



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 2015



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BUZZ KUTCHER (K3GWK) RECOGNIZED H.O.T.Y.



Ham Of The Year Georgia ARES

Butts County Amateur Radio Club President and Georgia ARES Emergency Coordinator for Butts County, Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK) received the prestigious "Ham Of The Year" award at the State ARES meeting in Forsyth January 24.

Buzz was nominated by his fellow club members and the nomination letter was written and submitted by Dan Darsey (W4DED).

Following a great program (see report on page ?), the highlight of the yearly convention was the selection of Ham Of The Year.

The following, taken from Dan's nomination letter, is an abbreviated list of the reasons why Buzz won the coveted award:

- First licensed as an amateur radio operator with the call sign WN3QIQ in 1971
- Georgia Section ARRL OES, ARRL VE; Ca-VEc VE; ARES EC for Butts County, GA
- Charter member BCECA where he serves as President of the organization
- Strives to recruit new people into the world of Amateur Radio
- Initiated Ham Crams to introduce Amateur Radio and gain new hams
- Worked tirelessly to obtain "ARRL Affiliation" for our club

- Established and organized response teams at the Butts County 911 Center and at our local Sylvan Grove Hospital
- Lobbied the Locust Grove City Council, Butts County Board of Commissioners and City of Jackson to declare by Official Proclamation the week of Field Day as Amateur Radio Week in Butts County



- Successful in getting WJGA Radio to air Public Service Announcements concerning Amateur Radio and the BCECA
- Main catalyst in securing an MOU from Sylvan Grove Hospital
- Instrumental in the installation of repeater WX4BCA (of which Buzz is trustee)

allowing the repeater's operation from the hospital

- Gained permission from Butts County 911 Center to allow installation of an amateur radio station at their facility
- Instituted and taught six month study guide group for "Extra Class" resulting in 4 new "Extras"

These are just a few of the reasons why Buzz was selected as the 2015 Ham Of The Year. In his usual humble way, Buzz stated, "It was quite an honor to be selected. While the plaque has my name and call on it, the award is as much yours as it is mine. Our Butts County ARES Team is on the map and it was your support and hard work that put it there."

Congratulations, Buzz! Ω

SAVE THE DATES

Sundays @ 4:30 PM
Weekly Butts County Training Net

Monday, February 2
February Club Meeting
6:00 PM Dinner at San Diego Restaurant, Locust Grove
7:00 PM Club Meeting
Fire Station #7

February 3,10,17,24
General License Prep
Fire Station #7



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

February

February 2 — Butts County ECA monthly meeting. 6:00 PM Dinner at San Diego Restaurant, Locust Grove 7:00 PM Meeting at Fire Station #7

February 3, 10, 17, 24 — General License Prep Class
7:00 PM Fire Station #7

February 13-15 — Orlando Ham Fest. Orlando, Florida

February 17 — Newton County Club meeting. 7:00 PM. Newton County Law Enforcement Center. Introduction to Raspberry Pi de Tom Welty (N4TAW)

March

March 2 — Butts County ECA monthly meeting. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7

March 3, 10, 17 — General License Prep Class
7:00 PM Fire Station #7

March 17 — Newton County Club meeting. 7:00 PM.

March 21 — V.E. Session. 9:00 AM. Butts County Recreation Department Ernest Biles Drive



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT — DAN DARSEY (W4DED)

The Nominating Committee is receiving nominations for the following club officers:

President— The president presides over meetings, enforces the Constitution and By-Laws, maintains proper operating procedures and signs documents.

Vice-president—The Vice-president assumes the duties of the President in his absence.

Secretary—The Secretary keeps and maintains minutes of meetings, maintains a member roster, reads and initiates club correspondence. He/she is responsible to maintain a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws at all club meetings.

Treasurer—The Treasurer's duties are many primarily consisting of collecting, maintaining and dispersing club monies while keeping a detailed and orderly account of these funds.

Officers are elected for a period of two years and may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

The Nominating Committee will present nominations at the March meeting whereupon the members will vote for one candidate for each position. Please give your nominations to Dan (W4DED) at W4DED@arrl.net.

Ω



Here is your opportunity to swap, buy or sell any ham radio equipment and/or peripherals. To list your item(s), just email newsletter editor, Ed Hoard (WX4ED) at edhoard@yahoo.com.

Wanted to Buy: 2 meter J Pole or materials with which to construct one. John Harwood (KM4DHY). Contact: jwharwood@gmail.com.

For Sale: Lenovo laptop computer. 15" screen. Lightly used. Perfect condition. \$200 firm. Ed Hoard (WX4ED). Contact: edhoard@yahoo.com

GARS Swap Net — Mondays— 7:30-8:30 PM
147.075 + PL 82.5 Lawrenceville, GA
EchoLink: W4GR-R



STATE ARES MEETING— DARLENE RAGON (KK4BKF) & ED HOARD (WX4ED)

On Saturday, January 24, eleven members of the Butts County Emergency Communication's Auxiliary attended the Georgia State ARES meeting in Forsyth, Georgia. Following breakfast at the I-75 South Travel Plaza, we gathered with hundreds of other hams at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth.

Following registration, **Randy Mercer** representing Coweta County CERT/ARES, talked about being better prepared for a man-made or natural disaster. Randy stressed that local ham groups need to partner with other organizations such as CERT, VOAD, faith-based concerns, Public Health and Public Safety entities. Randy revealed that First Aid training and Amateur Radio licensing had been added to Coweta County's CERT training curriculum. Mercer suggested that local ham groups find a sponsor in their counties such as Sheriff or police departments to help organize their CERT programs. Randy further posited that all hams should obtain a GA ARES ID card to be able to prove in the event of an emergency that they have been vetted and trained. Randy concluded by encouraging all hams to be personally prepared for an emergency stating, *"If your family isn't prepared to care for itself, you won't be able to assist others in the event of a disaster."*

Charlie Dawson from GEMA was the next speaker. Charlie brought greetings from Jim Butterworth, new GEMA director. Charlie reminded the audience that in 2011 GEMA was placed under the umbrella of Homeland Security. Our Butts County club is fortunate that Mike Crowe (AJ4GU) is involved with GEMA training and is considered by GEMA a "go-to person" in the event of an emergency. Dawson encouraged all hams to check in to the weekly digital net on WX4GMA. Charlie reminded his listeners that the last major hurricane to hit the Georgia coast was in the 1890s. This hurricane came ashore at Brunswick and killed more than 3,000 persons. Dawson warned those who think "the government" is responsible for assistance in a disaster that, *"All disasters are local disasters and local preparations, support and response is very important."* Dawson revealed that in the aftermath of Snow Jam 2014, Georgia's Governor developed a 22-point program to improve response services.

Next, a representative from our **GA ARES Public Health auxiliary** stressed how important it is for us to check in to the Georgia Hospital Net on the first Sunday of each month. Region "J" received an award for the most frequent participation in the Net and for the addition of the most stations in

that region.

Our next speaker was **Keith Stellman**, meteorologist-in-charge at the National Weather Service office in Peachtree City. Stellman stated that January, 2014 was the coldest January on record in the state of Georgia. Stellman showed an interesting slide presentation graphically illustrating the disastrous results of Snow Jam 2014. Keith defended the NWS against criticism that they failed to warn stake-holders of the severity of the storm that crippled metropolitan Atlanta causing drivers and school children to be stranded up to 48 hours. After careful scrutiny of the NWS's actions and alerts, it was determined that the majority of the problem stemmed from a misunderstanding of certain "terms" used in forecasting. The NWS has taken steps to further educate the public

and media regarding the proper definition of its forecast terms. Stellman stressed that it's his desire to have a Skywarn Coordinator in each county in Georgia. Keith asked that the Georgia ARES organization become ambassadors for the "NOAA Weather Ready Nation."

During the lunch break, some left GPSTC for area restaurants, some brought brown bags and others attended lunch-time activities. Attendees were encouraged to bring their "Go-Kits" for display during the lunch break. Additionally there were several mobile emergency ham stations on display in the parking lot. Many used the time to renew acquaintances and to fellowship with ham friends.

Tom Olley and **Frank Dean** took the afternoon podium to encourage an increase in digital communications throughout the state. They reminded the audience that digital nets are held on Tuesday nights and Sunday afternoons. They encouraged hams to check the GA ARES website for a list of frequencies and further information about digital nets. They stated that Georgia digital nets use three main digital formats: Fldigi, D-Rat, and Winlink. They expressed their hope in seeing more 'Gateways' established in Georgia.

The major highlight for the Butts County club was the announcement that our very own Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK) has been selected as "Ham Of The Year." The presenter stated that there were six nominees this year and that each one of them deserved the award. He admitted that the selection process was perhaps the hardest it had ever been but that Buzz was the most deserving. Buzz was presented with a beautiful plaque and much congratulation from the attendees. (See photos next page) Ω





State Meeting Georgia ARES

Butts County Club members attended the State ARES meeting. The theme was "Family Preparedness." The meeting was well-attended and informative. Ω



Plenary Sessions in the beautiful main auditorium



Eleven club members attended the annual meeting in Forsyth



Pre-meeting breakfast at Ryan's Truck Stop



One of the "Go-Kits" on display



SUPER BOWL REQUIRES COMPLICATED FREQUENCY COORDINATION

In ham radio, we certainly see the need for frequency coordination of repeaters. Hence organizations like the South-eastern Repeater Association. But have you ever considered the need for frequency coordination at this week's Super Bowl? The following article (used by permission) contains excerpts from *Radio World Magazine*, the premier technical magazine for commercial radio station owners, managers and engineers.

The logistics of managing live broadcasts at sports events can be staggering. As radio adopts more wireless devices for remote coverage, frequency coordination becomes a challenge. When the other participants are factored in — television, security, event management and the occasional rogue signals — coordination takes on Herculean proportions.

The NFL has been managing frequency coordination at the Super Bowl since 1996. Radio World spoke with the coordinator, and an NFL executive producer, to get the deep background on what it takes to ensure a smooth and trouble-free utilization of frequencies.

Over the years, as more wireless devices were introduced and media coverage of sports increased, the NFL expanded its role as frequency coordinator to include the regular NFL games, and finally, NFL events. "It was a huge help for us when they stepped in. After that, road trips got much easier."

The logistics of frequency coordination for the Super Bowl are impressive. About 3,500 frequencies are used by about 10,000 radios. In order to accommodate all users, frequencies are often shared both in time and space.

"Users may have access to a frequency only for the pregame show, first quarter or post-game show. Or they may be short-spaced, and only allowed to broadcast from one side of the field."

On Super Bowl Sunday, the site is staffed from 6 a.m. until midnight. There are 10–15 frequency coordinators on site during the game, and 50 support staff work shifts throughout the day. Super Bowl Staff are paid by the NFL. Frequency coordinators are paid their normal game rate and the local support folks are paid a nominal for their help.

The NFL has developed its own database and software to manage frequency coordination at the Super Bowl. It contains both permanent frequency assignments, such as the referees' intercom, and temporary assignments, such as radio and TV wireless mic and IFB frequencies. Requests for frequencies are submitted by email. A coordinator searches the database for an available frequency. Once a frequency has been assigned, a confirmation email is generated and

sent.

The same software that the NFL uses for Super Bowl is also available to GDCs, although they are not required to use it. There is, however, the expectation that things will go off without a hitch, and that game communications will not interfere with local users use of the frequencies.

This software is a work in progress, and has many features to prevent mistakes and aid with field emergencies: "The database has a list of frequencies in use by television stations in major cities for broadcast and ENG. If we try and assign a frequency already in use, the software will warn us."

Other problems can arise on game day with channel designations on wireless microphones. Channel 5 on one brand of wireless mic, for example, will be different than channel 5 on another brand — there is no standardization.

Even with frequency scheduling software and other advanced technology, human error can creep in to cause havoc.

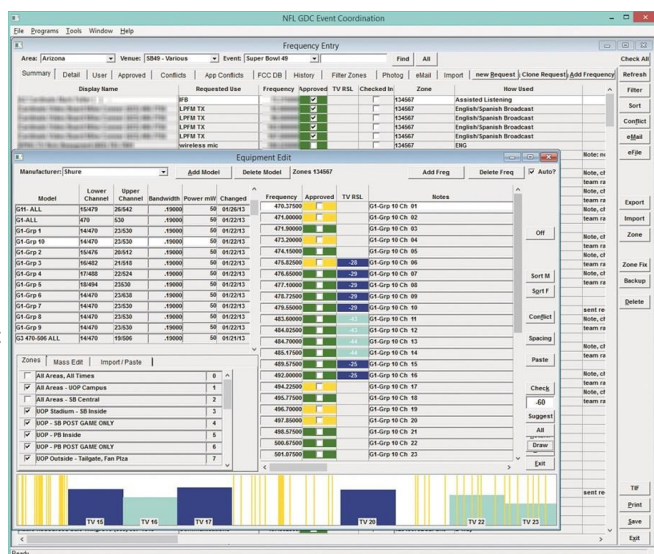
Another point is the need for strictest confidentiality of the NFL's frequency database. "In some cases, confidential information is being transmitted, as in the case of coaches talking to

spotters and team officials, or conversations between the game's referees. In many cases, competing media organizations are at the game. Users would be reluctant to participate in the frequency coordination process if they knew that their names and frequencies might be given out to the public, or to other users."

News reporters and stringers will often show up with wireless microphones, and have no idea what frequency they operate on. Usually this is picked up at the checkpoints into secure areas, where they are issued a tag. Anyone without a tag is stopped and brought to the frequency coordination trailer. We try to find a frequency they can use, but if none is available, they are asked to use only wired microphones.

The role of the NFL frequency coordinator extends beyond U.S. borders. The NFL frequency coordinator recently traveled to London for an NFL International Series game at Wembley Stadium. "The location is different, but the duties are basically the same," said the coordinator. In 2015, London will be the site for three regular season NFL games for a second consecutive season, meaning more overseas trips for the NFL Frequency Coordinator.

The NFL has been at the vanguard of frequency coordination for sporting events. "We've been doing this for 20 years, and just recently, some of the larger college games are beginning to see the need. So far, there is no frequency coordination for baseball, except for the All-Star games." □





A few of our group who attended the GARS Tech Fest
On Saturday, January 10.



FROM THE BACKCREE — BUZZ (K3GWK) Butts County Emergency Coordinator

January started off with a round of "Technician License Jepperddee" at the monthly training session. It will be a while before we try that again! January 10th was a pretty busy day for Butts County's hams.

Several members travelled to Lawrenceville for the annual GARS TechFest. As usual, the folks from Gwinnett put on quite a show; from Raspberry-Pi to mechanical Teletype equipment and lots in between. Monica (KK4KUF) added to her collection of "Blinky Boards". A couple of us attended the forum put on by the National Weather Service, not SKYWARN but a nice overview of the NWS and the office in Peachtree City and also an interesting forum on Remote Ham Station Operations. Other BCECA members spent the day in Red Cross Shelter Management classes at Station 7. If you attended the Red Cross training on January 10th, please send me a copy of your certificates. So far, I have only received one set.

On January 17th, following our monthly Hungry

Hams breakfast, we held our first HamCram and had 14 people attend. 12 of the attendees passed the Technician test at the VE session that followed the HamCram. A big "Thank You" to the VE team.

While the HamCram was in progress, our antenna squad helped Elaine install her new HF antenna. We now have another HF operator in our group.

January 24th was the Annual Georgia ARES Convention held at the GPSTC in Forsyth. There were several great speakers including: Charlie Dawson (GEMA Director of Operations) and Keith Stellman (MIC at NWS Peachtree City). Guess what they talked about? Several of our members left with door prizes, I think Melvin won twice. During the lunch break there were Go-Kit stations on display. The most interesting one that I saw was based on

a Raspberry-Pi computer and a Baofeng HT. Ideas, ideas, ideas... It was great to see folks from all over Georgia attending. Nice to put names with faces. I want to thank Dan (W4DED) and Ed

(WX4ED); they definitely know how to write a nomination. The last event on the agenda was the presentation of the Georgia ARES "Ham of The

Year". I was a nominee last year and this year I took the plaque home.

And I would like to thank all of you for what you have done for the Amateur Radio hobby, ARES and our Butts County team. We have come a long way in just a few years, and everyone on our roster (past and present) has played a part.

(OBTW: Please check in to your ARES database page and verify that your information is current. If you can't access

the database, let me know.)

Our General Class began on January 13th. We currently have 5 students and 6 instructors. We are using the Gordon West General Book. If you know anyone who might be interested, let them (and me) know. It is not too late to join the class but after the next session (DIGITAL OPERATIONS) it probably will be. The class meets every Tuesday at 19:00 in the training room at BCFD Station 7. The class will end on March 17th, the Tuesday before our March 21st VE session.

Our ARES next training session in February 2nd at Station 7. The presentation will be about the National Hurricane Center's ham radio operation (WX4NHC). Ken Reid (KG4USN) will give the presentation. Ken is the EC for Atlanta. We will be gathering at the Mesquite Mexican Grill at 17:00 for a pre-meeting dinner.

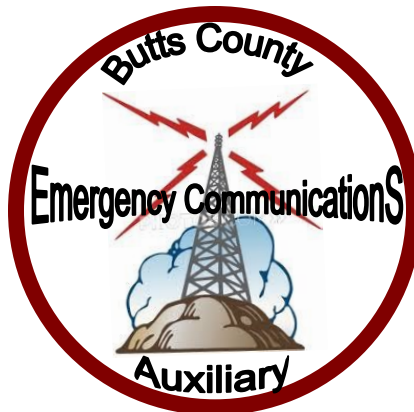
73,
Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK)



Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY
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**Net Control Station
Schedule**

February — Ed
(WX4ED)

March — Darlene
(KK4BKF)

April — J.D.
(KM4DHS)

May — Elaine
(KW4AQ)

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 (WX4ED)**
edhoard@yahoo.com

QRT