Safety



Training Center was a beautiful and functional venue for the meeting. Hams from all over Georgia gathered to fellowship and learn how

better to serve our districts in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Speakers included representatives from the American Red Cross and GEMA.

Our own Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK) was named runner-up for *Georgia ARES Ham of the Year*! All of us know that Buzz should have been "Ham of the Year" instead of runner-up. Buzz responded that he was honored to have been nominated. Ω



Buzz holding court at breakfast



Scout talking to Monica



Auditorium at GPSTC

EXTRA CLASS GETS UNDER WAY

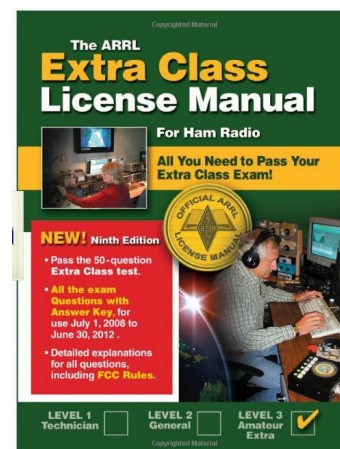
On Monday night, January 13, a dozen "Generals" gathered at Fire Station #7 to begin their study for the "Amateur Extra" license.

Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK) is leading the study sessions that meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights at 7:00 PM at Fire Station #7 on Colwell Road.

Students are using the Gordon West Extra Class Study Manual.

Buzz adds his vast knowledge of Ham Radio and throws in a few anecdotes to keep the classes interesting and lively.

There is still room for a few more who wish to upgrade their licenses. Ω





CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND GARS TECHFEST

On January 4th the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) held their annual Tech Fest at the Gwinnett Medical Center's Resource Center in Lawrenceville.

In spite of a torrential rain storm prior to the event, it was well attended. There were at least a dozen "booths" set up demonstrating ham radio related subjects and various local ham radio groups and clubs. There was a table set up with lots of keys, both manual "straight keys" and semi-automatic keys also called "bugs". Another spot featured a presentation on remote op-

eration - operating a home station from another location via the Internet. There was an area when folks who wanted to try their hand at soldering and assembling a small electronic could do so under the watchful eye of several "Elmers." Monica (KK4KUH) came home with a small LED flasher that she assembled. A VE session was scheduled along with several forum presentations. Dan attended one on dealing with Home Owner's Associations and there was a presentation by Dr. David Hathaway, from the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, spoke to a

packed-house about the Sun and the waning years of Sunspot Cycle 24. Cycle 24 turned out to be worse than predicted and Cycle 25 is now expected to be weaker than 24 with a long delay between the end of 24 and the beginning of 25. Don't sell your radios though there will still be lots of fun to be had on HF and UHF/VHF bands.

Tech Fest wrapped up with a "chili cook off" and hot dog lunch. While folks from our group did win several door prizes we left the ICOM 7100 behind. Ω



Melvin (KK4QJR) chatting it up at the TechFest.



Buzz (K3GWK) and Elaine (KK4CFE) enjoying the exhibits.

ANTENNA PARTY AT HIGH FALLS

In December several members of the BCECA donated their Saturday helping Melvin (KK4QJR) hang a new dipole antenna at his beautiful residence on High Falls Lake.

Melvin ordered the dipole from HRO and strung it across his deck for a few weeks while he listened to some HF chatter. It didn't take long before Melvin wanted to key his mike and join the conversation!

Mike (AJ4GU) led a team of 6 club members who worked from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM getting Melvin on the air.

Assisting Mike were Dan, (W4DED) Buzz (K3GWK) Darlene, Elaine, (KK4CFE) and Ed (KK4GNH).

Melvin had plenty of trees, lots of room and the antenna went up without a hitch! (Well, maybe one or two). Ω



"Hams helping other hams" is one of the many benefits of belonging to the Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary.





JANUARY HAMCRAM RESULTS IN 9 NEW LICENSES

On Saturday, January 18 HamCram Amateur Radio license study session number #10 was held at Butts County Fire Station #7. Nine people attended; seven seeking the Technician license and two upgrading to the General license.

After a long day of study and review, the Butts County VE team arrived for the testing session. Captain Jess had everything organized (as usual) and the testing went very well. All seven Technician candidates

passed their tests and David, KK4SUO and Mark, KK4SUS (both recent Technician HamCram "grads") up-graded to General. It was our first 100% HamCram! A big thank-you goes to Jess (W4DNS), Dan (W4DED), Randy (NV4RB), Greg (KI4NWD), Robert (KK4AKA) and Buzz (K3GWK) for supporting the event either as a facilitator or an examiner. As soon as the call signs are assigned by the FCC they will be an-

nounced on the Yahoo Group.

HamCram Stats: Total Sessions 10 (Butts County 7; Newton County 1; Henry County 2); Total Participants 101; Technicians 72; Generals 20

The next HamCram opportunity will be the 3rd Saturday in July. The regular bi-monthly VE sessions are held on the 3rd Saturday of the odd months (March, May, September and November). Ω



VE TEAM IS VITAL TO OUR HOBBY'S GROWTH

The local VE Team was conceived and is led by Jess (W4DNS). In 2011, Jess foresaw the need to put together our own VE team so that Amateur Radio would not only remain vital in this area, but would grow as a hobby and as a necessary means of communication in times of emergency or disas-

ter. Since its inception, the Butts County ECA ARRL-affiliated VE Team has tested 121 persons!

Thanks, Jess, and Team for your hard work and dedication. Ω



BUTTS COUNTY ARRL-AFFILIATED VE TEAM TEST RESULTS FOR 2013

	January 26	March 16	May 18	August 20	September 21	November 16	Totals
Tech	9	0	1	7	0	0	17
General	2	0	0	1	3	0	6
Extra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fail	1	0	0	4	0	0	5

Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

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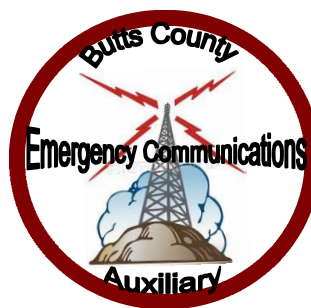
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**W E E K L Y T R A I N I N G N E T :
S U N D A Y 2 1 : 4 5 G M T
1 4 7 . 2 8 5 + (1 3 1 . 8)
W X 4 B C A R E P E A T E R
J A C K S O N , G A**



Butts County / Southern Crescent Area Nets — HF, VHF & UHF

Sunday (4:30 PM Winter) GA ARES Digital Net — 3583 kHz (USB) or 7042 (PSK-31) Center 1000 Hz

Sunday (4:45 PM Winter) Butts CO FM Training Net — 147.285 mHz (131.8 PL) Winlink: WX4BCA

Sunday (5:00 PM Winter) 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 — 3583 kHz (USB) (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

Saturday (11:00 AM) *SATERN Net (Southern Section) — 7262 kHz

*Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

Monthly Hospital Nets — HF & VHF

1st Sunday (3:00 PM) GA Hospital Net — 7188 kHz

NCS: Ken Reid (KG4USN) ASEC-Public Health: Barry Kanne (W4TGA)

1st Sunday (4:00 PM) Metro ARES FM Net — 145.430 mHz (107.2 PL)

Also on EchoLink at WB4NWS-R (Node: 593209)