



eNEWS March 2010

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 **March 2010**.



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM - Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30 PM - 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 and others...
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** - 7PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **March Club Meeting** - **Mar.16** – **APRS with George Lane, KI4DSO**
- **Mid-Month Madness** – Kennehoochee Hamfest, **Mar. 20**, Jim Miller Park
- **ING Georgia Marathon** – Sunday, March 21, 2010, Centennial Olympic Park
- **Georgia QSO Party** – **Apr. 10-11** – NFARL is Georgia Club Defending Champ
- **April Club Meeting** – **Apr. 20** – **Ham Radio Test Equipment and Techniques**

President's Corner



Have you noticed that Ham clubs thrive when there are lots of interesting activities and lots of Hams participating in them. That's a big part of the reason so many Hams have been drawn to NFARL in the past couple of years.....including me! Just think about our activities: monthly meetings, Hungry Hams, frequent building projects, special interest groups, hamfests, HamCrams, Field Day, VE testing sessions, Alive After five in Roswell, TechNet, YouthNet, ARES, our six repeaters, our great web site and multiple public service events. Have you ever thought about how you could help create, lead or support one of these activities? Every Ham has some special talents. Why not share them with your fellow Hams?

We are planning to offer even more activities and services. But we need your help. For instance we will soon begin a mentoring program that will ensure every new Tech is personally connected with an experienced Ham. You could be one of those mentors. Imagine the thrill and personal satisfaction of helping a new Ham grow up in this fascinating hobby. How about coming up with a unique Mid-Month-Madness event that showcases one of your key Ham skills? We would love to help you present that to the club. Or perhaps you have a program idea that would work well for a club meeting. Please don't be shy; you have something of great value to offer. All you need to do is contact me or any of the [club leaders](#), and we will make sure you get plugged-in to an activity.

And speaking of activities, we have several coming up in the next few weeks: the Kennehoochee hamfest, ING marathon and the GA QSO party. I want to put in a special plug for your participation in the GA QSO party.....and for two special reasons: 1) NFARL is the defending GA Club Champion from 2009 and 2) it's a great warm-up for Field Day which is just around the corner. You can learn more in the article following below.

For now, 73 Chuck, AE4CW

Regular Club Meeting - Tuesday, March. 16, 2010 - 7:30 PM

PROGRAM: "APRS and Amateur Radio" This month's speaker will be George Lane KI4DSO, who will be discussing the subject of: "APRS and Amateur Radio"

Born and raised in Atlanta, George first became interested in amateur radio in junior high school. He is an ARRL member, and active in the Southeastern DX Club and North Fulton ARES, while serving as secretary of the Atlanta Radio Club. His main interests in the hobby are DX and APRS. You can catch George during the morning rush hour on the ARC repeater; he also runs APRS as he drives to work. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. COME EARLY for the best seats!

We meet here: **Masonic Lodge Hall, 194 Milton Ave, Alpharetta, GA.** Click [here](#) for a map. 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 **SmokeJack** restaurant in Alpharetta. It is located at 29 South Main St, (Hwy 9). Click [here](#) for a map. 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.

Hungry Hams: On Wednesday Feb 24, 2010, we broke an attendance record for lunch. We had **38** people attend. Come join us!!

Georgia QSO Party

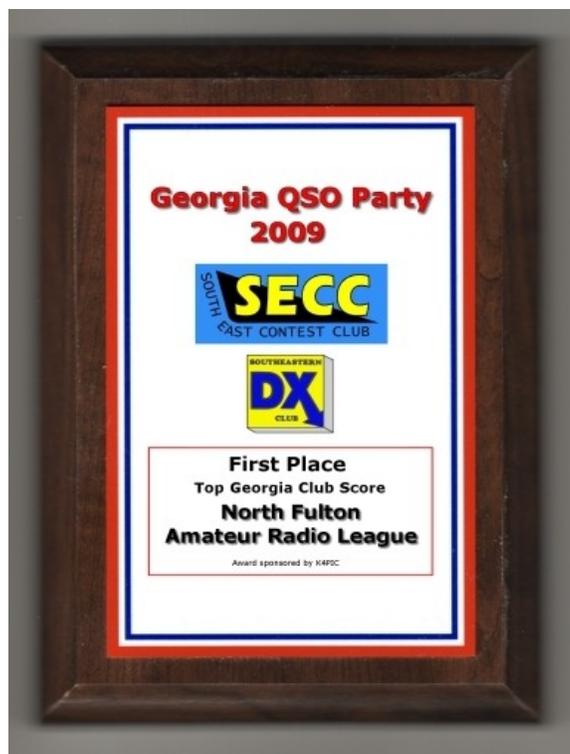
North Fulton Amateur Radio League is the defending Georgia Club Champion in the Georgia QSO party contest. Did you know that?!! And we can do it again this year with your help! The objective is for amateurs outside of the state of Georgia to make contact with as many Phone and/or CW Georgia stations in as many of the 159 Georgia counties as possible. Here's your chance to be that "rare DX" station with pileups of stations calling **you!** And you can be especially rare if you take your mobile station to a county where few Hams live and operate. Even if you stay at home the GQP is a great chance to make a LOT of contacts in a short period of time. You can get very close to (and possibly complete) Worked all States (WAS) in one weekend. Here are the details:

Dates: April 10 and 11

Times: 1800Z Saturday until 0359Z Sunday
1400Z to 2359Z on Sunday

Georgia stations work everyone on Phone, CW, or both modes. The GQP is on 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, and 6m only. Suggested operating frequencies are:

Phone: 1.865, 3.810, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, 50.135
CW: 1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095



Public Service Opportunities

- **Kennehooche Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**, Saturday, March 20, 2010.



We have had a good response from the club members to help set-up, staff and tear-down the booth. Thanks to all who volunteered. Joe, N7QPP will be coordinating the volunteers for the Hamfest. If you did not volunteer and will be attending the Hamfest, please stop by the booth and say hello to all. To volunteer and/or request more information e-mail Bill Reed K4YJI at k4yji@nfarl.org. For more details click [here](#).

- **ING GEORGIA MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON**, Sunday, March 21, 2010.

10 to 12 volunteers are still needed for this event. There will be a pre-event meeting on Saturday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Fire/Rescue headquarters building at 1950 West Exchange Place, Tucker, GA 30084, in the rear of the building.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Ensure that everyone has the proper frequencies programmed in their units.
2. To get your location assignment for the event.
3. To get ING Marathon credentials so you can access the course.
4. To meet the ING Marathon management team and to get any last minute questions answered.
5. To meet the rest of the group and understand what is scheduled to happen on race day.

We are looking for volunteers that have either a hand-held unit and a freshly charged battery pack or two, or a mobile unit with a mag mount antenna and lighter plug for vehicular use. If you have an APRS Tracker, that would be most welcome too. To volunteers and/or request more information e-mail Elliott Fried KC4CQJ at kj4cqj@arrl.net. More detail on each of these public service opportunities will be on the NFARL web site, www.nfarl.org

Antenna Special Interest Group (SIG) Update!



The Antenna Special Interest Group (SIG) had its second meeting at the Masonic Hall on March 6 with 27 in attendance. Jim Streible, K4DLI, and Roger Anders, AA2HT, lead the presentation and discussions on dipole types and orientations. The focus for the month of March is vertical and loop antennas. Regular Antenna SIG net meetings continue each Thursday at 8:30 PM on the Club repeater (145.47 MHz). The next meeting at the Masonic Hall will be April 10 from 9 to 12, and vertical / loop antennas will be wrapped up and an overview of Feedlines, Baluns, and Chokes will be introduced for study over the weeks following April 10. If you would like copy of the recommended studies for March please check the NFARL [Antenna SIG](#) site or contact Wes at w3wl@nfarl.org, or Chuck at ae4cw@nfarl.org.



CW Special Interest Group

Well, the CW SIG has completed its class for 2010 with about 15 folks setting out to learn the code. The "home school" group meeting at the W4QO QTH has finished six sessions and at the final class - 4 folks passed the 5 wpm code test. Those were AJ4NT, WF4Z, KI4SBL, and KI4SBK. Cathy, SBK, actually passed the Friday before the class met but took the test again LIVE to prove it was not a ONE SHOT thing. These 4 (and perhaps more) will be recognized at the next club meeting for their accomplishment.

Also, Matt, AJ4NT, has already been making contacts and has qualified for the CODE 10 award (see the website CW SIG section). Congrats to Matt for being the first from this year's class to qualify. Others are still working on their CW and the M-W-F code practice will continue at 8PM through the end of March with a 5 wpm test being given on the air each Friday. Also, on Friday we'll usually be going down to 7.117 MHz to exchange callsigns/RST/name. Join us, no matter your CW competency level.

If you are still studying, hang in there and if you have not started yet, there is much good info on our website to help you. I will too! CW is FUN and it is NOT hard. Remember 20 minutes each day for 3 weeks and you're there! Oh, send for 10 minutes per day to compliment your receiving practice.

ESTONIA my friends! de W4QO - Dr. DiDah

Youth News

Living Science Center Gets Amateur Radio Station

Members of the club have been working with students at the Center in SE Cherokee County to get their radio station set up and the elective radio club kicked off. The Center is for advanced Home School studies in a variety of subjects. NFARL members Frances, AJ4JQ, Stephen, KJ4CGE, and Jason, KJ4HBZ, attend the school which has received a donation of an IC-718 HF transceiver.



Earlier in January NFARL members N4CLA, AE4CW, and W4QO put up a 40M EDZ antenna at about 40' for them and then on March 1, KJ4OXX and W4QO along with Frances got the station all hooked up for the initial club meeting that evening. Ten students and headmaster, Mr. D, attended the open house to get their club off the ground. Frances is the trustee of the station - **KJ4LS** - and a location for the station inside the school has been selected. Prospective club members heard Frances, Jason, and Jim explain amateur radio and handed out CW CDs for everyone along with W.A.S. maps for each to keep up with the contacts they are soon to make. During the meeting, Frances worked the Cape Verde Islands on 20M SSB to show them how DX works. The next meeting of the club is March 15.

<http://www.livingscience.com/>

NEW!! - NFARL Contest

Greetings from Steve K4ZPF.

Since I recently retired, I have decided to get active again on the ham bands. For those of you that I met at the Hungry Hams, you probably recognize that my call used to be K2ZPF. After living in the south for over 35 years, I finally decided to give up my "2" call.

At the HH lunch, Jim, W4QO, and I were talking about my new "free time" and how I would fill it. He told me that NFARL wanted to start a local contest to encourage people to get on the air and asked if I would volunteer to coordinate it. Not being overly bright, I said yes so here we go....

Each month we will post a set of contest rules. By the end of the month, you need to send your score to me at contest@nfarl.org. The winner will be posted in the next NFARL newsletter.

The General rules are:

1. You may win a monthly contest once during 2010.
2. Winner may submit their rules for a future contest.

The rules for the first contest are:

1. Work at least one HF station per day for the month. Count one point per day that you make a contact. MAX 30.
2. You may work a station one time to count during the month any mode.
3. Contacts may not be a contest style contact (i.e. 599, GA) and must include the person's name. Tie Breaker: number of stations whose name is three letters or less. Hint: If your first contact some day is with a person named HEATHCOAT, then work another one named ED and use that contact as your point.
4. In case more than one person works 30 stations with all names less than 3 letters, duplicate winners will be named.

The first contest starts at 0000z on April 1 and ends at 2400 April 30.

I look forward to getting lots of entries!

Steve, K4ZPF



Field Day 2010:

Field Day efforts continue to gather steam. Your committee is hard at work planning another event we'll never forget. We will be holding Field Day at Waller Park Extension off Oxbo Drive again this year.

Station captains are as follows:

CW – Mike Roden, W5JR and Bob Carroll, W2WG
20m – Chuck Catledge, AE4CW and Steve Mays, KS4KJ
40m – Joe Camilli, N7QPP and John Kludt, K7SYS
GOTA – Wes Lamboley, W3WL



Also, Jon Wittlin, K4WIT, is our Boy Scout liaison. We still have opportunities on the Field Day committee for coordinators for runners and shift captains, the bonus points captain, a supplies manager, and several other opportunities. One new item we'd like to implement this year is an electronic sign-in capability for guests to our Field Day site. I would like to put together an Access- or SQL Express-type database where people can just type their info in and we get them counted. This would save us having to interpret handwriting of varying degrees of legibility and avoid pages blowing away in any breeze that might come our way. I would be very interested in hearing from anyone in the club with the database experience to help with this project.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, or offer to help in any other way, please email Ian at ak4ik@nfarl.org. Finally, we are introducing a new feature to the NFARL Field Day this year. We have a dedicated email box just for email traffic. If you have comments, questions, complaints, suggestions, etc., please send them to fieldday@nfarl.org. Thank you and 73, Ian Kahn, AK4IK, 2010 Field Day Chair.

North Fulton ARES Update

CHAT/COMM BACK-UP SUPPORT EXERCISE

NFARES was requested to back up Chat/Comm's 911 system, as a test, on Wednesday evening March 3rd between 8-10 p.m. Chat/Comm provides 911 service to the Cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek in north Fulton County. Each of the assigned fire stations were manned by NFARES volunteers well in advance of the test. Over 12 NFARES Members and associates participated in the exercise led and organized by Tom Koch (W4UOC), NFARES EC. The event was successful and again proved the communications skills and radio coverage area of the NFARES team. Many of the participants worked at their assigned station to well after 10:00 PM. Congratulations to all for a job well done!



Next NFARES meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th, will be held at the Sandy Springs EOC/911 center.

AIRMAIL/WINLINK TRAINING

Encourage those that have lap top computers to bring them to the meeting so we can get them set up for AirMail/WinLink. We will also have one station set up to send Winlink messages by RF from the EOC to the internet where those with only an internet connection can receive and reply to the vhf station.

D-Star TRAINING

We will have a DV Access Point (DVAP) set up so we can introduce the group to the use of D-Star voice communications. We will allow those participants not familiar with voice operations on D-Star to get on the air using the DVAP.

D-Rats TRAINING

We will have two D-Star radios set up to communicate on a simplex channel to send and receive D-Rats low speed text and file data. Those that have D-Star transceivers are encouraged to bring them along as well as their lap top computers so we can install the D-Rats software on their computers.

How to get involved in the North Fulton ARES:

- Weekly NFARES Net is every Sunday night at 8:30 PM. ARES is using the NFARL repeater on 145.470(-) P/L 100 until the Roswell repeater antenna is replaced. All ARES members from other groups, as well as non-ARES amateurs are encouraged to check in.
- NFARES meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm ET. The location is usually the [City of Sandy Springs](#) (PDF, 300KB) [Council Chambers](#) (PDF, 104KB). Meeting participants frequently gather for a pre-meeting dinner at 5:45 pm at [Tijuana Joe's](#) restaurant (between Sandy Springs City Hall and QuikTrip). We meet in-person on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm ET. Check out the NFARES web site at: nfares.nfarl.org for additional information

NFARL TechNet meets Mondays at 8:30 PM - Join us on **145.47 MHz** to discuss **technical topics** led 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. We are joined by Hams from around the country and sometimes the world via the DoDropIn Echolink 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.

Old News Letters

For those of you that might be interested in some of the old history of the club, you can now find a lot of the old **Squelch Tales** news letters from back in the late 80's and through the 90's. There are some technical articles in some of them. I would like to ask some of the old timers of the club to look in your archives and see if you don't have some of the missing news letters. I think it would be nice to reassemble as many of them as possible. If you do have any of them, you can either scan them and assemble them as a PDF file and then send them to me, n4cla@nfarl.org or you can send me the original and I will scan them and return them to you. These can all be located by going to www.nfarl.org/enews and search the list. They will be in descending date order.

Mentoring - NFARL prides itself on helping members - both young and old - enjoy ham radio to the fullest. Check out this [link](#) for information on Hams who will help **YOU**. If you have an area that you need help with that is not in this list, please send an e-mail to Wes, W3WL at mentor@nfarl.org . DO NOT BE SHY. If you need help with an area not listed, others probably do as well. 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 or mentors.

Membership

As of the writing of this news letter, we currently have **257** active. Please welcome the following new members the next time you see them.

First Name	Last Name	Call	Member Since
Robert	Gross	KE3EM	2010-02
Stuart	Williams	KJ4RTD	2010-02
Jonathan	Kiger	KJ4RWS	2010-02
Steve	Kaney	N7MUT	2010-02
David	Kuechenmeister	WB8LRL	2010-02

This is just a friendly reminder regarding your **NFARL** membership. It was **41** weeks ago that we moved all of our membership to the **NFARL.ORG** web site from the QuickBooks environment. We have tried to make sure that all the bits and bytes are in their proper places for each membership record. **One thing that we have noticed is that there seems to be several people that have created new profiles in addition to their original profiles.** Please **do not do this**. If you can not remember what you profile is, please contact n4cla@nfarl.org and I will help you get into your profile. Do not arbitrarily just create another new profile. Next, you should receive an automatic renewal notification 30 days before your membership expires. If we know you are an ARRL member and that is indicated in your profile, you will also receive a reminder about the expiration of your ARRL membership as well. However, as with all database migrations, there will be exceptions. If you feel that your name is not on the membership roles, and you feel it should be, or it is incorrectly categorized, please send a note to n4cla@nfarl.org. Your name will automatically fall off the membership role exactly 365 days after you last renewed. You can automatically renew your NFARL and ARRL memberships anytime at www.nfarl.org/mart . It does not have to be after your notification. **Renewals are just added to your existing membership.**

Please log in and update your membership record with any changes. This is your record. If you have moved, or your phone number has changed, or you want to change your Logon **UserID** or **password**, you can literally change any of this information. Your membership expiration is also located on www.nfarl.org then choose **MEMBERS** and look at the **Membership Exp Date**. If you have forgotten your password you can **ask the system to send you a new one time password**. It is located immediately under the Login area.

ARRL

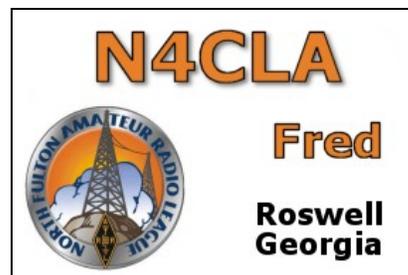
Our percentage of ARRL membership in the club is now at **80.5%**. That is 207 out of 257 NFARL members. We highly encourage you to become an ARRL member and support your National organization. These are the people that help protect our/your frequency allocations with the FCC. They also provide a nice monthly publication with your membership along with a lot of other extras. It is called QST. If you are not a member of the ARRL, please consider supporting them. You can JOIN or make your ARRL membership renewals on our www.nfarl.org/mart or you can do it direct. If you renew direct, then it is impossible for us to know exactly when your membership expires. Please send me an email n4cla@nfarl.org and I will adjust your ARRL expiration date to match the Leagues date. Several of you have indicated that our ARRL expiration date is not correct. This may be true if you manage your membership directly with the ARRL. So please notify us regarding your renewal with ARRL.



Did you know that you can create a new membership or renew your current membership with the ARRL through the NFARL by going to www.nfarl.org/mart and selecting a 1, 2 or 3 year membership? If you choose to use NFARL as your renewal mechanism, ARRL pays us a commission for your memberships, and it costs you NOTHING. I am currently updating the memberships in our NFARL database and have found around 50 new/renewal memberships that were made directly with ARRL since last year. Keeping our database in sync with the ARRL database is all manual and can not be automated. Some of you have received ARRL expiration notices from us in the past when in fact you should have never received that notice. The reason you should not have received that notice is because NFARL was not notified that you went directly to ARRL to renew or join and we therefore did not know of that transaction. So if you would like to help your club financially and not have to spend any more money doing so, then Join or renew your ARRL memberships through NFARL.

Name badges

If you have been considering ordering your NFARL Name Badge, now would be an ideal time to do it. We just recently sent off another order on Monday 3-2-2010. These badges have magnetic backs so they will not poke holes in your clothing, they are NOT etched badges, they are made using a photographic full color process and the information on the badge will NOT wear off. This is an example of what the badge will look like, but with rounded corners and NO black border.



So if you are interested, they are \$9.00 ea. All you have to do is go to <http://www.nfarl.org/mart> log in and click on the badge icon. We accept PayPal, personal credit cards, and checks to the club mailbox, NFARL, PO Box 1741, Roswell, GA., 30077.

Contact Us

President	Chuck Catledge, AE4CW 770-641-7729	ae4cw@nfarl.org
Vice-President & Training and Education Leader	Wes Lamboley, W3WL	w3wl@nfarl.org
Secretary & Community Service Projects	Bill Reed, K4YJI	k4yji@nfarl.org
Treasurer & Repeater Trustee	Fred Moore, N4CLA 404-434-4499	n4cla@nfarl.org
Past President & Special Events	Mack McCormick, WB4MAK 770-753-4202	wb4mak@nfarl.org
Program & Mid-Month-Madness Chairman	Walt Worn, KJ4HE	kj4he@nfarl.org
Field Day Chairman	Ian Kahn, AK4IK	ak4ik@nfarl.org
ARES Liaison & Community Relations	Jim Paine, N4SEC	n4sec@nfarl.org
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden, W5JR	w5jr@nfarl.org
Web Master	Bill Cobb, K4YJJ	k4yjj@nfarl.org

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) Echolink Node 381631	100 Hz	Sweet Mtn
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	100 Hz	Sweet Mtn
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweet Mtn
927.0125(-)	146.2 Hz	Sweet Mtn



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