



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

JULY 2015



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST 2

FROM THE BACKCREE BUZZ (K3GWK) 3

HAMSHACK & 1ST QSL CARD 3

PICS FROM FIELD DAY 2015 4

CLUB DIRECTORY 5

LOCAL NET SCHEDULES 5

MORE THAN 1,000 CONTACTS AT FIELD DAY 2015

Field Day 2015 is now history. And we certainly made some club history! This was our fourth Field Day for the Butts County Emergency Communicator's Auxiliary (Butts County Amateur Radio Club) and the first time Field Day has been held inside Butts County.

The Tim Kersey Pavilion served us well

club's call sign carved in the handle.

Another historic precedent was the "3A" status of our station. In the past we have operated as a "2A" club. This year we fielded three stations working simultaneously with an operator and a logger. Last year we took first place in the 2A category in Georgia; we'll have to wait



SAVE THE DATES

Sundays @ 5:30 PM
Weekly Butts County FM Training Net

Monday, July 6
Club Meeting, 7:00 PM, Fire Station #7

Saturday, July 18
Hungry Hams, 7:30 AM, Lunch Box Restaurant
HamCram @ Fire Station #7, 8:30 AM
V.E. Session, 4:30 PM

through thunderstorms, 40 mile-an-hour winds and a good deal of rain. We (and more importantly) our equipment stayed dry although we did have to "unplug" twice Saturday afternoon during some very close lightning strikes.

The day started with a great breakfast at the Lunchbox Restaurant where we filled the large table and two booths. Rain didn't dampen our spirits (or appetites) for a wonderful afternoon picnic of hamburgers, hotdogs, side dishes and some scrumptious desserts. The creative award goes to Lynn Beacham for the "watermelon pig" with our

to see how we did in the new 3A category.

The third historical piece is that we logged 1,096 contacts! Of course, these will be compared with all the other stations' logs to determine the final score. But this number of contacts is sure to put us near the top of the 3A category.

The last historical milestone is Ed (WX4ED) brought WJGA-FM's remote transmitter and did several live remote broadcasts from our Field Day location.

So 2015 is in the books and we're already looking forward to next year's contest! Ω



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



July

June 30—July 5 — 13 Colonies Special Event on HF

July 4 — Independence Day

July 6 — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, Jackson. 5:30 PM
 Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7
 Program: *Basic ARES and the Incident Command System*

July 18 — Ham Cram & V.E. Session. Fire Station #7. 8:30 AM

July 21 — Newton County Club Meeting. NC Law Enforcement Ctr. 7:00 PM.

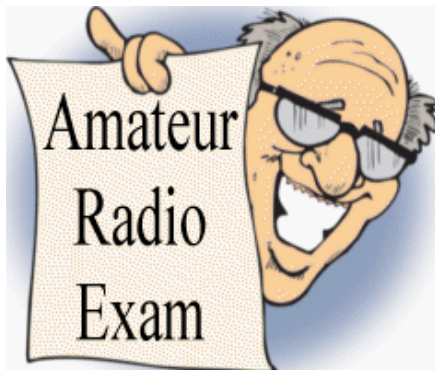
August

August 3 — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship. Mesquite Grill, Jackson. 5:30 PM
 Monthly Club Meeting & Training. 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7

August 15 — Hungry Hams, Lunch Box Restaurant, 7:30 AM

August 16-17 — Huntsville HamFest (hamfest.org)

August 18— Newton County Club Meeting. NC Law Enforcement Ctr. 7:00 PM.



Spalding County

Saturday,
 July 11

9:00 AM

Spalding Regional
 Hospital
 601 South 8th Street
 Griffin, GA

Butts County

Saturday,
 July 18

4:00 PM

Fire Station #7
 Colwell Road
 Jackson, GA

Henry County

Saturday,
 August 15

9:00 AM

Piedmont Henry
 Medical Center
 1133 Eagle's
 Landing Parkway
 Stockbridge, GA

Huntsville Hamfest — August 16-17 — Huntsville, Alabama



Grand Prizes
 to be given away
 are two Yaesu
 HF Radios





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

Well, I don't know about you but I am still tired.

What a great Field Day! It was the best turn-out so far (24 Sat & 14 Sun); the visitors outnumbered the club members by one. The entire operation went very well, all the antennas worked and the FT-450Ds performed without a problem. Darsey Power & Light ran for the entire weekend without a glitch.

A big thank you goes to Darlene, KK4BKF, our retiring picnic coordinator and all the attendees who supplied food for the picnic. I think everyone had a good time. Thank you also to Mike, AJ4GU, and David, AK4EM, for the loan of their antennas. Fortunately, we didn't break the Hex-Beam. ...or any of the laptops.

Hats off to the Burnham twins for making 65 contacts on Saturday night. We had to drag Natalie away from Bart's radio after making only 60 QSOs. David mentioned something about his new "secret weapon" for the GA QSO Party next year.

Field Day was our big op for the month with a total

of 619 Ham Hours. There were 8 Nets totaling 13.2 Ham Hours. We had a good turn-out for both proclamation sessions. The 3rd Saturday Tech Session (that needs a better name) went real well. It turned in to a discussion session about Field Day logging and operator techniques (Thanks Elaine!).

ARES was well represented at the monthly CERT training. Can anyone still tie a Prussic Bend? 632.2 Ham Hours total for June. Don't forget about the NBEMS Net on the WA4ASI repeater at 20:00 local. MT63-2K, center on 1500 Hz.

We are going to make a change to how ACTIVE and DEPLOYABLE status is determined. In order to remain on the ACTIVE roster, ARES members will have to have participated in one activity over a 6 month period, the Basic ARES course is recommended. DEPLOYABLE status will require one activity in a 3

month period plus Basic ARES and IS 100, 200, 700 and 800. IS 802 is recommended but is being revised and may not be available on line. CERT membership is also recommended. ARES Membership is not required to belong to the ham radio club.

The equipment for the ham station at Sylvan Grove Hospital has arrived. The FT-450D, the MFJ Tuner and the power supply made an appearance at Field Day but it did not see any action. We also have an ICOM ID-5100 FM rig

(with D-Star) and a Signalink for digital operation. The station will be located in the switchgear room in the basement (under the cafeteria). The repeater will also be re-located to that location; much cleaner and cooler than the boiler room. As soon as the hospital engineering department gets the area prepared we will be moving in. I am hoping for the 3rd Saturday in August.

Once we get the station on-line we will schedule SGH Response Team members to exercise the station during the monthly hospital net. Finally!

We will be reviewing the BCECA OP PLAN and just what ARES is all about at the next training session on July 6. Meet the gang at The Mesquite Grill (3rd Street Jackson) at 17:30. Training will be at Station #7 at 19:00.

Don't forget about the HAMCRAM coming up on July 18th. Talk it up, this is how we have built this club. If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a ham – talk to them and tell them what a great hobby we all share. The HAMCRAM will start at 08:30 followed by a VE session at 16:00; both events at BCFD Station #7. Upgrades are welcome at the VE session.

The next "Hungry Hams" breakfast is the 3rd Saturday (July 18), 07:30 at The Lunchbox.

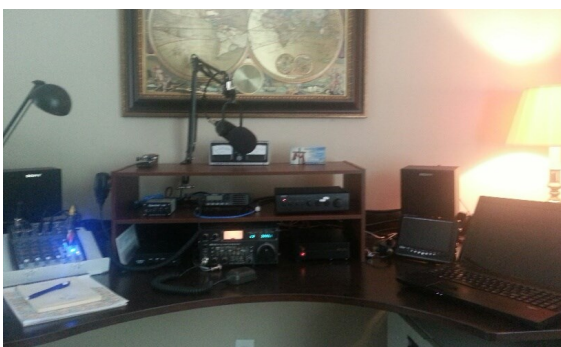
Thanks for all you do!

73, Buzz
(K3GWK)

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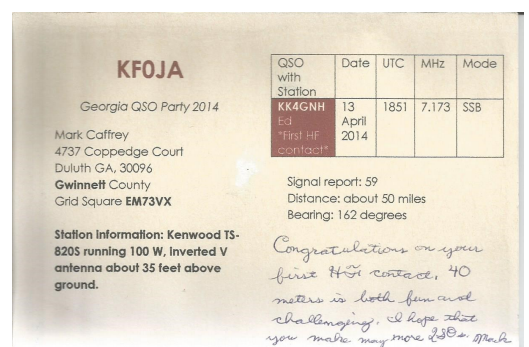
WX4ED'S CURRENT SHACK & 1ST QSL CARD



We'd love to see a pic of your Shack and 1st QSL card.

Please email to: edhoard@yahoo.com

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ARTICLE APPEARS IN JACKSON PROGRESS ARGUS NEWSPAPER

Monday, June 15, 2015

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Mark Olden, from left, Randy Beacham and Elaine Stachowiak operate radio stations during the Amateur Radio Relay League Field Day event last year in Locust Grove. (File Photo)

The Butts County Amateur Radio Emergency Service group will host its annual field day preparedness exercise June 27 and 28 in the Tim Kersey pavilion in the Butts County Department of Leisure Services sports complex off Ernest Biles Drive.

“In the past, we’ve held our field day operation at a church picnic pavilion in Locust Grove,” said Buzz Kutcher, a member of the Butts County ham radio group and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service emergency coordinator. He serves as the liaison between area ham radio operators and Butts County emergency services.

“Our Butts County ARES team is participating in national Amateur Radio Field Day,” Kutcher said. “We’ll begin setting up at 9 a.m. Saturday. Our on-the-air activities will start at 2 p.m. Saturday and continue non-stop until noon Sunday. There will be three complete portable amateur radio stations operating simultaneously.”

All the radio stations will be powered by batteries or a portable generator. There will also be a GOTA (get on the air) station and coach available for hands-on demonstrations for visitors.

“People are welcome any time. There’s always someone available to guide you around the site, introduce you to our members and explain what is going on,” Kutcher said.

Ham radio field days started in North America in 1933 to allow ham operators to set up in public locations to showcase the science and skill involved in operating an amateur radio. In addition to experimenting with electronics and communications techniques, amateur radio operators can provide a public service to their communities in a time of disaster when other communication lines are inoperable.

Field Day aims to demonstrate ham radio’s ability to work under almost any condition from nearly any location to create an independent communications network free from cellphones or the internet.

For more information contact Kutcher, K3GWK, at 770-298-0451 or visit www.arrrl.org/what-is-ham-radio or www.bcares.org. Ω

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK IN JACKSON AND BUTTS COUNTY

Amateur Radio Week, June 22-28 was proclaimed by both the Jackson City Council and the Butts County Commission.

Members of the Butts County Emergency Communicator’s Auxiliary were present for both city and county meetings at which official proclamations were presented to our club members.

At the County Commission meeting, Dan (W4DED), Elaine (KW4AQ), David (KK4SUO) and Ken (KM4HOS) posed with Commissioners Joe Brown, Gator Hodges and Roger McDaniel. Ω





 **ARRL** The national association for **AMATEUR RADIO** www.arrl.org

2015 ARRL FIELD DAY

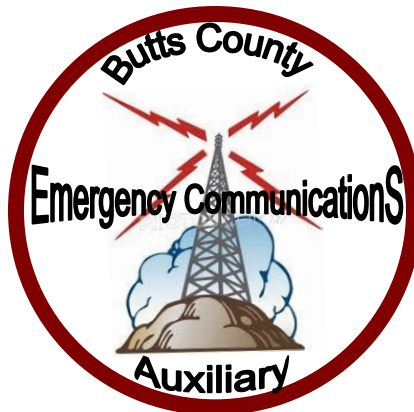
HAM RADIO)))



Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

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Net Control Station Roster

July — Buzz
(K3GWK)

August — Darlene
(KK4BKF)

September — Ed
(WX4ED)

October — J.D.
(KM4DHS)

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 (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