

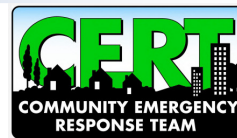


## BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

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

MARCH 2014



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## DEKALB ARES GA MARATHON NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Georgia Marathon. DeKalb ARES is supporting the Georgia Marathon and we need help from all the hams in the metro area. You do not have to be a member of DeKalb ARES to volunteer.

The date is March 23rd. The role you fill as a HAM radio operator is vital to race officials and runners alike. Please mark your calendars and follow the link below to participate in one of Atlanta's premier events! Any time you can give is most appreciated and we need operator coverage from 5:30 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m.



Everyone must attend the General Training Session.

Positions:

**Aid Station:** 6am until as late as 11am in most cases; must provide own HT.

**Centennial Park:** 6am until

end of the event (2pm); must provide own HT.

**SAG:** 5am - end of event; must attend additional APRS training session.

**Command:** 5am - end of event; must attend additional meetings.

**Home:** two new positions; monitor SAG network from your house and track the time-to-delivery for runners; must be able to use Google Spreadsheet to enter data; must attend SAG training sessions.

Follow this link to complete the sign up form:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2014PublixMarathon> Ω

### What Is Ham Radio All About?

What do you tell people when they ask you what Amateur Radio is all about? That can be a tough question, especially for our newer hams who have not experienced the hobby much beyond the HT and repeater. Even those of us with HF gear and years of experience often find ourselves at a loss to explain what we do without getting technical or referring to the jargon of ham radio. Here is one "elevator speech:"

"Amateur Radio is the most powerful form of communication available to the private citizen on the face of the planet. Simply put, hams can communicate without any infrastructure. Hams develop lifelong friendships and can exchange information with complete reliability under extraordinary conditions, locally or around the world. Hams expand technical frontiers yet respond quickly and effectively in emergencies. With basic amateur equipment, anyone can talk essentially to the world." Ω

### SAVE THE DATES

- **Weekly Butts County Training Net**  
Sundays at 4:30 PM
- **March Club Meeting**  
March 3 — 7:00 PM  
Fire Station #7
- **Extra Class Prep**  
March 10 & 24  
7:00 PM  
Fire Station #7

## BUTTS COUNTY ESCAPES MAJOR PROBLEMS IN ICE STORM

During the "Ice Storm—2014" the Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary were vigilant in keeping a close eye on the weather. On Wednesday morning, Buzz (K3GWK) called a weather net. The informal net lasted from 8:00 AM until late that night with 11 check-ins during the day. On Thursday, a second weather net was called resulting in 7 check-ins. Ω





**GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW "HAMS"**

**DARLENE RAGON -- KK4BKF**

Darlene Ragon hails from Music City, USA, Nashville, Tennessee (in case you haven't enjoyed listening to her sweet, mellifluous Southern accent). She migrated from Nashville to the Atlanta area in 1971. Several of Darlene's friends had already moved to Atlanta due to the strong job market and they encouraged Darlene to come on down!

Darlene moved from Atlanta to Griffin in October, 1977 and still resides in the same house. She decided that she wanted to become a Registered Nurse, so she began her nursing training by attending Gordon College in Barnesville. Upon graduating and receiving her RN, Darlene began her service at Griffin Hospital (Spalding Regional Medical Center).

Darlene nursed at Spalding Regional for 22 years. She moved her work place to Henry Medical Center, worked there for four years and then retired.

Darlene lives in Griffin with her 85-year-old mother. Mom is very active; she loves to read and work crossword puzzles. Darlene's grandmother and husband passed

away at about the same time, so Darlene invited her mother to come and live with her in Griffin.

Darlene has been a "ham" for almost four years. She got her Tech license in 2010 and less than a year later, attended a "ham cram" for the General and passed the General exam! She became a member of our Butts County



ARES group in February, 2011.

Darlene's interest in ham radio came about as a result of her membership in the Georgia Preppers Network. "Preppers" (they prefer that name instead of "survivalists") are normal, working folks whose sole desire is to be self-sufficient in the event of some natural or man-made disas-

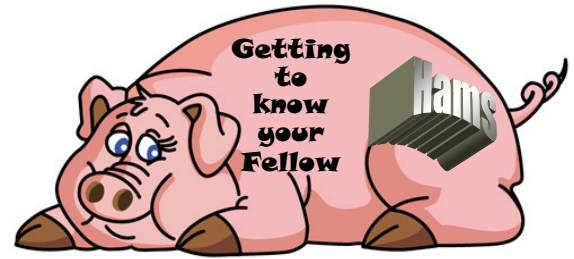
ter. There is a national organization with state and regional chapters. Preppers have monthly meetings as well as two "camp outs" each year.

They provide their members with information about gardening, home canning, raising livestock, bee keeping, soap making, cheese making, first aid and honing their gun skills. Because radio communication is such an important part of being prepared for a disaster, Darlene became interested in amateur radio communication and ARES.

Darlene QSO'es on 2 meters with her Yaesu 7900 that feeds a J-pole mounted on the roof of her house.

Her HF work is done with her Yaesu FT-450 that terminates in a G5RV antenna. Her "G5" was hung by a group of fellow Butts County ARES club members at an antenna party.

Give KK4BKF a shout and enjoy her sweet and friendly personality. Ω



Darlene QSO'es on 2 meters with her Yaesu 7900 that feeds a Jpole. Her HF work is done with her Yaesu FT-450 and a G5RV antenna

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

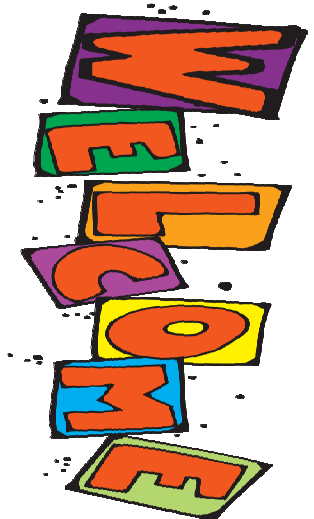
We are happy to welcome our newest members to the Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary. At our February meeting, **Reggie (KK4WTA)** and **Vickie (KK4VUG)** Henry joined our club.

Vickie is employed by Kroger of Covington. She has worked for the Kroger company for 34 years. She currently works at the Highway #278 store in Covington.

Vickie is a graduate of Shorter College (University) and is Immediate Past President of the Shorter University

Alumni Association. She has a B.A. in Music and plays piano.

Reggie works for Teen Challenge of Georgia, an organization dedicated to rehabilitating persons who struggle with life-controlling addictions. He is an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God and is a licensed funeral director. Reggie received his funeral training at Gupton Jones and his theological training at Southeastern Bible College. They have a son, Ashley who lives in Jefferson. Ω





## AMSTERDAM ISLAND DXPEDITION SHUT DOWN

The FT5ZM DXpedition has shut down, although the trip home remains. That news may be welcome to non-DXers who have been contending with huge and sometimes chaotic split-operation pileups that occasionally occupied substantial segments of spectrum, but depressing for operators who were unsuccessful in snagging this rare one.

The Amsterdam Island DXpedition team logged on the order of 165,000 contacts on SSB, CW and RTTY. AA4SC had the honor of completing the final FT5ZM contact -- on February 12 at 0220 UTC.

Amsterdam Island is the seventh most-wanted DXCC en-

tity, according to the ClubLog DXCC Most Wanted List. "All the team members are now safely aboard the Braveheart as of 0520 UTC,"



FT5ZM Pilot Station Val Hotzfeld, NV9L, reported on February 13. "There is a strong storm right behind them. This should make for rough seas but favorable winds pushing them to Perth."

Earlier seas were too rough to load the boat, leaving the DXpedition team and gear stuck on shore.

All FT5ZM logs have been uploaded to ClubLog, and the Online QSL Request Service (OQRS) for FT5ZM now is online. The budget for the DXpedition was \$450,000, which, to date, has not been met. More information on the Amsterdam Is-

land DXpedition budget and on the DXpedition is available on the Amsterdam Island FT5DX website. The ARRL made a Colvin Award grant to help support the DXpedition. - Thanks to The Daily DX, FT5ZM Ω

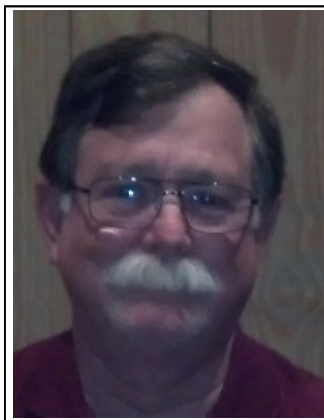


Let us know if you tried and succeeded in working Amsterdam or if you just tried!

## FROM THE BACKCREEK — BUZZ (K3GWK) Emergency Coordinator

First, many of you may be familiar with Mike Brown, KE4FGF. Mike was first licensed in 1993 and has been the Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator since 2009. Prior to his appointment to SEC, he was the EC for Thomas and Grady counties, the DEC for the Tallahassee Office of the NWS and the Southwest GA DEC. Even though Mike lived in Thomasville, he was often seen at Atlanta area hamfests and was a permanent fixture at the state ARES meeting in Forsyth. He was the presenter for the Ham of The Year (HOTY) award. Along with his ARES duties, Mike was (for many, many years) the president of the Thomasville

Amateur Radio Club. Mike died unexpectedly at his home on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Mike always had an ear available; I counted him as a friend and advisor. He will be missed. Keep his family in your prayers. January was a busy month for us with 4 FM Training Nets, 5 NBEMS Nets and 6 ARES Operations. We put in 204 Ham Hours in January. The highlights include the HamCram and VE Session (7 Techs and 2 Gen-



eral Upgrades), the state ARES Convention in Forsyth and a stand-by SKYWARN resource net during the severe weather. We operated informal resource nets during the recent ice storm; we had 11 stations check in on Wednesday (2/12) and 7 stations check in on Thursday (2/13). Thanks to all of the ARES Team members who checked into those nets. Our activity was reported to the Butts County OHS/EMA.

An exercise is being planned for March. Our March team training will be a "Digital Tune-Up" session. Bring your laptop for a refresher on Fldigi, Echolink and RMS-Express. Remember our training net on Sunday evenings now starts at 21:30 GMT (16:30 EST), you can also check in to the net using Winlink2000 at WX4BCA. Dual check-ins are appreciated -- got to keep those tools sharpened. I did manage to work finally FT5ZM on Amsterdam Island and my QSO was confirmed, just 1 of the 165,000 QSOs. Thanks for all you do... 73, Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK Ω

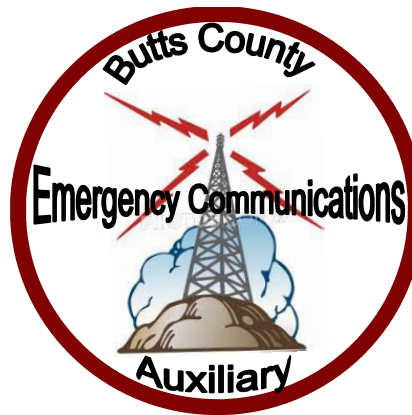


Visit our website: [www.bcgaares.org](http://www.bcgaares.org)

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

348 Patrick Circle  
Jenkinsburg,  
Georgia 30234

770-957-0779  
wx4bca@arrl.net



**Emergency Coordinator**

Buzz Kutcher  
K3GWK  
k3gwk@arrl.net

**A.E.C.**

Dan Darsey  
W4DED  
w4ded@arrl.com

**A.E.C.**

David Burnham  
AK4EM  
burnham1078@gmail.com

**SKYWARN Coordinator**

Elaine Stachowiak  
KK4CFE  
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

**Public Information Officer**

Ed Hoard  
KK4GNH  
edhoard@yahoo.com

**Weekly Training Net:**

**Sunday 21:30 GMT 4:30 EST 5:30 EDT**

**WX4BCA Repeater**

**Jackson, GA**

**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 (4:30 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 — 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**

**Saturday (11:00 am) \*SATERN Net (Southern Section) — 7262 KHz**

**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)