



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

APRIL 2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW HAMS 2

THE ORIGIN OF "73" 2

GEORGIA HAMFEST SCHEDULES 3

FROM THE BACKACRE 3

TRAINING NET SCHEDULE 4

BCECA DIRECTORY 4

LOCAL NET SCHEDULE 4

BLUEBIRDS & BLUEGRASS SPECIAL EDITION

From hunting Easter eggs to emergency communications education, the 14th Annual **Bluebirds and Bluegrass Festival** is being held Saturday and Sunday, April 12,13 at Dauset Trails Nature Center . This popular Central Georgia event has something for everyone.



Last year the festival attracted more than 3,500 people according to Dauset Trails Naturalist, Jeremy Hilderbrand.

Families came from across Georgia to hunt eggs, listen to bluegrass bands, pet farm animals and eat barbecue and pork rinds.

A popular part of the festival

for young people last year was the BB gun range provided by the Georgia Hunter Education Association. The range had a

steady stream of visitors throughout the day.

"This satisfies the whole range of (youth) shooting at an event like this," GHEA instructor Mike Tallant said. "We want them to learn a safe way and to experience it so that they have a good idea of what's going on."

A large crowd of people at the festival gathered around a stage under the shade of a canopy of trees to listen to the

bluegrass bands. Food booths offered a variety of edible items from hand-cranked ice cream to hot pork rinds — both made at the festival.

"This is the perfect food if you're on a diet," Stan Johnson with King Mountain Honey Farm of Thomas-ton said as he stirred a fresh batch of pork skins in a pot of boiling oil. "It's low in fat and has no carbohydrates."

This year, the **Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary** is taking part in the festival by demonstrating just how effective and necessary Ham Radio is in time of natural or man-made disasters. Members of the local club are manning a booth and distributing information about Amateur Radio and its vital role in emergency communications. Ω

SAVE THE DATES

- **Weekly Butts County Training Net**
Sundays at 5:30 PM
- **April Club Meeting**
April 7 — 7:00 PM
Fire Station #7
- **Extra Class Prep**
April 14 & 28
7:00 PM
Fire Station #7

ED, KK4GNH QSO'S WITH LOCAL HAMS IN ISRAEL

During his 12th trip to the Holy Land, Ed, KK4GNH took along his HT and made contact with two Israeli hams. One QSO took place in Tel Aviv and the other in the ancient city of Jerusalem.

Additionally Ed made contact with Buzz, K3GWK, Elaine, KK4CFE, Mark, KK4BFQ and Neil, KK4PZC via Echolink. Ω



Ed KK4GNH standing at the Wailing Wall/ Western Wall in Jerusalem, Israel



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW "HAMS"

MELVIN MOSIER -- KK4QJR

Melvin Mosier, KK4QJR, spent the first ten years of his life in Northeast Arkansas. When he was 10 years old, the family moved to Southeast Michigan where he grew up and attended school.

Following high school, Mel enrolled in electronics school in Detroit, Michigan, thus beginning a long career in electrical and electronic work. While in electronics school, Melvin earned the First Class (General) Commercial Radiotelephone license. This is the license required by the F.C.C. for commercial radio and television engineers.

Following electronics school, Melvin moved to Northern Illinois and raised his family. Melvin and Jeanette have two sons, Kenneth and Keith. Kenneth lives in nearby Ackworth and Keith wakes up every day in

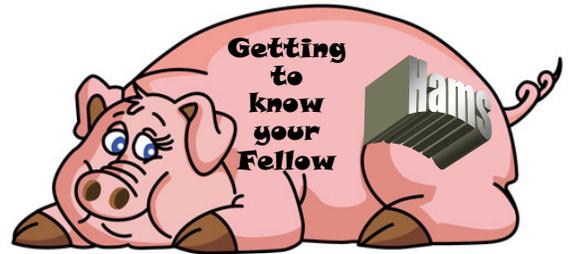
paradise—Maui, Hawaii. In 1967 Melvin went to work for North Central Airlines. He was hired as a radio and electronics mechanic. Melvin said, "Anything with electricity running through it, I was responsible for." North Central Airlines eventually became Republic Airlines which was ultimately bought by Northwest Airlines. So Melvin retired from a 37 year career in aviation electronics in 2003.

Along the way, Melvin also dabbled in test equipment and structures, but says that electronics were his gifting and love. In addition to ham radio, Mel enjoys boating. His home on High Falls Lake provides the perfect access to the water for his boating hobby.

On March 22, Mel successfully passed the Amateur Extra exam! Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK, remarked, "Melvin passed with flying colors!"

Mel wants to encourage the other "Generals" who are studying to take the Extra Class exam by saying, "You can do it!" In fact, that's Mel's philosophy on life. His boat is named "YNOT." That's also a part of his email address.

When people begin to complain that something is too hard, some challenge too great, Melvin responds with, "Y-NOT??!!"



Del Davis (W4DEL) reads the questions to Mel (KK4QJR) as Randy (NV4RB) verifies the administration of the verbal test.



Randy (NV4RB) and Del Davis (W4DEL) administer the Extra test to Mel Mosier (KK4QJR) as VE Captain Jess (W4DNS) monitors the session.

THE ORIGIN OF "73"

The following is from Louise Ramsey Moreau, W3WRE: The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind - it indicated that the end, or signature, as coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

"The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication The National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you"! Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals used then had the same definition as they have now, but within a short time, the

use of 73 began to change. In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code." A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled

to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my

compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era. Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments."

The Twentieth Century Manual of Railways and Commercial Telegraphy defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you"; but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments."

Theodore A. Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* shows a return of "accept my compliments." By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge

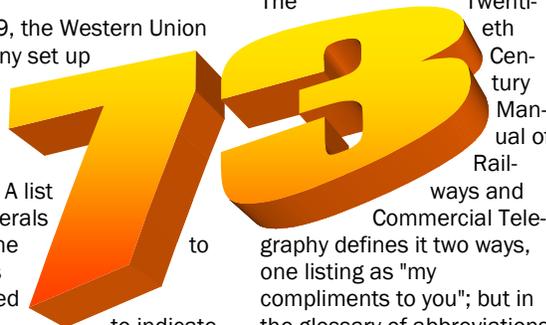
Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning.

Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used, a "friendly word between operators."

73, Charles A. Wimer, Amateur Radio Call: KC8EHA Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Trumbull County (OH) ARRL

Editor's Note: Since "73" means "Best Regards" and is already plural, "73s" is redundant and should be avoided! Ω





GEORGIA ON MY MIND – ARRL SPECIAL DATES

There are a lot of events coming up this year for the Georgia Section of ARRL.

Approved Hamfests

1. **Ellijay Hamfest** March 15 . This is a small but friendly affair.

2. **Thomasville Hamfest** March 29. This is a developing and fairly well attended event. They plan good food, too.

3. **Calhoun Georgia Hamfest** at Sugar Valley. This is promoted by the “Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society”. The most beautiful area you hope to drive through.

4. Not an ARRL-sanctioned event, but **CARS** (COASTAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY) Savannah, GA will be holding a Swap Meet / Amateur Radio Operating Display for the Public at Grayson Stadium at Daffin Park

on 3 May 2014.

Other events supported by hams in the Section:

1. **The Atlanta Science Festi-**



val. This event on Saturday March 29 (Centennial Olympic Park) expects around 2000 high- and middle school students with their

families and teachers to explore exciting aspects of science. Martha W4MSA in real life is a science teacher in Alpharetta and is our ASM for Youth. She and Norm WA4ZXV and John K4SQC have teamed up with others in the NFARL and GARS to have a booth in the event.

2. Elden N1MN is working with the National Association of County and City Health Organizations for their **Emergency Preparedness Summit** in Atlanta on April 1-4, 2014. ARRL will also support this event and the Kennehoochie Amateur Radio Club will have radios and a booth for the N4P special event station. Ω

- **Approved ARRL Hamfests**
- **Other Events**
- **Emergency Preparedness Summit**



FROM THE BACKACRE – BUZZ (K3GWK) Emergency Coordinator

One bit of advice: When Randy, NV4RB, suggests you release the tension on your wire antenna (prior to a predicted ice-storm), run right out and take the counter weights off or what ever you need to do to lower your antenna. I did not heed the warning and now my trusty G5RV is on the ground! Fortunately, my Butternut vertical was still operable. I have a great DX signal but locally – not so good. The tri-band beam was loaded with ice but it survived.

February was another busy month, thanks to Mother Nature. We held 4 FM training nets; two storm related Resource Nets (178 hours of activity) and continued our Amateur Extra study group. We have 7 General Class hams regularly attending the

study session. Our “Digital Tune-Up” was postponed due to an illness in Mike’s family. We reviewed ECHOLINK instead and added that mode to our digital arsenal. The “Digital Tune-Up” will be held at a future training session.

Members of our ARES team attended the monthly CERT training and also participated in the Wednesday evening NBEMS net on the WA4ASI repeater in Newton County. New versions of Fldigi and Fimsg are now available. Total partici-

pation for February – 266 Ham Hours.

The April ARES training will feature a presentation on “DX’ing, Contesting and QSL’ing”. We will have special guest presenters from the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS), Norm Schklar (WA4ZXV) and Mike Weathers (ND4V). Norm is the chairman of the Georgia QSO Party so I think we can expect a “pitch” on that event as well. FYI: GARS was selected “Club of The Year” by the Dayton Hamvention.



There is a special event operating during the 100th anniversary of the ARRL. Stations across the country are operating with the call sign W1AW/X, X being the call area of the participating station. This is a great way to fill in the blanks on your Worked All States list. Check www.arrl.net for more information.

Remember our Sunday evening net now starts at 5:30 PM (21:30 GMT) due to the change to Daylight Saving Time. You can also check in to the net using Winlink2000 using the Internet or via HF or VHF. Dual check-ins are encouraged.

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

Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

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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)