



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

MARCH 2015



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CLUB MEMBERS MAKE CONTACT WITH K1N NAVASSA

The K1N DXpedition team has only been home a few days, but they are slowly recovering from what was a difficult project. It took 15 years to gain permission, plan and execute the DXpedition. The DX world has been very complimentary of the results...138,000+ QSOs and over 35,000 uniques. This is especially impressive when you consider that they had only 14 active operators, seven HF radios, five small amplifiers and only four small beams. Many of the QSOs were made barefoot with dipoles hanging very high on the lighthouse on Navassa.

Team members were: AA7JV, KØIR, K4UEE, K5AC, K9CT, KT4TTT, N2OO, N2TU, N4GRN, N6MZ, NA5U, NM1Y, WØGJ, W6IZT, WB9Z.

Navassa is a relatively flat island of about 1,280 acres. The climate is generally tropical. The first European to enter the Caribbean was Christopher Columbus, who landed in the Bahamas in 1492. Columbus reportedly landed on Navassa in 1504. In the early 19th century, bird droppings, or "guano," came to be prized as an agricultural fertilizer. In 1855, the U.S. learned of

rich guano deposits on islands in the Pacific Ocean. Congress passed the Guano Islands Act of 1856 to take advantage of these deposits. More than 50 islands were eventually claimed by the U.S. under this

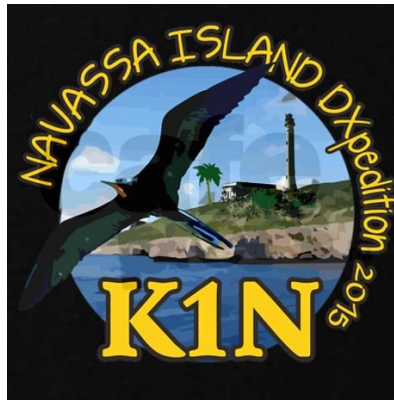
insular scheme, including Navassa. The U.S. Department of the Interior managed Navassa for many years before assigning those responsibilities to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") when the islands became national wildlife refuges.

K1N was one of the most expensive DXpeditions ever undertaken due to the difficulty of reaching the island with men and equipment. Although the island is very close to Haiti, staging took place from Jamaica because of an ongoing

disagreement between the US and Haiti over ownership rights to the island. Because there is no beach, men and equipment had to be flown in by helicopter. Some cost estimates topped \$250,000.

Local club DXers, **Buzz**

(K3GWK), Elaine (KW4AQ) and Ed (WX4ED) managed to break through some incredible pile-ups to get into the log of the "World's #1 Most-Wanted Entity" Congratulations! Ω



SAVE THE DATES

Sundays @ 5:30 PM
Weekly Butts County Training Net
Monday, March 2
March Club Meeting
5:00 PM Dinner at Mesquite Grill, Jackson
7:00 PM Club Meeting Fire Station #7
March 3, 10, 17
General License Prep Fire Station #7
March 21
Hungry Hams V.E. Session
Butts Co Rec Center



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



March

March 2 — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship, Mesquite Grill, Jackson, 5:00 PM
Club elections, 6:30 PM. SkyWarn training, 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 — Hungry Hams, Lunchbox Restaurant, Jackson. 7:30 AM
V.E. Session. 9:00 AM. Butts County Recreation Department
576 Ernest Biles Drive

March 28 — Bluebird & Bluegrass Festival, Special Event Station. 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

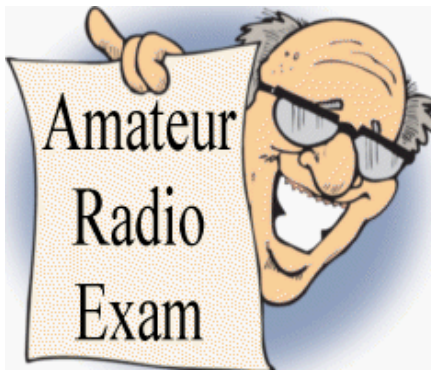
April

April 6 — Pre-meeting dinner and fellowship, Mesquite Grill, Jackson. 5:00 PM
Monthly Club Meeting & Training, 7:00 PM. Fire Station #7

April 11 — Mobile, AL Hamfest (w4iax.net)

April 18 — Cheerios Challenge (Newton Co. Club)

April 21 — Newton County Club Meeting. 911 Center, 8146 Carlton Trail



Butts County

Saturday,
March 21

9:00 AM

Butts County
Recreation Center

576 Ernest Biles
Drive
Jackson, GA

Spalding County

Saturday,
April 11

9:00 AM

Spalding Regional
Hospital

601 South 8th Street
Griffin, GA

Henry County

Saturday,
April 18

9:00 AM

Piedmont Henry
Medical Center

1133 Eagle's Landing
Parkway
Stockbridge, GA

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. Near-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



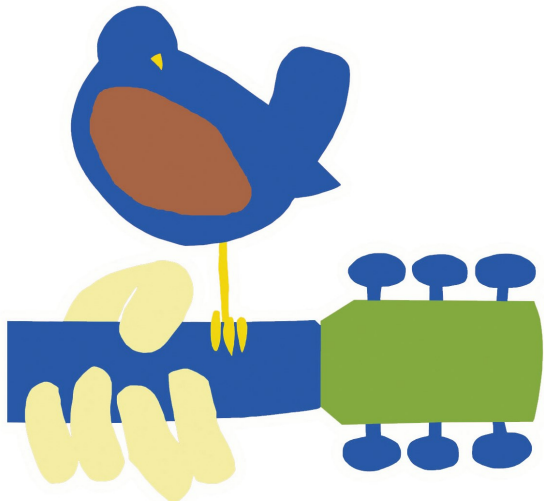
Don't forget to
"Spring Forward"
on Sunday, March 8

Sunday Net Time moves from
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

21:30 UTC

15th Annual

Bluebirds & Bluegrass Festival 2015



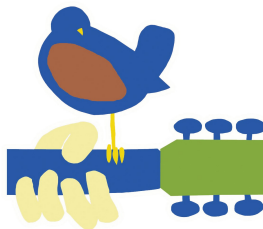
Dauset Trails Nature Center

WX4BCA

Special Event Station
at the
Bluebirds & Bluegrass
Festival
Saturday, March 28
2015

15th Annual

Bluebirds & Bluegrass Festival 2015



Dauset Trails Nature Center

WX4BCA

To Radio _____
Date _____ Time (UTC) _____
Band _____ FQ _____
Mode _____ RST _____

73! de Butts County Amateur
Radio Club, Jackson, GA WX4BCA
EM73xh ITU Zone 8



To:



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

February was “Severe Weather” month and, following that theme, we had a special weather related presentation at our monthly training session. Ken Reid (KG4USN) spoke to our group about the National Hurricane Center’s ham radio operation. Ken was an operator at the station and a seasoned veteran at the NHC. The slide show was very interesting and Ken’s experiences just added to the presentation. Ken is an active ham and EC for the City of Atlanta ARES group. We had a visitor also, George Olive (AI4UR) rode shot-gun with Ken. George is the EC for Dekalb County ARES.

As many of you may know, there was a very special DXpedition to Navassa Island in early February. Navassa is a small, uninhabited island off the western tip of Haiti. Prior to the DXpedition it was #2 on the “most wanted” DX entity list. Several of our members were able to work the station and put this ATNO (All Time New One) in their log. The island is controlled by the US Fish & Wild-

life Service and probably won’t be activated again for a long, long time. Even though it was not that far away, sometimes the propagation gods did not smile on us; it was a tough contact – Navassa is almost too close, especially on 10 meters. In spite of 116° temperatures, they made 138,409 contacts with 35,702 individual call-signs. Elaine’s new KW4AQ HF station is working well. She and Ed (WX4ED) have the DX bug and enjoyed the challenge of overcoming the pile-up to get K1N in their logs. Well done.

There is another DXpedition operating now from Cocos Island (off Costa Rica) and contacting those guys has been a real challenge.

The General Class is continuing. I’d like to mention our instructor corps: Elaine (KW4AQ), Darlene (KK4BKF), David (KK4SUO), Ed (WX4ED) and Mike (AJ4GU) and thank them for their assistance with

the class. It was a new experience for some; everyone has done a great job. The class may add one more student this week. It will end on March 17, just before the VE Session on March 21.

As I mentioned last month, please check in to your individual ARES Database page to verify access and to make sure your information is correct.



The new version of the database is in Beta Testing and it is important that our data is correct before it is moved to the new server.

Our March training is on the 2nd at BCFD Station #7. The radio club will be meeting at 18:30 to elect officers for the 2015/2017 term. At 19:00 there will be a SKYWARN Storm Spotter class for all Butts County ARES and CERT members. It has been some time since our last Storm Spotter class; renewal is suggested every two years. We will

gather at the Mesquite Mexican Grill at 17:00 for a pre-meeting dinner.

On March 5 a GEMA Area 4 Earthquake TTX will be held in Thomas-ton and on March 28 we will be participating in the annual Blue Bird & Bluegrass Festival held at Dauset Trails Park. Our ARES team will be operating a Special Event station from our booth. The Special Event operation will be our 1st Quarter Exercise. Elaine (KW4AQ) is Incident Command our operation.

Two other important items: Daylight Saving Time begins on March 7 so our Sunday FM net’s start-time will change to 17:30 local.

Our monthly Hungry Hams breakfast will be held on March 21 (07:30) at the Lunchbox in Jackson; VE testing will follow at 09:00 at the Recreation Center on Ernest Biles Drive.

Thanks for all you do to support Amateur Radio.

73,
Buzz Kutcher (K3GWK)

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Visit our website: www.bcgaares.org

BUTTS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUXILIARY

348 Patrick Circle
Jenkinsburg, Georgia
30234
770-957-0779
wx4bca@arrl.net



Emergency Coordinator
Buzz Kutcher
K3GWK
k3gwk@arrl.net

A.E.C. / V.E. Team Admin.
Dan Darsey
W4DED
w4ded@arrl.com

A.E.C.
David Burnham
AK4EM
burnham1078@gmail.com

SKYWARN Coordinator
Elaine Stachowiak
KW4AQ
ubudogems@hotmail.com

Technical Coordinator
Mike Crowe
AJ4GU
aj4gu@bellsouth.net

Director, Butts County OHS/EMA
Glen Goens
KJ4TVO

CERT Team Liaison
David Ridgeway
KK4SUO
dpridgeway@bellsouth.net

PIO / Net Manager
Ed Hoard
WX4ED
edhoard@yahoo.com

Club Photographer
J.D. Van Sickle
KM4DHS
jvan12@charter.net

Net Control Station Schedule

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