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SQUELCH TALES

THE MONTHLY NEWS LETTER OF THE NORTH FULTON AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE

P. O. BOX 1741
ROSWELL GEORGIA 30077

Editor - David Fellows KD4APK
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President David Vanderwall KO4SV
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Treasurer Fred Moore N4CLA
Secretary Hal Myers KA1HM

REPEATERS

145.470 Mhz out (- 0.6 Mhz)
147.060 Mhz out (+ 0.6 Mhz)
444.475 Mhz out (+ 5.0 Mhz)

NFARL BBS 552-0868 (1200-2400-9600 8 N 1) Dan Turner WA4BRO SYSOP

Articles for the NFARL newsletter may be sent on disk (ASCII text format) by mail to David Fellows P. O. Box 1651
Cumming Ga 30130 or upload via modem (in ASCII text format) to the NFARL BBS ATTN: DAVID FELLOWS
KD4APK

NEWS NET ON MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 P.M. Jeff, AA4RC Net Control

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JUL 1, 1992

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7

NORTH FULTON AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE REPEATER GUIDE
145.47 - 147.06

OPEN COMMANDS	USER COMMANDS
#1 ECHO MODE***	**0*N EMERGENCY PATCH
#2 DEVIATION TEST***	**1*N USER PATCH
#3 DTMF TEST	**2 PATCH REDIAL
#4 TIME	**7 MAILBOX
#5 SINAD TEST	**8 OPEN MAIL
#6	**10 CHANGE PASSWORD
#7	**12 RECORD USER NAME
#8	**20 SPEEDIAL MAINT
#9 PLAY ANNOUNCEMENT	- = USER# + PASSWORD
*** = VOICE INPUT	N = NUMBER TO DIAL
	# = CANCELS FUNCTION

"DO YOU WANT TO GET FILTHY RICH?"

Ok, here's your chance. Come to the next NFARL meeting on July 8, 1992 at the Cherokee Cattle Company, Alpharetta Hwy, Roswell, Ga., 6:30 pm dinner and 7:30 pm meeting. Mr. Andy Sabisch, nuclear engineer and world known writer for several treasure magazines will be our guest. Andy has found over 300,000 coins and more than 5,000 projectiles plus thousands of other valuables. He also does field testing for the major electronic treasure hunting equipment companies. Andy will bring several treasure hunting devices, give a demonstration how they work and select only real treasures and give you an opportunity to purchase a detector, if you like. He will bring films of what treasures are to be found and how easy it is to find them. He will also display some of his recent finds. Andy is recognized as the top in his field in this area and has come highly recommended by the nation's top electronic treasure hunting device producer in Garland, Texas. Andy will be presenting the meeting beginning at 7:30 pm sharp.

Don't miss this "valuable" meeting.

Dave Vanderwall K04SV

"HAM OF THE MONTH"

Our "Ham of the Month" is George Scott, KC4WHZ. George just turned 80 years old last May 24th. Now if you think that's something, George just received his Novice license in February of 1991, then Technician in April 1991. Ok, now what? George just passed his General theory in May of 1992 and working on Advanced which he tells me he will pass in November of 1992. George likes 10 meters but would like to have the opportunity to work other bands when he feels motivated to do so. George told me code was tough and so were the tests. Well, I thought the code was tough too and so were the tests. What about you? Did you think the code was tough? Are you still struggling? Well the code was tough. And so were the tests. Especially for George; George is Blind. But he says he will get the 13 WPM and will continue to practice 30 to 45 minutes per day. Good luck George! 52 years ago he married Gay and both live near Merchants Walk, Marietta. You always see George at the NFARL meetings. Since driving is impossible he either hitches a ride or takes a taxi to or from the meeting. Now retired, George was previously employed as a consultant in various aspects of the financial world. A true Canadian he has settled down in the Atlanta area after a few years ago his skill brought him to us. Glad to have you in our area George and glad to have you a member of the NFARL. And good luck in pursuing your dream, 13 WPM.

Dave Vanderwall K04SV

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING NONE SUBMITTED BY PUBLISHING DATE

TREASURES REPORT NONE SUBMITTED BY PUBLISHING DATE

TECH COMMITTEE REPORT NONE SUBMITTED BY PUBLISHING DATE

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F D FLASH *****KC4Y80

Another FIELD DAY is in the logs. Well almost in the logs, by the time you read this I will have the complete totals and will announce them at the club meeting on July 8. As of Sunday at 1800Z we had confirmed 850 contacts. That is double the 1991 total. We had contacts on 10, 15, 17, 20, 40, 80 meters and also packet. There was an attempt for satellite on Sunday AM but without success. Could hear the beacon but just did not get through. Many bonus points will be added in this year.

Due to a work conflict on my part I was not able to be at FD as much as I wanted so if I miss someone in my wrap up, I'm sorry. Alan N4QXK was the my right & left arms this past weekend. THANK YOU ALAN.

This party started early in the week as we were able to begin collecting equipment and storing it in the main building. On Friday afternoon the new loop was constructed. That evening the old loop was rolled out complete with ropes. The weather man kept giving us mixed reports so we were not sure what was next. On Friday also the generators were checked out and repaired. Thanks to DAVE KC4YBT. This man is great when it comes to fix ups.

Saturday by 10:15 AM I was informed (YES, even though I was not on the site I did keep track) that all the antennas were in the air. JIM KG6TW was THE pole climber this year. Eight times up and down. Thanks Jim. Our antenna farm was: 2 - 80 mtr loops; 2 - 80 mtr dipoles; 1 - 20 mtr dipole for CW; 2 - multiband vertical; the "outbacker" & 2 mtr pole on the comm. trailer; 10 mtr vertical. At one time or another all of these were used as conditions changed. Great invention; the transmatch (tuner).

David KD4APK and the emergency communications trailer rolled in about 11:00AM. If you have never seen this unit, check it out sometime. Hey, Dave did you really have more porches to come off the end of the trailer? This station was devoted to HF & 2mtr packet early in the contest but later collected many contacts on other bands.

Right now I would like to say "THANK YOU" to the following equipment suppliers:

Generators; Carl Jackson, Jack NC4E, George KC4WHZ, David KD4APK. Radios, tuners, antennas, computers, etc.; Hamp N4UAY, Fred N4CLA, Dave KC4YBT, David KD4APE, Ken W0PSM, Don WB5ZDH, Frank WB2OTJ, Bill KC4YRW, Dave KD4FKY, Lou N4HRA, Avery WB4RTP. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

The contest started right on time at 1800Z and the FUN was on going. CQ FIELD DAY THIS IS NO4D 5A GA I won't try to list all the operators. Only to say thank you and hope you had fun. When the YL's took to the air waves our count did seem to jump. The CW ops were terrific. This was the first time in many years we have had CW points to add in.
IT WAS GREAT

At around 6:00 PM the grills were fired up and the picnic was underway. All the food was great. There was even enough left over for a lunch on Sunday. LOVE that "pink surprise" salad. To those of you who missed the "moldy muffins", sorry about that. Thank You to PATTY N4VTR and DANA KD4FUG for organizing the food.

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Some of the operators were finally offered supper and others took over the stations. The calls went out all night. When I came back in Sunday AM some of the folks looked a little rough. Fresh troops arrived and we all kept going.

Closing down all the stations, dropping antennas, packing up was completed in 2 hours. WHAT A CREW !!!!!!!

Everyone said they had good time and that is what the event was all about. As I said for five months to be successful FD had to be a group effort. From my own point of view this is THE BEST RADIO CLUB in the U S A

.....NEED YOUR HELP.....

To make 1993 even a better FAMILY DAY -- FUN DAY -- FIELD DAY I would like to have your comments on how WE can improve the event. As long as the comments are legible they can be on any paper. Give them to me at the club meeting on WED. July 8.

73's

STEVE

NOTES FROM THE REPEATER SPRITES AND FROM ALL OVER

The following is drawn directly from the 1991-1992 Repeater Directory page 8 and 10.

REPEATER OPERATING PRACTICES

- 1) Monitor the repeater to become familiar with any peculiarities in its operation.
- 2) To initiate a contact simply indicate that you are on frequency. Various geographical areas have different practices on making yourself heard, but generally, "This is WIAW monitoring" will suffice.
- 3) Identify legally; you must identify at the end of a transmission or series of transmissions and at least once each 10 minutes during the communication.
- 4) Pause between transmissions. This allows other hams to use the repeater (someone may have an emergency). On most repeaters a pause is necessary to reset the timer ((on our machine you must hear the courtesy tone to get a full 3 minutes of talk time, if you do not you will only have 15 seconds)).
- 5) Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. Your monologue may prevent someone with an emergency from using the repeater. If your monologue is long enough, you may time out the repeater. Your transmissions are being heard by many listeners including nonhams with "public service band" monitors or scanners; don't give a bad impression of our service.

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- 6) Use simplex whenever possible. If you can complete your QSO on a direct frequency, there is no need to tie up the repeater and prevent others from using it.
- 7) Use the minimum amount of power necessary to maintain communications. This FCC regulation [97.313(a)] minimizes the possibility of accessing distant repeaters on the same frequency.
- 8) Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.
- 9) Repeaters are intended primarily to facilitate mobile operation. During the commuter rush hours, base stations should relinquish the repeater to mobile stations; some repeater groups have rules that specifically address this practice ((We don't)).
- 10) Many repeaters are equipped with autopatch facilities which, when properly accessed, connect the repeater to the telephone system to provide a public service. The FCC forbids using an autopatch for anything could be construed as business communications. Nor should an autopatch be used to avoid a toll call. Do not use an autopatch where regular telephone service is available. Autopatch privileges that are abused may be rescinded.
- 11) All repeaters are assembled and maintained at considerable expense and inconvenience. Usually an individual or group is responsible, and those who are regular users of a repeater should support the efforts of keeping the repeater on the air.

The above information has been provided to remind all of us of our responsibility in using our repeaters. There are others items not covered by the above here WE ARE NOT TRYING TO BE THE REPEATER POLICE THIS IS FOR YOUR USE IF YOU WANT TO, IT IS NOT COVERED BY LAW BUT BY CONVENTION. It goes with out saying profanity is prohibited by law but some of the other strong words are cropping up lately. Now with younger hams (10 year old Daniel KD4HR1 as an example) I firmly believe strong language that has been used in the past is too strong for some younger hams and spouses. We need some help in cleaning it up. So some of us have started a unofficial policy of letting each of us know when a word has been used. They are called "dollar words" George Carlin defined most of them calling them "The Seven Dirty Words" that can not use on the air, we added any word you can not use in front of your Mom or in church or in front of your own 10 year old. If you get caught a \$1.00 donation to Martha's (KD4KEY) kids to go toward their radio equipment is a suggestion, remember this is totally voluntary.

The other items that have brought many comments over the last few months are the use of Q signals and the word OVER on the repeater. There is no law that cover these items, again it is convention. The use of Q signals is designed to save time and make CW easier, they are a short cut. They are not really needed on a repeater, to go along with that is the use of OVER, GO AHEAD, or anything like that, is what the courtesy tone is for. That is what tells us that the other person is through, remember to wait for the tone if you do not you will have only 15 seconds instead the full 3 minutes.

Chief Repeater Sprite David KD4APK

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Mobile Tip

Have you ever gone on vacation and needed some radio supplies or some antenna parts and the local radio stores were closed?

I recently stopped at a "truck stop" while on a trip and found that they have many items that may get you on the air.

They have many different types of mobile antenna mounts, co-ax, hook-up wire, fuses, connectors, solder, tape and other items that are useful for you car, truck or that temporary DX location.

One thing that I purchased (have not had a chance to try it yet) is a 12 volt soldering iron that plugs into a car lighter accessory outlet. This should be a must-have item for a field day or emergency kit.

Chuck Earhart KN4KB
=====

Tech Tips

Today's lesson is: What in the world is electricity and where does it go after you turn off the transceiver?

Try this simple experiment. On a cool dry day (you may have to wait a few months) scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach into a friend's mouth (either sex) and touch one of their dental fillings. Notice how they twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity is a very powerful force and should be used only if you want to learn an important lesson in physics or if you work for the secret police in Peru.

It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet you picked up a batch (one batch equals one Coulomb per 3.1716 scuffs) of electrons. Electrons are little balls of energy that carpet makers weave into rugs to attract dirt and small dogs with full bladders. The electrons are conducted by the iron in your blood and collect in your finger where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling then to their feet and back into the carpet thus completing the circuit.

One interesting fact is that if you scuff your feet long enough without touching anything the electrons will build up in your finger until it explodes!! Also if your friend with the fillings is not standing on a rug the electrons will build up in their feet until their shoes start to burn. This is how sandals were invented.

Next month: Was Ben Franklin a true visionary or just someone too stupid to come in out of the rain??

Dan Rabb, N4MPX
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Lightning is GHz

(From the March, 1992, AACOVER, newsletter of the Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P. O. Box 13473 Austin, Texas 78711-3473)

Lightning blasts have rise times in the PICosecond range. This generates high frequency components in the Gigahertz range. At those frequencies, almost any kink, connection or bump in the ground wire looks like an inductance. This can cause the lightning current to literally jump from the ground wire onto other ground paths. Avoid this by making the path from the lightning rod to the ground pole as straight as is practical.

This feature of ESD events (electrostatic discharge events, of which lightning is one) is a commonly misunderstood part of electrical engineering. As a result people who are trying to build electronics gadgets usually do all the wrong things when trying to protect them from ESD. Most notably, it doesn't do beans good to tie the door to the chassis with a three inch grounding strap. When ESD hits, the connection between the door and the strap cause an impedance mismatch that causes the strap to become almost totally blocking.

Strange things can happen when ESD hits. I was working in a lab once trying to debug a prototype of a large integrated circuit. It was a large wire wrap monster. On the other side of the lab, 50 yards away, was a guy doing ESD testing of another device. For the uninitiated, ESD testing consists of hitting the device under test with small lightning bolts. The kind that result from petting your cat on a winter day and then touching the doorknob. Because of the shape of the metal cart that the device was sitting on, and the cart's configuration, this thing was acting like a directional antenna. It was sending EMPs my way that were large enough to completely disrupt the system I was working on.

de Brian Cuthie, KA3BRZ, 8903

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Code Exam Hints

Here are five hints from "Huck" Huckabee, AA5BU, based upon his observations as a W5YI Volunteer Examiner. Huck has been on the air for 51 years, and operates 40+ wpm CW.

Last-minute code practice before the examination may only get you upset. This is a time to be calm and set your mind to the task ahead. If your practice sessions show you can pass, it is important to exercise all the self-control that you can muster.

Who told you to copy code in large block letters? Hang him to the yardarm until he is dead! You, and you alone, must read your copy. Therefore, write in normal script; that will relieve some examination-day stress. Write small, which requires less effort and less lost time in line-returns.

Don't dwell on a missed character, make a scribble, keeping your word characters connected. Most words with one or more characters missing can be read if you have used the scribble technique. Keep your word spacing pure. Nothing fouls up poor copy like unknown word endings.

Listen to on-the-air QSOs. Understand the typical format. This helps to fill in missed items. Most exams will ask the call of both stations; you have two chances to get these items. Names, OTH, and other activity will be important. You will have ample time to study and re-write your copy, before it is graded.

Prove these techniques by having a friend blot out one or more characters from each word in a printed paragraph, then read it. Easy, right? The script, scribble, and word-spaced copy will be equally easy to read. Try it, you will like it!

de J. M. "Huck" Huckabee, AA5BU

Hamfest Hints

Just a few ideas culled from my experiences at the '92 Field Day:

A simple acoustical box over the generators would be a Very Good Thing. These could be a simple plywood box with one open end, made especially effective with a lining of cheap acoustical tile. If you're worried about cooling, put a fan at one side. Getting power for the fan should be no problem; if you're going to cool it, might as well make a hinged half-cover for the open end. Generator owners: measure your generator's dimensions now, as you read this, and mark them down on the unit for future use.

One ingenious ham thought up a system of clothespins on a board so that frequency allocations could be spotted at a glance. The only improvement I could see would be to add a numbered tag indicating which station is using those frequencies.

Marking the coax's length is very handy for setup, but doesn't tell us anything during use. Please mark the coax coming into the back of rigs, tuners, etc to tell whether it's connected to a 40M dipole, 80M loop....

Someone who doesn't get such a kick out of operating a station could be the Fun & Games person. Some activities could include field games, word games, or maybe some Ham-related activities like a whistle (or whistling) CW contest.

I hope some of these ideas have some merit next year. 73, George
Price N4ZCX

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Very truly yours,
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