



eNEWS April 2010

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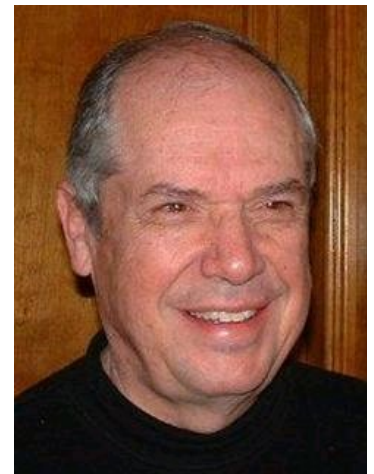
eNEWS is "what's happening" in North Fulton! Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org or eHAM.net for the national news, but here is your **North Fulton ARL eNEWS** for April 2010.



NFARL Selected Club of the Year Jim Stafford, W4QO Selected Amateur of the Year

From ARRL and Amateur Radio NEWSLINE – The North Fulton Amateur Radio League ([NFARL](http://www.nfarl.org)) in North Fulton, Georgia, was selected as the Dayton Hamvention Amateur Radio Club of the Year in keeping with the 2010 Hamvention theme: *Amateur Radio Clubs Worldwide - The Lifeline*. "Choosing the finalists was a difficult process due to the number of fine nominations," said Hamvention Awards Committee Chairman Frank Beafore, WS8B. "The winner of this year's award is certainly a great example of the thousands of clubs and organizations around the world perpetuating our avocation."

In addition the Hamvention Awards Committee named Jim Stafford, W4QO, of Roswell, Georgia, as the 2010 Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year, noting his 50 years of service to Amateur Radio and his support for public service and unending efforts to recruit and develop hams of all ages. In a NEWSLINE interview Jim said "Well, it was a total shock. In fact I almost got weak in the knees and fell to the floor because I didn't think that they got the right guy." To hear the entire interview with Jim click [here](#), scroll down and click the play button.



The awards will be presented in Dayton at an awards dinner on Saturday evening and a public awards ceremony at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday in the main arena of the Hara Convention Center.

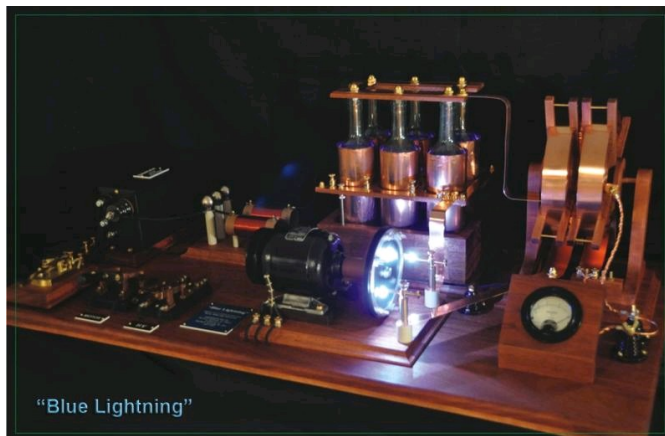
Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **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
- **Georgia QSO Party** - **April 10-11** – Help NFARL defend our Georgia Club Championship!
- **Mid-Month Madness** - **April 17** – Amateur Yard Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **April Club Meeting** - **April 20** – **King Spark and Blue Lightening, Hal Kennedy, N4GG**
- **Mid-Month Madness** - **May 14-16** – **Dayton Hamvention**
- **May Club Meeting** - **May 18** – **Vertical Antenna Modeling With EZNEC, Gary Bush, W6GB**

Regular Club Meeting - Tuesday, April 20, 2010 - 7:30 PM

PROGRAM: "King Spark – The History of Spark, 1900-1920 featuring Blue Lightning"

This month's speaker will be Hal Kennedy, N4GG. Hal will describe the rigs, the experiments, the first transatlantic tests, Marconi and the formation of the ham bands. This will be the public premier of [Blue Lightning](#), a fully functional replica of an early spark rig. Hal will not only demonstrate the rig in action but provide time for hands-on operation and photos. How many Hams do you know who have operated a spark rig? Now it can be YOU!



First licensed in 1961 at the age of 13, Hal has been an active ham for nearly 50 years. Hal has a BSEE from Lafayette College, Easton, PA and a Master of Science in Management from MIT where he attended as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow. Now formally retired but still consulting part time, Hal's last position was VP of Technology Commercialization at Martin Marietta's corporate headquarters.

Hal has published two articles in QST, eight in NCJ and is a contributor to the latest edition of the ARRL Handbook. His 2002 QST article "The N4GG Array" won the QST cover plaque award and that antenna has been built and put in use world-wide. He is active mostly on HF and enjoys DXing, contesting, antenna design and station design. Hal has 347 DXCC countries confirmed, WAC, WAZ and is three QSOs short of the 5-Band WAZ award. He is a member and past president of the SouthEast Contest Club and a member and past Treasurer of the SE DX Association. Hal has operated from PJ2, PJ4, HP, and TI.

Hal's dad was born in 1897 and was a practicing non-degreed EE from the era of spark through early television – hence Hal's fascination with the era of spark telegraphy.

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! Pass on your little used Ham goodies.

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 at Slopes BBQ in Roswell, Tuesdays at 11:30a.m.!!

President's Corner



Way to go NFARL! You have exceeded even the mythical Phoenix in rising from the ashes of a "going-out-of-business" club to become the premier club in the US in just over three short years. Your accomplishments are now renown, and you have set the standard for what a Ham radio club can become when a band of dedicated Hams sets their hearts and minds to accomplishing what many said could not be done. I want to express an especially big "Thank You" to those intrepid Hams who took up the challenge in 2006. We would not be celebrating NFARL's success today without you. And "Thank You" to those who followed in leading and building NFARL to be the outstanding Amateur Radio Club of the Year. This is a one-time award by

the Dayton Hamvention, and we can all be justly proud to have been selected for this special honor. Take a moment and review the accomplishments of your club [here](#).

None of this would have happened without the vision, enthusiasm, leadership and determination of Jim, W4QO. Can you imagine anyone more deserving to be named Amateur of the Year!! Jim's is an inspiration to every Ham he meets. His accomplishments over his 50+ years in Ham radio are legendary. He has been involved in virtually all aspects of the hobby from QRP to DX and everything in between. But I believe what sets Jim apart the most is the personal attention he pays to every Ham he meets. He has made a difference to literally thousands upon thousands of Hams across the US and the world. It is no exaggeration to say that Jim is truly the model for Amateur of the Year. I am proud to call him a friend and fellow member of NFARL.

For now, 73 Chuck, AE4CW

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

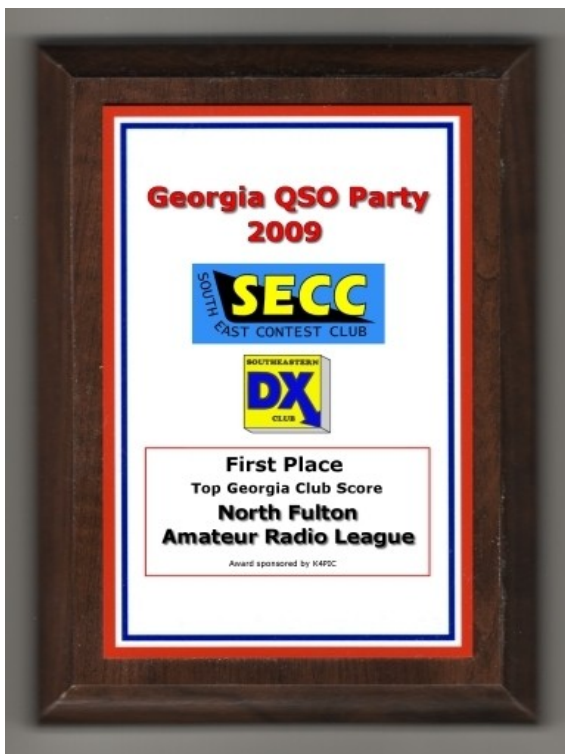
and/or CW Georgia stations in as many of the 159 Georgia counties as possible. Here's your chance to be that "rare DX" station with pileups of stations calling **you!** And you can be especially rare if you take your mobile station to a county where few Hams live and operate. Even if you stay at home 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. Click [here](#) for more 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



Kit Building Special Interest Group (SIG)

Beginning on Thursday, April 8th a group of dedicated NFARL members will start the journey to complete the Hendrix BitX20 SSB QRP transceiver. <http://www.qrpkits.com/bitx20a.html> This will be a group build held at Mack, WB4MAK's QTH every Thursday until the kit is "on the air". This kit was designed in 2004 by Ashlan Farhan an Indian ham who wanted to develop a low cost SSB transceiver for the masses.

<http://www.phonestack.com/farhan/bitx.html> Mack plans to Elmer the builders and take them out of their comfort zone by leading them to the answer to a problem instead of just telling them how to correct the problem. As an added feature as each stage of the kit is built Mack will explain the theory of the circuit and teach the participants how to use test equipment like a VOM, signal generator, audio generator, oscilloscope, power meter, distortion analyzer, and spectrum analyzer. Additionally, each participant will be taught how to properly align the radio.

Once all the kits are complete we'll plan to show them off at a club pre-meeting event. Join the fun and get into kit building. We promise it will increase your understanding of the technical aspects of ham radio.



Antenna Special Interest Group (SIG)

The AntSIG is now in its 4th month, with over 40 people involved! We meet every Thursday evening at 8:30 on the Club repeater, and usually have about 25 check-ins. This month's topics include Feedlines, Baluns and Chokes, and the face to face meeting for the month is on April 10 at 9AM at the Masonic Hall. The special emphasis at the April 10 meeting will be on learning to use the free software on antenna modeling that comes with the Antenna Handbook, so come on down with your laptop (or use one of the ones we will have there) and take your first steps in computer antenna modeling!. We will also be answering any questions on last month's topics of vertical and loop antennas, as well as introducing the April study fare. The AntSIG is open to all hams that have an interest in learning more about antennas. Please see the *Antenna SIG* link on the Club web site (nfarl.org) or contact Wes - W3WL at w3wl@nfarl.org for more information.

Club Operating Contest – April Version

The club is instituting a "monthly" HF operating contest. The purpose is to encourage HF contacts. Yes, we are a few days into April but it's not too late to post a score or even win the contest this month. The club contest manager is Steve, K4ZPF, and his email is contest@nfarl.org. The basic idea this month is to make a contact each day with a different ham on the HF bands for ONE point and if the person you work has a name of 3 letters or less, you get 2 points for that day. More details may be found at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/goup.nfarl/message/9064> . If you win this month, you get to make up the contest for a future month!



Roswell Water Tower Repeater is Back!

This week a team of four NFARLites, Chuck AE4CW, Mike W5JR, Jim N4SEC and Mack WB4MAK restored the Roswell Water Tower 147.06 back to health. The crew met at the base of the water tower at 5 PM climbed the tower and swapped the 2M antenna. The job was completed by 8:30 PM. The previous antenna was installed 15 years ago and served us well until recently when the signal became intermittent. When we got to the top of the tower there was no obvious physical damage to the antenna and all the water tight joints appeared to be intact. The old antenna was lowered to the ground and the new antenna hoisted to the catwalk and then the top of the tank. While the antenna was disassembled we swept the feedline with a 50 ohm terminator to ensure it was still 100% serviceable. Next we mounted the antenna, sealed all the coax connections and swept the antenna and feedline. Everything checked out perfectly. To perform the testing we used an IFR-1900 and an Eagle Return Loss Bridge. The job was mostly uneventful except, and there's always an except, Mack was wearing a backpack during the climb that had the rope and tools to do the job. The access hole at the top of the main ladder is smaller than Mack and his backpack. Can you guess what happened next? Mack carefully removed his backpack so he wouldn't drop it 110 ft to the ground. Guess what? He dropped it! Luckily everything survived including a cell phone and Kenwood 900 MHz HT. After Mike climbed halfway up the ladder to bring Mack the backpack the rest of the job was mostly uneventful. Please use and report your results on the 147.06+ (PL100) repeater. This is yet another example of NFARL being a world class amateur radio club. Yet to come later this month is replacing the 2M and 900 MHz antennas on Sweat Mountain.....oh my poor aching muscles.....



Technician HAMCRAM

The date for the next Technician Ham Cram has been set for May 8 at the Living Science Home Studies, Inc., 4095 North Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, Georgia 30188-4571. Start time will be 8 AM, and an array of instructors will be present to answer questions and go over the material one more time before the test session. Testing will begin at 3:30. Cost is \$25 and will include the test, snacks, lunch and drinks. Participants for the Technician Ham Cram can register and pay for the session at the NFARL Mart on the club web site, www.nfarl.org/mart Payment can be made by Check or Pay Pal. The cut-off date for registration and payment is April 23, 2010. Please let everyone you know that the Ham Cram is going to take place, and remember our success rate is over 99%! A comprehensive set of on-line learning experiences will begin 3 weeks before May 8, and links to the Questions and their answers that are standard on the test will be posted for those interested in the Technician Ham Cram on April 17. The goal this session is to assign a mentor to each one of the graduates, and encourage them to get on the air and also take their General test in the late summer (time to be announced). Please sign up via w3wl@nfarl.org.

Mid Month Madness - "Yard Sale" - April 17

This month all club members are invited to come to the QTH of Silent Key, W4SWF, to help clear out a large supply of items/parts/small equipment/etc. Doors open at 10AM on Saturday April 17 until 1PM. No "sooners" please i.e. no jumping the gun. Sam had multiples of a lot of stuff such as soldering guns, multimeters, parts, you name it. This will be done "yard sale" style - Make an offer on most items. Talk in 145.47 but the address is in qrz.com.

Youth News – Frances, AJ4JQ

Living Science Home Studies, the homes school study center that I attend in Woodstock, has its club station, KJ4LS, up and running and we had the first meeting on March 1. There were several classes with conflicting times, so only about ten people were able to come to this first informational meeting, but there was lots of interest expressed. Thanks to Jim, W4QO, who told the students what ham radio was and showed us several different ways to have fun with radio. He demonstrated Echolink with Chuck, AE4CW, who was on the beach in Florida, and the whole class learned ESTONIA in Morse code. Thanks also to Earl, KJ4OXX who helped set up the station that day, and all the others who helped put up the antenna. After W4QO's presentation, we made an exciting contact on 20 meters: D44AC in Cape Verde! Earlier in the afternoon I had worked Northern Ireland, England, and Belgium. Our ladderline-fed dipole is working very well, and we have an Icom IC-718, kindly donated by one of the student's dad, which puts out 100 watts. The Youth Net on Friday afternoons at 5 is still going well; we've had an average of about ten check-ins per net. I think the most popular question recently has been, "What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?" We had lots of responses, and we'll probably use the question again in a year or so. Each week has a completely different question, and you don't have to be a youth to join in this fun net; in fact, only two or three youth check in regularly, so invite any young hams you know, or have your kids, grandkids, or friends over and let them check in. It's always great when kids get on the air.

In personal news, my Dad (N4JJD), brother (KJ4NRN) and I will all be going to the big hamfest in Dayton, Ohio this year, and we are very excited! Edward and I plan to help out in the Youth Booth area, and we are all greatly looking forward to seeing the NFARL and our mentor & friend Jim (W4QO) honored as "Club of the Year" and "Ham of the Year," respectively. Thanks to all who have encouraged us in this endeavor!

Field Day 2010:

"Plans continue for Field Day 2010. We will again be running three stations plus a GOTA and a VHF/UHF station. Captains will soon begin asking for volunteers to operate the stations. Please reply generously. We want as much coverage as we can get, especially since we are the Club of the Year as decided by the Dayton Hamvention Committee. We hope this will increase the attraction and attention to our event this year. We also still have a need for

several different types of assistance. We'll be using a computer-based sign-in application this year, so we will need greeters for the key hours of 2:00 PM to 7:30 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM to about 1:30 PM Sunday. We're also looking for shift captains to ensure things run smoothly throughout the event, runners to go get gas, ice, drinks, etc., during the event, and someone to ensure we have all our bonus points covered. If you'd like to volunteer for any of these opportunities, please contact Clyde McClain, KJ4MIJ. Thank you to everyone who volunteered so far to make this our best Field Day yet. Stay tuned to this spot for further updates and details."



Sidewalk Radio - Alive After 5 - April 15 - 5PM to 9PM

A phrase coined by Ward Silver, N0AX, the monthly Alive After 5 certainly fits the bill. We take ham radio to the sidewalk for the monthly Roswell street festival on the 3rd Thursday through October. Each month this year, we plan to demonstrate different aspects of ham radio beginning with Slow Scan TV in April! We need a couple more folks to help this month. If you would like to help (it takes about 4 members) and perhaps learn about SSTV yourself, please send email to w4qo@nfarl.org.

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.

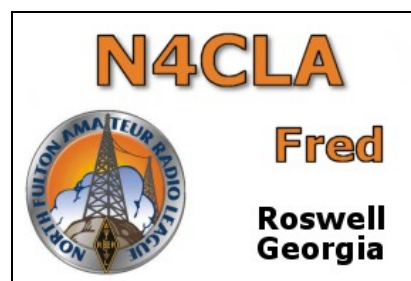
ARRL

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.



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



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