



## 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

SEPTEMBER 2014



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**IMPORTANT  
UPCOMING  
EVENTS** 2

**FEMA  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT** 2

**BRIEF HISTORY  
OF ARES** 3

**FROM THE  
BACKACRE** 4

**LOCAL AREA VE  
TESTING  
SCHEDULE** 4

**BCECA  
DIRECTORY** 5

**LOCAL NET  
SCHEDULE** 5

## CLUB SPONSORS OUR FIRST "NEWBIE NIGHT"

With the success of our last two "HamCrams" and the attendance of these new hams at our club meetings, it was determined that a "Newbie Night" was needed.

Newbie Night took place on Tuesday, August 26 at Fire Station #7 with Buzz (K3GWK) calling the group to order. 6 new hams and 3 XYLs, along with members of the BCECA were present to talk about repeaters, QSOs, nets, the importance of belonging to the club and how to get your station up and running.

Perhaps the most important part of the night was the assigning of an Elmer to each new ham. Elmers will be responsible to guide our new amateurs through the process of purchasing equipment, setting up their stations, getting on the air and answering technical questions along the



way.

New amateurs present were Al Ambrose (KM4DHT), Ken Farrell (KM4DIA), John Harwood (KM4DHY), Newton Maddox (KM4WSX), J.D. VanSickle (KM4DHS), and Anthony Strite (KM4DHZ).

Buzz (K3GWK) explained the mystery of repeaters, Ed (KK4GNH) gave a talk on Nets. Mike (AJ4GU) talked about the importance of taking a seasoned ham with you to HamFests and where to get the best deals on equipment. Dan (W4DED) demonstrated a "go box" and talked about HTs and the opportunity for providing emergency communication at local events.

Most of the new hams accepted our offer of a personal Elmer. Thanks to all the "old hams" for being present and offering to serve as Elmers to these new folk. It was a great night enjoyed by all. Ω

### SAVE THE DATES

Weekly Butts County  
Training Net  
Sundays at 5:30 PM

September Club Meeting  
Monday, Sept. 9  
7:00 PM  
Fire Station #7

Butts County Fair  
BCECA Booth & Radio  
Station Sept. 2-6  
6:30-9:00 nightly





**UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR**



**September**

- September 1** — Labor Day
- September 6** — Prater's Mill HamFest (Dalton ARC)
- September 9** — BCECA Club Meeting. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7. SET Preparation
- September 13** — Fuzz Run (Covington) Newton County Club  
Dallas HamFest (pauldingarc.com)
- September 16** — Newton County Club Meeting. 7:00 PM.  
Newton County Law Enforcement Center
- September 20** — VE Session. Butts County Recreation Center. 9:00 AM

**October**

- October 4** — Simulated Emergency Test
- October 6** — Butts County Emergency Communications Auxiliary Club Meeting.  
7:00 PM. Fire Station #7
- October 11** — Augusta HamFest (theamateurradioclubofaugusta.org)  
LaGrange Hamfest (lagrangeradioclub.org)
- October 19** — Spin for Kids. Rutledge. (spinforkids.org)
- October 21** — Newton County Club Meeting. 7:00 PM.  
Newton County Law Enforcement Center



**FEMA** | *Emergency Management Institute*

The Emergency Management Institute's Distance Learning Section offers the Independent Study (IS) Program.

This is a distance learning program which offers training, free of charge, to the nation's emergency management network and the general public.

It serves as both an alternative means to deliver valuable training to the professional and volunteer emergency management community, and an opportunity to improve public awareness and promote disaster preparedness nationally.

The Independent Study Program offers over 180

training courses via their training website <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>.



Students are able to obtain continuing education credit for many of the courses through an agreement with the Fre-

derick Community College in Maryland. Students who successfully complete courses can

also request student transcripts be provided to institutions to assist students in obtaining continuing education

units.

The customer support center can be reached through email at [independent.study@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:independent.study@fema.dhs.gov) or by phone at 301-447-1200. The hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-6:00PM ET.

The courses that our BCECA club recommend your taking are: IS-100, 200, 700, 800 and 802. Ω



## A Brief History of ARES

As we celebrate one hundred years of the ARRL, we've reached a seminal moment in time when we are sparked to reflect on the past while looking to the future with a sense of inquiry and wonder. That has certainly been the theme of the ARRL's centennial celebration this year. *QST* has featured fascinating look-backs at pivotal points in the League's and Amateur Radio's history this year, with more to come. Continuing this theme, let's take a brief look at the role of Amateur Radio in public service, disaster, and emergency communications over the past hundred years.

In the early days, Amateur Radio and hams were considered irritations and nuisances to the "real" communicators - the commercial sector and the military. We were almost outlawed, and ultimately relegated to the "useless" frequencies of "200 meters and down." That was until it was demonstrated that we could actually be of use as a service. In 1913, college students/hams in Michigan and Ohio passed disaster messages when other means of communications were down in the aftermath of severe storms and flooding in that part of the country. A Department of Commerce bulletin followed, proposing a dedicated communications network of radio amateurs to serve during disasters. Five special licenses were reportedly issued. A magazine article noted that amateurs - who were once considered nuisances - were now considered to be essential auxiliary assets of the national public welfare.

The ARRL was formed in 1914, and disaster response communications as provided by radio amateurs became organized and useful. In 1920, Amateur Radio was used to help recover a stolen car, of all things! Soon, the use of Amateur Radio for natural disasters that we traditionally think of now emerged with hams active in deadly flooding in New Mexico and an ice storm in Minnesota.

More organization followed, with an "MoU" emerging with the American railroad system for Amateur Radio support when the railroad's wire lines were down: There was an ARRL Railroad Emergency Service Committee. There was even a Q-signal designated: *QRR*, a kind of land SOS.

More reports of disaster response communications provided by amateurs appeared in *QST*, much as they do here in this newsletter today. A major New England flood had amateurs supplying the only efficient means of communications from the devastated areas to the outside world, prompting the chairman of the Federal Radio Commission to say the future of radio depends on the amateurs.

Hams worked with the Burgess Battery Company for emergency radio power. Many of us old-timers including myself have used those batteries when we were kids for our crystal radio kits; they looked like tall, thick candle columns!

More organization followed, and traffic handling was recommended as the best way to gain discipline and proficiency to

prepare for the efficiency and effectiveness needed in response communications situations.

ARRL Field Day was started to prepare amateurs for portable operation, as was necessary in disaster situations when commercial power and means of communications were down.

In 1935, the ARRL Emergency Corps was formed with the goal of having an Amateur Radio Emergency Station in every community -- a goal that remains just as urgent today as it did then! To wit, just look at today's emphasis on the neighborhood and community as "first responder" and on self-reliance in the post-disaster survival chain.

More "served agencies" emerged as potential partners, including the Red Cross. In 1936, major flooding across a 14-state region served as the ARRL Emergency Corps' first major testing, serving well, and solidifying Amateur Radio's status as a critical disaster response communications asset and public service. Communications operating protocols and the appointment of Emergency Coordinators followed.

Technical advances supported this evolution. Spark gap transmitters gave way to the vacuum tube, making portable operations more viable. Articles on portable transmitters and receivers appeared in *QST*. Exploration and experimentation in the VHF region also spurred more development of portable equipment. The development of the variable frequency oscillator or VFO, something that modern generations of hams take for granted, was at the time a liberating breakthrough offering more versatility and flexibility, and more

efficiency of course in meeting the demands of a disaster response communications situation.

World War II meant a shut-down of Amateur Radio, but many hams joined the War Emergency Radio Service, which did provide some communications during the war period for natural disasters. After the war, the ARRL reconstituted its disaster response communications programs and networks, and the first Simulated Emergency Test was run in 1946.

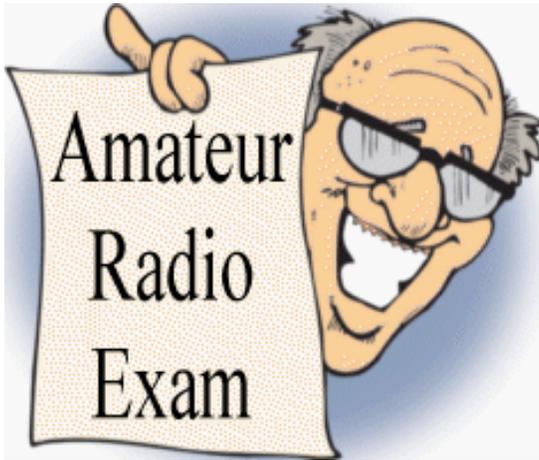
The Cold War followed, and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) was formed by the government for civil defense (CD) purposes, the forerunner of the modern emergency management model that we know so well today.

Throughout the sixties and later up to today, the role, procedures, protocols, equipment and techniques of Amateur Radio in public service, disaster and emergency communications continue to evolve, ebb and flow. This evolution is fueled by advances in Amateur Radio technology and its application, lessons learned from each and every incident that involves amateur communications support. - *K1CE*, based on an excellent article by Gil McElroy, VE3PKD, that appeared in September 2007 *QST*: The Beginnings of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. Ω





**LOCAL AREA VE TESTING SCHEDULE**



**Spalding County ARC**

**Next Session — September 13 — 9:00 AM**  
 2nd Saturday EVERY Month  
 Contact: Chuck Clark (NQ3I) @ nq3i@aol.com  
 Spalding Regional Medical Center, Griffin

**Butts County ARC**

**Next Session — September 20 — 9:00 AM**  
 3rd Saturday of ODD Months  
 Contact: Dan Darsey (W4DED) @ dandarsey@yahoo.com  
 Butts County Community Center — Ernest Biles Drive,  
 Jackson

**Henry County ARC**

**Next Session — October 18 — 9:00 AM**  
 3rd Saturday — EVEN Months  
 Contact: Roy Baker (AJ4GT) @ aj4gt@bellsouth.net  
 Piedmont Henry Medical Center — Eagle's Landing Pkwy., Stockbridge

**FROM THE BACKACRE — BUZZ (K3GWK) Emergency Coordinator**

Since my last report, we have added two more Extra Class hams to our group. Glenn Wyatt, KK4GNO, and Ed Hoard, KK4GNH, have passed the Extra test: Glenn at the Henry County VE session, and Ed down in Macon. His success cost Ed a rib dinner – worth the price. Congratulations to you both!

In August we held ten nets (5 FM and 5 WL2K). We continue to see growth in the WL2K net check-in list. If you need help with RMS Express and Winlink2000, give Mike, AJ4GU, or me a call. The repeater antenna issue has made it necessary to move the net to the KI4FVI (146.715 -) repeater in McDonough. We sure do appreciate Stan Jones' assistance. He has always been supportive of mutual aid between Butts and Henry counties.

Mike Crowe, AJ4GU, just finished the FEMA (COMM-T Communications Technician) class at GPSTC in Forsyth. Mike reported it was a long week, but the course was

worth the time. He also informed me that there will be an AUXCOM class at GPSTC in October. The AUXCOM class is a two-day program dealing with ICS Forms, emergency communications procedures and planning. To qualify to attend AUXCOM, you need to complete IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 and be a General Class radio amateur.

There were several ARES activities in August. Besides the well-attended general meeting, several members our group attended the monthly CERT training.

A presentation and discussion of the "pit-falls" of social media, led by Chief Glen Goens, was the subject of the session. Made you want to wrap your cell phone in aluminum foil.

Several BCECA members supported the Covington Century bike ride again this year.

That is a big event covering many square miles of Newton County. The event gave the WA4ASI repeater a work out, and provided a good test of each ham radio participant's portable operations capabilities. I shared duty at a water station with KM4LS. We operated Bill's portable station with my equipment in reserve. These events are a great way to get ham radio out in front of the public. There are always questions and opportunities to explain and demonstrate our hobby.



There are two September events that we are preparing for: the 5K Fun Run/Walk at the Butts County Recreation Complex on Labor Day, and our booth at the Butts County Fair (September 2 – 6). Both of these events are new ones for us. The 2014 SET is coming up in October. We logged over 50 hours of

service time in August. The monthly training subject for September will be a discussion of the 2014 "Simulated Emergency Test" (SET), and a demonstration of the on-line FEMA Internet Study (IS) course system. Remember: IS-100, 200, 700, 800 and 802.

Several of the new hams from the July HamCram have joined the BCECA club and are now on the air. That's great! Remember to reply to them when you hear them. And pass along congratulations to KK4CFE (NOW KW4AQ), KA3SME, KK4GNH and KK4GNO; our newest Extra Class hams.

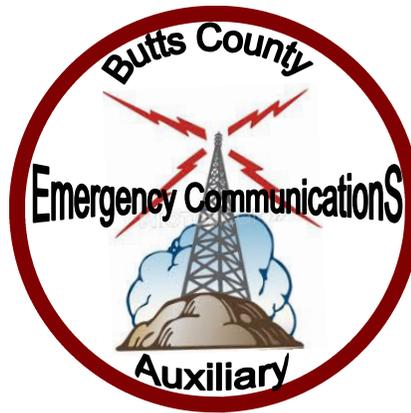
Don't forget, the Sunday FM Training Net has moved to the KI4FVI repeater, 146.715- (142.1 PL). Hope to see you all at the September training session. We can use a couple more operators for the 5K.

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

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

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COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

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**Net Control Station  
Schedule**

September — Elaine  
(KK4CFE)

October — Buzz  
(K3GWK)

November — Darlene  
(KK4BKF)

December — John  
(KA3SME)

If you'd like to serve as NCS, please  
email Ed (KK4GNH), Net Manager:  
edhoard@yahoo.com

**Weekly Training Net:**

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

**5:30 EDT — Temporarily using the**

**KI4FVI Repeater 146.715- PL 146.2**

**McDonough, 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**

**MONTHLY HOSPITAL NET**

**1st Sunday (3:00 pm) GA Hospital Net — 7188 KHz**

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

**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