

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

NOVEMBER 2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS 2

SPIN FOR KIDS RUTLEDGE, GA 2

FOUNDERS DAY & SET PHOTOS 3

FROM THE BACKACRE 4

NET CONTROL STATION ROSTER 5

BCECA DIRECTORY 5

LOCAL NET SCHEDULE 5

RICH TURNER (WB4A) EDUCATES ON "OO" PROGRAM

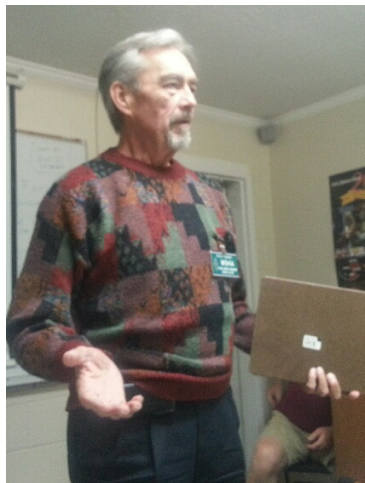
Our October club meeting featured an informative and interesting look at the "Official Observer" program. Our guest speaker was Rich Turner (WB4A) who serves as "OO" Coordinator for the Georgia Section of ARRL.

The mission of the Official Observer is to monitor all the various ham bands and "observe" both the technical characteristics of a transmission and the operating etiquette of the amateur operator.

From the very beginning amateur operators have sought to be self-policing in our technical and operating behavior. The OO's are there to ensure that we maintain the high quality of our hobby.

According to Turner, there are 732,000 ham operators in the US. Many of those live in Georgia and are monitored by 25 OO's on an average of 170 hours per month. Turner stated, "*Malicious interference is spread all over the band.*" That makes their job difficult but so important. If OO's hear technical signal problems or operating procedures that are contrary to our voluntary guidelines, they

will send a "Not-So-Good Operator" card to the offending station. On the other hand, they often mail "Good-Operator" cards to hams they catch being especially kind or helpful.



Turner encouraged all hams to have a copy of the FCC Rules and Regulations Book for Ham Radio. He reminded his hearers that the book is now available online from the ARRL website.

"Part 97 is all about what we can and can't do as amateur operators," said Turner.

During the Q&A session, Turner explained that direction-finding and triangulation are both tools the OO's use to find offending stations. The FCC only becomes involved after the OO's determine the location of the offenders.

As a part of Turner's responsibility to serve as the OO Coordinator for the Georgia Section of the ARRL, he is always looking for hams to serve as OO's. Following a time of questions and answers, Turner ended his presentation with the question, "*Why are you not an 'OO'?*" Ω

SAVE THE DATES

Weekly Butts County Training Net
Sundays at 4:30 PM

November Club Meeting Monday, Nov. 3
7:00 PM
Fire Station #7

Ham Jam
Metropolitan Amateur Radio Club,
Alpharetta
November 8

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AT BUCKNER'S

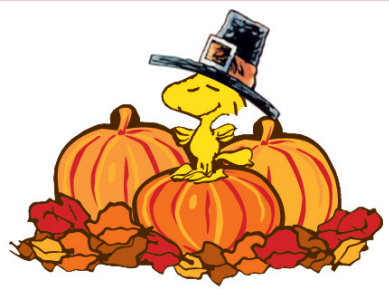
Our annual Christmas Dinner and Fellowship will be Thursday, December 4 at the world-famous Buckner's Restaurant just off Hwy. # 36 at I-75 in the Buck Snort Community. Darlene (KK4BKF) is our committee chairperson for the event and she promises a night of great food, fellowship and an interesting

program to follow the meal. Darlene will need to give a number of expected attendees to the restaurant, so if you and your spouse/guest are planning to attend, please email Darlene at lragon@aol.com. Ω





UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



November

November 1-2 — Stone Mountain Ham Fest. Lawrenceville, GA.

November 3 — BCECA Club Meeting. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7
Propagation Review & Beacons. Bring your laptops

November 8 — Ham Jam. Alpharetta

November 16 — Hungry Ham Breakfast. Lunch Box Restaurant. 7:30 AM
VE Session. Butts County Recreation Center. 9:00 AM

November 18 — Newton County Club Meeting. 7:00 PM.
Newton County Law Enforcement Center

November 27 — Thanksgiving Day

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!



CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN SPIN FOR KIDS

On Saturday, October 19 several members of the Butts County Amateur Radio Club traveled to Rutledge, Georgia to assist the Newton County Club in providing emergency communications for the Spin For Kids.

Spin For Kids is Camp Twin Lakes' annual premier cycling event that raises money to provide life-changing camp experiences for children with serious illnesses, disabilities or other life challenges.

Taking place at Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge, Spin For

Kids is a fully supported road bike ride that winds through the rolling hills of beautiful Morgan County, Georgia. In 2013, 835 riders

participated in Spin For Kids and raised more than \$429,000, which equates to sending 537 kids to Camp

Twin Lakes for a full week of camp.

routes: 5, 27, 47, 62 or 100 miles. Each route was supported from start to finish with fully-stocked rest stops, first aid, route marshals, and bike technicians.

As riders returned to Camp Twin Lakes, they were invited to join in camp festivities including delicious food, beer, live entertainment and a chance to explore Camp.

In 2014, Spin For Kids was hoping to raise \$500,000!

Those attending from the Butts County Club were Buzz (K3GWK), Dan (W4DED) and Mike (AJ4GU).

Ω



OCTOBER 19, 2014
Camp Twin Lakes-Rutledge
Rutledge, Georgia

JENKINSBURG FOUNDER'S DAY SPECIAL EVENT STATION & SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST



Buzz (W3GWK) operated the SET Command Station and Special Event control.

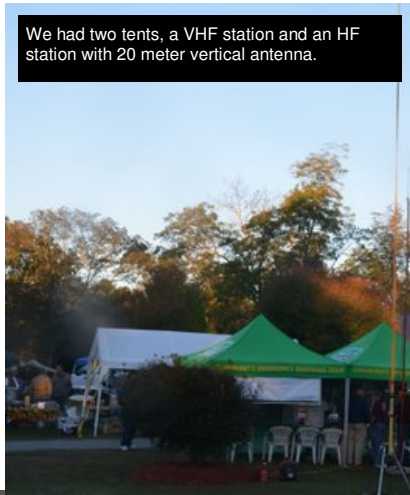


The City of Jenkinsburg Founders Day 125th Anniversary.

On October 25 the City of Jenkinsburg celebrated their 125th anniversary with a Founders Day celebration. Our club set up a Special Event Station from which we operated our SET command post. Many people came by our booth to ask about Amateur Radio. 12 members of our club participated in the SET and Special Event Station WX4BCA.



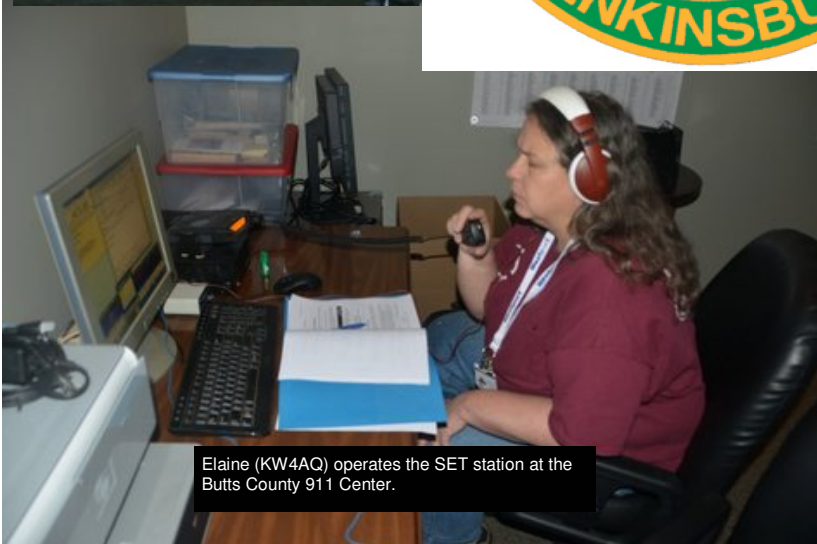
Jenkinsburg Mayor, Honorable David Nestor, signs our guest register.



We had two tents, a VHF station and an HF station with 20 meter vertical antenna.



Buzz (W3GWK) answers questions about emergency communication and amateur radio.



Elaine (KW4AQ) operates the SET station at the Butts County 911 Center.



Our booth is visited by our CERT "boss," Chief Glenn Goens (KJ4TVO).

Special thanks to our new "official" club photographer, J.D. Van Sickle (KM4DHS)

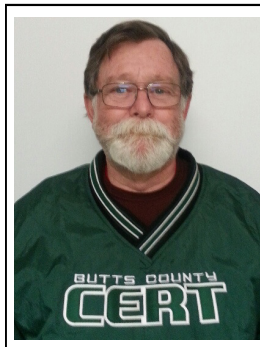


FROM THE BACKACRE — BUZZ (K3GWK) Emergency Coordinator

I finally have Rhonda unloaded from the 2014 SET and Special Event operations on Saturday. Well almost, my two cement blocks need to be moved to their normal location. The Simulated Emergency Test went very well. The SET started out at 08:00 with a call-up announcement on the KI4FVI repeater and on our WX4BCA repeater. Several members of our team had gathered at the Jenkinsburg Park (Incident Command) to set up our booth so those folks just headed for their normal assignments with “official group photographer” JD VanSickle (KM4DHS) riding along to the 911 Center. The Sylvan Grove team was on the air by 08:20, the 911 Center station followed at 08:25. During the 90 minute exercise we exchanged messages using Fldigi and Flmsg primarily via the WX4BCA repeater. All-in-all a total of 15 messages and replies were exchanged. The NCS station switched the net to our county VHF simplex frequency and we re-sent many of the messages, again with 100% copy. Every operator involved sent at least one piece of traffic using Flmsg. All of the planned objectives were

met and the exercise was secured at 09:30. *Sylvan Grove Team: KK4BKF, KK4GNO, KK4KUF, KA3SME and W4DED; 911 Center Team: KW4AQ and KM4DHS; Incident Command Team: WX4ED, K4JAO and K3GWK Additional net check-ins: KK4SUO.* I need to thank OHS Director Glen Goens (KJ4TVO) for his assistance with this year’s plan. Glen will be able to use our SET to comply with GEMA exercise requirements. He visited the Incident Command site during the exercise and was pleased with the operation. Our exercise included three Emergency Support Functions: Communications (ESF2), Emergency Management (ESF5) and Public Health and Medical Services (ESF8). Our booth was also visited by representatives of Firefighting (ESF4) and Public Safety and Security (ESF13) and Administration (ESF15) Thanks to all who participated! The Special Event did not go as planned however. There was very strong QRN

(Power Line Noise) at our location and it completely wiped out reception on 20 meters. We did make several contacts on the VHF simplex frequency and also on 10 meter SSB. Live and learn... We did get Amateur Radio and CERT out in the public eye and had lots of visitors to the booth. The kids enjoyed the goggles and hard hat and helped themselves to the activity hand-outs. There were lots of questions and (like Radio Shack) we had the answers. The food at the festival was pretty good, too. Hey, we had to eat...



October was another busy month with 4 FM nets, 4 WL2K nets and 221.6 ham-hours of service. In addition to the SET and Special Event several of our members assisted with the Covington Fuzz Run and the Spin For Kids 100 mile bike ride in Morgan County. The WL2K net continues to improve. With the shift back to the WX4BCA repeater (Thanks Tech Committee!) it may take a couple of weeks for the participation to return to normal. The repeater is doing a great job. It covers

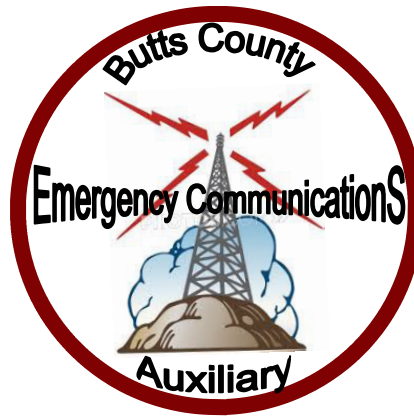
the county very well and, this past Sunday, there were stations on the net from Stockbridge, Monticello and Covington. Our October training featured Richard Turner (WB4A) the Georgia ARRL Official Observer Coordinator. If you are going to meet Richard, this was the way to do it – not by mail. The new PC has been installed at the 911 Center and, except for an Internet connection issue, is ready to go. In November we have a couple of Butts County events and several other Atlanta area ham activities. Our next meeting is 03NOV2014 and will feature a discussion of propagation and the propagation beacon system. Our next VE session will be held at the Rec Center on 15NOV2014 at 09:00. There will be a “Hungry Hams” breakfast prior to the VE session (07:30). The Stone Mountain Hamfest is this weekend in Lawrenceville and HamJam is coming up on 08NOV2014 in Alpharetta. **Circle 04DEC2014 on your calendars – that is the date of the annual Family Christmas Dinner, Buckner’s Restaurant at 18:00.**

Thanks for all you do...
73, Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK ☺

Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

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Club Photographer
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KM4DHS
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Net Control Station Schedule

November — Darlene
(KK4BKF)

December — John
(KA3SME)

January — Ed
(WX4ED)

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** (KK4GNH)
edhoard@yahoo.com

QRT