



eNEWS Sept 2009

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton!** Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org or eHAM.net for the national news, but here is your **North Fulton ARL eNEWS** for September 2009.



Summary of upcoming events and dates

- ❑ **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM - Slopes BBQ
- ❑ **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30PM - 147.06 Mhz (+ 600) & PL 100
- ❑ **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100) - Check website for "how to"
- ❑ **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** - 5:00 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100) - Join AJ4JQ or others...
- ❑ **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES** meeting - 7PM at the Sandy Springs office complex
- ❑ **Alive-After-Five** - **Sept. 17** = 5 - 9PM Downtown Roswell Street Fair with NFARL there.
- ❑ **HamCram** - October 3 - Tech and General Class - 8 AM - All Day - register by 9/12.
- ❑ **Mid Month Madness** - **JOTA** - Oct. 17 - 10AM-2PM - Waller Park Extension, Rswl.
- ❑ **Chattahoochee NC Halloween Hikes** - Oct. 17,23,24,30 - Ham HELP needed
- ❑ **October Club Meeting** - Oct. 20 - W3WL, W4QO, and W4VRX- History of Ham Radio
- ❑ **Lawrenceville Hamfest** - Nov. 7, 8 - Join the fun, work the booth, boneyard walk
- ❑ **November Club Meeting** - Nov. 19 - Joel Hallas, QST Technical Editor - Special Guest
- ❑ **December Holiday Party** - Dec. 20 - Smoke Jacks - Alpharetta - Mark your calendar!

-- PLUS -----

Regular Club Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009 - 7:30 PM

PROGRAM: **Wire Antennas You Can Build** - **Jim Streible, K4DLI**, will speak on why you should build (not buy) your wire antennas and what are some good choices. SPECIAL SURPRISE ASST. GUEST SPEAKER: **Dave Fisher, W7FB**. Dave did NOT invent the **Loop Skywire**, but he did become its chief advocate! He also did not invent the chicken sandwich! Don't miss this great pair of speakers at the September meeting.



We meet here: **Masonic Lodge Hall, 194 Milton Ave, Alpharetta, GA.** Go to map: <http://tinyurl.com/5t7swd> . The Lodge is located across from the old Milton High school.

Door prizes - Toys for Techies - If everyone brings one good, clean item/book to give away as door prizes, then everyone will win one... + Gift Certificate from HRO. **Support HRO!**

We Eat before We meet - If you are interested in dinner before the meeting, you can join us at Smoke Jacks restaurant in Alpharetta directly on Main St (Hwy 9). It is located at 29 South Main St, (Hwy 9). <http://tinyurl.com/kjql93> . We meet between 5:30 and 6PM and leave @ 7PM for the meeting which is just 2 minutes away. The meal prices are \$6 and up. Hope to see you.

November Meeting- Don't miss our November 19 meeting - it's on **Thursday** night! Our speaker will be none other than Joel Hallas, W1ZR, Technical Editor of QST and the "doctor" in the

monthly column - The Doctor is IN! He will fly in from CT for this meeting to be held at Roswell City Hall council chambers where we will have more space. **Invite ALL your Atlanta ham friends.**

Election of officers - Yes, we know it's early but with an organization that is as active as the NFARL, we do have to plan ahead. Couple that with a special program in November and the Holiday Party in December, and it steers us toward voting at the October meeting. For additional information, see Mack's president's column – immediately following.

Presidents Corner for September



People often ask, "Why is the North Fulton Club so successful?" There are many reasons for our success but primarily it is due to the members of the club who are volunteers. Webster's dictionary defines a volunteer as "a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service." The volunteers at NFARL have freely offered their time to build a club and help promote ham radio as a service and a hobby. So when people ask me why the North Fulton Club is successful I tell them it is because we have such great volunteers.

The core of our volunteer team is the Executive Board for NFARL. These volunteers are 10 people who freely give their time to administer the club, set priorities, and most importantly commit to make every event successful. The mantra of the Executive Board is if we decide to undertake an event then it will be successful because they will organize and support it even if no one else helps. Everyone owes the NFARL Board a big thank you because they really make it happen for the club.

There are also many other club members beyond the Board who freely offer their time to make our planned events successful. We should also extend a big thank you to them. Without these key volunteers the club would not thrive. They are the engine for the club.

So, why does all this matter? It matters because the club can only continue to thrive and grow if every member volunteers. Please ask yourself if you've volunteered to help your club in some way this year. Is there something more you can do? You don't have to be an expert in ham radio to have a huge positive impact on the club.

When you see other volunteer club members asking for help with an event please try to volunteer to help. By everyone selflessly giving their time the club will always thrive.

One of the next major opportunities you'll have to volunteer will be the election for 2010 club officers that will be held at the October meeting for installation in January. Please consider if you will volunteer for one of these positions. If you're interested then contact Jim Stafford (w4qo@nfarl.org), immediate past President, who is preparing the slate of candidates.

We're holding the election in October this year because in November we'll have Joel Hallas, W1ZR Technical Editor for QST, as our speaker and December is the holiday party at Smoke Jacks. Mark your calendars for Joel's presentation on **Thursday, November 19th** and for the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 20th.

Finally, I'd like to express my personal gratitude for all the great volunteers we have in the North Fulton Amateur Radio League. You are what makes this club among the best in the Nation.

Alive-After-Five – This month the North Fulton Amateur Radio League is again going to take part in the MONTHLY event in the Historic district of Roswell which occurs on the 3rd Thursday of each month from April to October with a start time of **5PM and the ending time being 9PM**. This month, AA5 (as we call it) will be on September 17 and we need 3 to 4 volunteers to help us spread the word. You will find storefront merchants, street vendors with specials for the



evening, restaurants ready to serve your favorite meal, galleries with fabulous art and craft, and nonprofit organizations to inform and educate!. This event proves to be a good time for everyone, ham or not. The purpose for our NFARL involvement is to be visible to the public and to try to help inform the public just exactly what ham radio is and how it can be a help in times of disasters as well as being an interesting and fun hobby. For further information of what will be there and what / who the sponsors are, please check <http://www.aliveafterfiveroswell.com/> Please help out your club by sending Fred an email to n4cla@nfarl.org indicating your willingness to help.



MMM –Mid Month Madness is a great way to increase your learning and technical skills in various ways. Join the North Fulton Amateur Radio League for an exciting amateur radio activity *between* meetings. These activities are announced on the web page at www.nfarl.org . This month - **October 17** – we will have hold our annual **Jamboree On The Air** for all the scouts in the area. This is like a mini-Field Day at the **Waller Park Extension** site. We'll set up one HF and one 2M station which the scouts can use to speak with other scouts all over the country (sometimes the world)!

There are also plans to work with the Boy Scouts on their Radio Merit Badges. Other activities are planned for Cub Scouts and other scouts. It will also be a place where NFARL members can operate HF radio in a field setting. Remember you do not have to be a General to operate 20M when a control op is present. Similarly, come and try out that new HF ticket you got at the club's HamCram on Oct. 3! For more info on Scouting and JOTA, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>

Club Membership – We are now over **267 members** at the time of this newsletter. We need your renewals so if you have received your renewal notice, please oblige. **Please welcome** – our newest members at our upcoming meeting. Many have joined lately. We wish to say thank you for choosing NFARL for your personal involvement in Amateur Radio. We also want to thank our members that have continued to show their support by renewing their membership.

ARRL Membership - NFARL is a **Special Service Club** affiliated with the ARRL. Currently we are at 70% of our club membership. Our goal is to have as many NFARL members as possible be members of the ARRL, our voice in Washington. You can now use **PayPal** to join ARRL - using <http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart.html> and this benefits NFARL! **Also, please go to the MART page to update your personal data including the status of your ARRL membership.**



Amateur Radio Emergency Service Report The ARES group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (7:30PM) at the Sandy Springs City Hall for education and training. The ARES team had a very successful event in support of the **Sandy Springs 911 cutover** on Sunday evening, Aug. 30. Eight ARES team members covered fire stations and there were periods when amateur radio was a critical means of communications! If you would like to join this very Special Interest Group, contact Tom (the NF Emergency Coordinator) at w4uoc@nfarl.org. A net meets every Sunday night at 8:30PM on the downtown Roswell repeater - 147.06 (PL 100). You do not have to be a member of the group to check in or participate in the training. You do **not** have to be a NFARL member to join NFARES.

S.E.T. - Plans are underway for this fall's **Simulated Emergency Test** in North Fulton. The date is October 25 at 3PM so mark your calendar. The ARES needs extra team members for such an event so this is the time to get a feel for what ARES does. Hear more about this and sign up at Tuesday's NFARL meeting.



NFARL TECH NET meets Mondays at 8:30 PM - Join us on **145.47 mhz** to discuss **technical topics** lead by **"What do you know" Joe, N7QPP**. We believe that no one else conducts a net quite like TechNET. It uses the repeater, a chat room, and now **Echolink** to enhance the quality of this unique net. Go to www.nfarl.org/nets.html . There you'll find the link to the CHAT room. Some great links are posted each week as participants search for answers on the web and listen to experienced members explain things on 145.47.

-----**YOUTH NEWS**-----

- **AJ4JQ (Frances)** and **KJ4NRN (Ed)** attended the science workshop presented by Jim, AB2CD and Shelly, AB1CD on Saturday, Sept. 5 - WOW, what an event!
- **YOUTH NET** – Meets every Friday at 5:00 PM on 145.47 Mhz (PL 100). You also do NOT have to be a YOUTH to "check in" to the net. Join our very capable Net Control, Frances, AJ4JQ, for this fun net. Invite some youngsters, too.
 - **Remember-** Youth membership is FREE to those under 18. Just complete the form.

And continuing on The Tim Lemmon, WK4U, series on Shortwave Listening tips is always available in the **FEATURED ARTICLES** section of the website. Thank you Tim for this great information. Tim's article this month is entitled



It's midnight. Do you know where your radios are?

While it's midnight here in Atlanta, it's only 9pm on the West coast. Many folks are still awake in North America. Some stations are still broadcasting our way. Maybe favoring the "left" side if possible. It's an interesting time. Not too many people to broadcast in their evening hours right now. Use any gray line program to see for yourself. Many broadcasts are either domestic, North American, or mostly towards Eastern Africa and the Middle East right now. So Tim, if I'm up this late, what are some of the interesting stations I can hear on my HF radio at home? <yaaawwn> glad you asked...

Of course you can always hear stronger stations broadcasting from the USA. Signals are still quite strong at this hour. But for more of a challenge, or something different that hasn't been mentioned yet... **9635** hosts Radio Farda broadcasting from Germany towards the Middle East (Iran mostly) in Farsi. It's already day light there in Iran. Enjoy listening to your U.S. tax dollars at work. Use the USB mode if Radio Exterior de Espana on 9630 is too strong. Realize listeners in the Middle East receive this signal quite well. Hear Radio France International in English (rare for them) on **9805** beaming towards East Africa (also in their morning hours now). Our own Armed Forces Radio & Television Services (AFRTS) can be heard on **5446.5 USB** & **7811.0 USB** from South Florida. **10.320.0 USB** from Hawaii. The Voice Of America (VOA) broadcasting to Africa on **9885** from the island of Madagascar in English. Radio & TV Tunisia is pretty strong on **9725** even though they're beaming towards the Middle East. XEQM broadcasts from Mexico with a mighty 250 watts on **6105**. Can you hear this station well? Radio Bulgaria is pretty strong on 6100. Consider using the USB mode instead.



Realize that I am only concentrating on a very small section of stations. Not all of them broadcasting towards North America either. There are so many other stations on the air all around the clock. In many languages other than English. If you tune the bands and hear a

station in Hebrew for example, it very well could be from Iran! Russian isn't always from Russia. Maybe it's from Israel.

In this series, I've concentrated mostly on short wave broadcast stations. A little bit of pirates, but not much else. Of course there is plenty of ham radio throughout the HF spectrum. But there's so so much more out there! Have you ever wondered what the numbers stations are all about? How about the blurps of digital data heard all up and down the spectrum? Where are they from? Who are the trying to communicate with? This is known as utility DXing. There are plenty of utility stations on the air, all around the clock. Military, clandestine, commercial fishing, business, illegal pirate, aircraft (military and civil), weather stations, time stations etc... Enjoy your HF radios outside the ham bands every now and then, and find some of the other stuff that's always out there! Do you know where your radios are?

Hmmm, maybe it's time for a fresh hot bowl of buttered pop corn! Had any lately? Enjoy hearing all the interesting signals out there on HF. Be careful, you may really enjoy it! Tim, WK4U
tim_lemmon@yahoo.com

Mentoring - NFARL prides itself on helping members - both young and old - enjoy ham radio to the fullest. This also means if you have an area that you need help with that is not in this list, then YOU need to submit this information / question to enews@nfarl.org . DO NOT BE SHY, because what you may need help with, probably means there is someone else out there that needs the same help and won't ask because they don't know who to ask, or what to ask or how to ask. And here is the deal. If you think you have something to offer, in an area that is not mentioned, don't be shy. Everyone has a certain amount of expertise in something. Send us a note and say you want to be added to our list.

Some fine print - For 2010, we'd like to find a new **eNEWS editor**. This can deload some of the work from the exec team. Remember eNEWS is about announcements (for the most part) so you just collect up all the announcements and make'm look "purdy". Do you have a talent in using MS WORD? Would you like to be a part of this vital service? Contact w4qo@nfarl.org to help.

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Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) **	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn
147.060 (+) ***	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn *
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower *
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn
927.0125(-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mtn

* Joint Venture with the MATPARC club. ** This repeater has Echolink - Node 381631

*** Primary ARES repeater



[ARRL Club](#)
Affiliate



[NFARL](#)
Club Supporter



[SERA](#)
Supporter

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE

For more announcements!

OK, here is some cool info:

Kenneshoochee ARC Newsletter - <http://w4bti.org/img/LTRSep09.pdf>

Southeast DX Club Newsletter - <http://69.89.25.185/~trexsoft/trexsoftware.com/chazcone/sedxc/bulletins/sedx0909.pdf>

I would have posted more links but could not come onto them easily.