



## 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

JANUARY 2015



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## 2014 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR THE BCECA CLUB

The Year 2014 was a great year for our Butts County Amateur Radio Club. Our club continued to grow in number and activity. As Buzz related in his "From The Backacre" article (see page 4), even the larger clubs have now taken notice of the Butts County group! This is due in large part to the seasoned leadership offered by Buzz (K3GWK), Mike (AJ4GU) and Dan (W4DED). These guys are great examples of the best of the hobby and have been indispensable "Elmers" to so many of us.

**January** was busy with our first HamCram of the year. Our HamCrams have proved to be an effective way to bring new hams into the hobby and new members into our club. We also began an Amateur Extra preparation class in January. Several of the students were successful in attaining the much sought-after Amateur Extra Class license.

January is also the month of our big Georgia State ARES meeting. A good number of our club members attending the annual training/informing/fellowshipping meeting at the GPSTC.

**February** brought some severe winter weather and a pretty good blanket of snow to Butts County. During the snow storm our Emergency Weather Net was activated.

In **March** Mike (AJ4GU) gave us a "Digital Tune-Up" introducing many of our new hams to FLDigi, EchoLink and RMS Express.

**April** was busy as we set up an information booth and radio station at the Bluebirds & Bluegrass Festival at Dauset Trails. We introduced ham radio to many attendees.

In **May** our club took a "field trip" to the National Weather Service office in Peachtree City. We observed the launch of a weather balloon and toured the NWS facility.

The big event every **June** is Field Day. A large group of club members assembled and staffed a remote radio station at the Locust Grove United Methodist Church recreation area for two days. When the dust settled, our club had won 1st place in our category for the entire state of Georgia!



Another HamCram took our attention in **July** with a good attendance and great results. Two of our group upgraded to Amateur Extra and one upgraded to General.

Our big event in **August** was our very first "Newbie Night." Ed (WX4ED) put to-

gether a curriculum aimed at helping our new hams hit the ground running.

In **September** club members helped to construct and staff a booth at the Butts County Fair. A VHF station was on the air and, for our efforts, we even won a ribbon!

**October** was very busy with a S.E.T. simulation and booth and "Special Event Station" at the Jenkinsburg Founders Day. Jenkinsburg mayor, David Nestor expressed deep appreciation for our participation.

**November** featured a V.E. Session and re-institution of our "Hungry Hams" group.

**December's** big event was our annual Christmas party at Buckner's Restaurant. A good time (and lots of chicken) was had by all!

**Happy New Year!** Ω

### SAVE THE DATES

**County** Weekly Butts  
Training Net  
Sundays at 4:30

**PM**  
**Meeting** January Club  
Monday, January 5 7:00  
**PM** Fire  
Station #7

**HamCram**  
Saturday, January 17  
Fire  
Station #7



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

## Happy New Year 2015

January

**January 5** — Butts County ECA monthly meeting. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7

**January 10** — TechFest. Gwinett Amateur Radio Society.  
Gwinett Medical Center, Lawrenceville. 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

**January 17** — HamCram & V.E. Session. 8:30 AM. Fire Station #7  
Testing to begin at 4:30 PM

**January 20** — Newton County Club meeting. 7:00 PM. Newton 911 Center  
8146 Carlton Trl., Covington

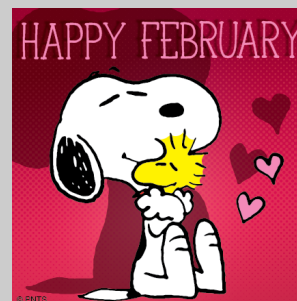
**January 24** — State ARES Meeting. 9:30 AM. GPSTC. Forsyth, GA

February

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

**February 14** — Valentine's Day. Be good to your XYL or OM

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



## The Georgia QSO Party



This year (2015) marks the 54th (nearly) consecutive year that the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) has been challenging amateurs all over the world with the best award/plaque program in the US.

In 2014, 272 amateurs submitted logs vying for the thirty-nine award plaques that were earned.

The GQP is held in a pair of ten-hour sessions on the second full weekend in April; this year that's April 11-12, 2015. We expect all 159 Georgia counties to be

on the air.

Within our own club there is a friendly GA

Our guys have dubbed their competition the "Locust Grove Transmit-

Buzz (K3GWK) compete each year in the GA QSO Party competition following the official competition rules with the exception that 100 watts is peak power and no beam antennas are allowed.

The 2014 winner of the coveted "Blue Pig" Award is David Burnham (AK4EM)!

David was presented with this prestigious award at our Christmas dinner at Buckner's.

In keeping with his low-key persona, David declined to make a speech. Ω



QSO competition that has gone on for a few years.

ting Society" GA QSO Competition.

David (AK4EM) and





## Ham Cram

January 17th  
Fire Station #7

Please invite local persons who will be willing to get involved in our club! Only 12 spaces are available.



*Silent Key*

**William B. Smith**  
**WA4BWK**  
(father of Bart Smith)



### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT DAN (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](mailto:W4DED@arrl.net).

Ω

### PICS FROM THE 2014 GEMA WINTER X COURTESY MIKE CROWE (AJ4GU)



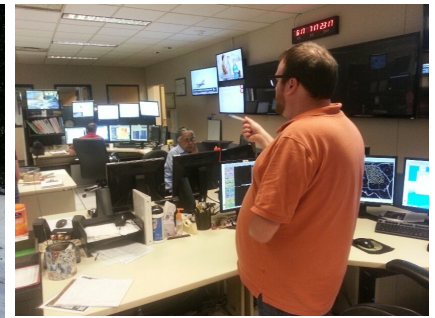




Buzz presents special commendation from Gordon West to Melvin (KK4QJR) as first graduate of our Amateur Extra Class.



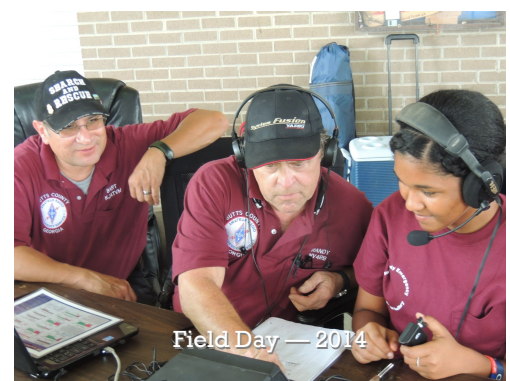
Snow comes to Butts County in February. Our Sky Warn Net was activated and the BCECA went into action.



May field trip to the National Weather Service in Peachtree City.



June Field Day was a glowing success! We scored #1 for our category in the state of Georgia!



Field Day — 2014



April Bluebird & Bluegrass Festival at Dauset Trails



Interview from WJGA Radio at the Bluebird & Bluegrass Festival



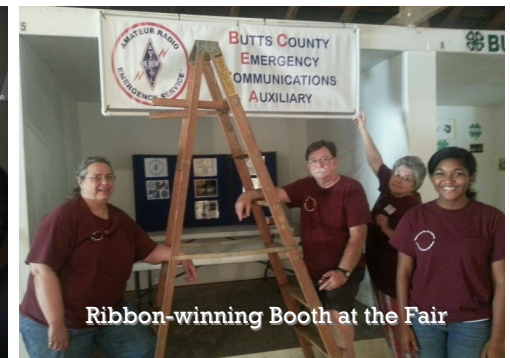
Our very first Newbie Night!



Labor Day 5K Fun Run at the Butts County Recreation Center.



2014 Simulated Emergency Test



Ribbon-winning Booth at the Fair







# GAARES

## Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service

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

December began with our 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Christmas Party held again this year at Buckner's Restaurant. We had a pretty good turnout; there were illnesses that kept some folks away but I think those of us who attended had a real good time.

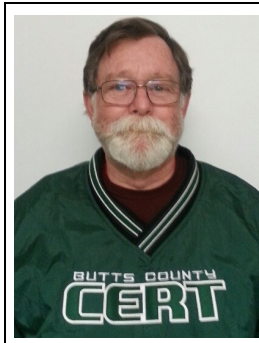
At the 2013 Christmas Party we were presented with our club's ARRL Affiliation Certificate. This year the big event was the very first presentation of the travelling "Locust Grove Transmitting Society Georgia QSO Party" trophy. This year the LGTSGQSOP trophy was won by David Burnham, AK4EM. Congratulations David! The competition is open to all members, General class and up. Normal GAQP rules apply + 100 watts & no beams!

We had a busy year. Our ARES roster lists 28 members, 20 Active and 8 Deployable. We have 9 hams on the roster who are considered Pending because they have not yet completed an ARES Registration form. All 28 members have participated in at least one activity in

2014. There were a total of 81 nets held this year, 27 using Winlink2000. The participation in our WL2K net has continued to grow and includes stations from several counties. (Just another tool in the toolbox.) The VHF repeater has had its share of issues this year; the new box (purchased by AJ4GU) has been on the air since June. We have experienced on-going antenna issues and have had to use the 146.715 repeater in McDonough occasionally but we have only missed a couple of Sundays due to repeater issues. Of the 81 nets that were conducted this year 6 were SKYWARN Storm Spotter operations. Thanks again to Mike Crowe, AJ4GU, for his continued support.

Our ARES team participated in 53 training opportunities; a total of 1448 ham hours. Those events included Field Day #3, providing communications support for a local 5K fun-run on Labor Day, participating in the annual Bluebird & Blue Grass Festival at

Dauset Trails, setting up and manning an information booth at the Butts County Fair and participating in the 125<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day Festival in Jenkinsburg. During the Jenkinsburg festival we operated a "limited" Special Event station and also used that station as the Incident Command location for the 2014 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.



There were 18 various events, including our two HamCrams and six VE Sessions, antenna work and meetings, accounting for 207 ham hours. I need to mention here that the founder of our VE Team, Jess Porter (W4DNS) has relocated to Florida and turned operation of the team over to Dan Darsey (W4DED). Dan hit the ground running and the team continues testing sessions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every odd month. We have added several more VEs this year, several as Extra Class examiners. If you are interested in joining the VE Team (only desire and a General li-

cense are required), contact Dan.

The 2014 Field Day was the best one so far. We made 657 contacts for a total of 2,384 points. That score put BCECA in the #1 spot in Georgia for 2A stations. 2A means a club station, operating 2 transmitters on non-commercial power. Our 2015 Field Day operation will relocate to the new pavilion at the Butts County Recreation Center. David (AK4EM) and Randy (NV4RB) will again be our Field Day captains.

I would like to thank everyone who got involved in ARES this year. Our small group has the rest of the Atlanta Metro District paying attention. We have made a lot of progress and have put Butts County on the Georgia ham radio map.

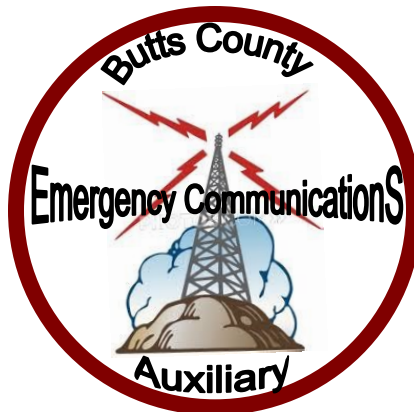
One sad note in closing; Bart Smith's father (WA4BWJ) passed away on Sunday. Please keep Bart and his family in your prayers.

Best wishes for a successful 2015.  
73,  
Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK)  
Ω

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

**BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY**

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**Emergency Coordinator**

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**Director, Butts County**

OHS/EMA  
Glen Goens  
KJ4TV0

**CERT Team Liaison**

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KK4SU0  
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**PIO / Net Manager**

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WX4ED  
[edhoard@yahoo.com](mailto:edhoard@yahoo.com)

**Club Photographer**

J.D. Van Sickle  
KM4DHS  
[jvan12@charter.net](mailto:jvan12@charter.net)

**Net Control Station  
Schedule**

**January** — Buzz  
(K3GWK)

**February** — Ed  
(WX4ED)

**March** — Darlene  
(KK4BKF)

If you'd like to serve as NCS, please  
email Ed (WX4ED), Net Manager:  
[edhoard@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:edhoard@yahoo.com)

**QRT**