



eNEWS Nov. 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 **November, 2010.**



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

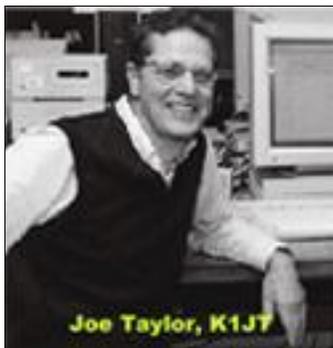
- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM - Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** – 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100) for weekly ARES updates
- **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** – 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) for technical Q & A
- **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** – 5:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Join AJ4JQ and others...
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** – 7 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **November Club Meeting** - **Nov. 13** – **HamJam 2010 at GA Tech – 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**
- **HamJam 2010** - **Nov. 13** – **Joe Taylor, N1JT, Ward Silver, N0AX and Hal Kennedy, N4GG**
- **December Club Meeting** - **Dec. 11** – **NFARL Holiday Party at Alpharetta Adult Act. Cntr.**
- **NFARL Holiday Party** - **Dec. 11** – **Catered Italian dinner – Make your reservations now!**

Special Club Meeting – Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010 – 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

HamJam 2010

By Mack McCormick, WB4MAK

HamJam 2010 is almost here. Please plan to join us on Saturday, Oct 13th, 9 AM – 12:30 PM at the Georgia Tech School of Management. Full details may be found at www.hamjam2010.com. Admission is free. Parking is available. Just say "HamJam" when you reach the parking garage for a special \$8 rate. MARTA stations are less than three blocks from the auditorium.



Joe Taylor, K1JT

HamJam promises to be the premier ham radio program of the year and will feature Joe Taylor, K1JT, Nobel Prize winner, author of WSPR and WSJT. Joe will be discussing his work with weak signals and weak signal DXpeditions.

Ward Silver, N0AX, will also be a featured guest speaker and will discuss ham radio futures. Ward is the editor for the ARRL Handbook, author of Ham Radio for Dummies, editor for the Contesting Newsletter, and 2008 Ham of the Year. Ward is a very entertaining speaker you won't want to miss.



Ward Silver, N0AX

HamJam 2010 ... continued

We are also thrilled to have Atlanta's own Hal Kennedy, W4GG, who will demonstrate his Blue Lightning spark gap transmitter. Hal will describe how he constructed the rig using all vintage materials from the early 1900's. You won't want to miss seeing this work of art in action.

There is also an opportunity to win a raffle for a 100W Elecraft K-3 or Flex Radio 1500. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. They may be purchased at the door or online at www.hamjam2010.com.

Please plan to attend and offer Joe, Ward, and Hal your warm Southern hospitality. This is an event we'll all be taking about for years to come.



Special Club Meeting – Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 – 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

NFARL Holiday Party

Can you imagine Hams **not** eating bar-b-que? Well, if you can, don't miss this year's **NFARL Holiday Party**. We are in for a special treat featuring an **authentic Southern Italian dinner** catered by **Oscar's Villa Capri** of Dunwoody. Oscar's is regarded among the best Italian restaurants in Atlanta, and we will enjoy an outstanding menu including:

Antipasto Salad

Chicken Cacciatore

Ziti Sicilana

Grouper "Francese"

Sausage "Scarpariello"

Italian Mixed Vegetables

Desserts of Cakes and Italian Cookies



The price of this fabulous dinner is only \$15.00 per person! Make your reservations now by clicking [here](#). Dinner tickets will be on sale in the Mart until Friday, December 3, and will not be available at the door.

To accommodate the large crowd expected, we have made special arrangements with the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center to host our Holiday Party. The facility can accommodate at least 150 guests in a banquet setting with plenty of room for socializing and dining. The Center is located in Alpharetta North Park at 13450 Cogburn Road. Click [here](#) for a map.

We encourage everyone to bring a gift for a youngster who is spending the holidays at Children's Hospital. Donations in lieu of a gift are also welcome. Club volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children, and all are welcome to come along!

President's Corner for November



I am pleased to announce that the following Hams were elected as NFARL club officers for 2011 at the October 19th club meeting:

President	John Tramontanis, N4TOL
Vice-President	Wes Lamboley, W3WL
Secretary	Bill Reed, K4YJI
Treasurer	Fred Moore, N4CLA

Our club is extraordinarily fortunate to have these talented Hams serving us in these key positions. They have volunteered to contribute their time and talents to continue the tradition of excellence that NFARL has enjoyed, especially over the past four years. We owe them our thanks and personal support to help them fulfill these important positions. Based on my experience, I know that the members of NFARL are anxious to contribute in any way they can to the club's success.

In addition to these elected officers, John will be appoint an executive team to assist in managing the club's various activities and responsibilities including Field Day, Program Chairman, Repeaters, Webmaster, ARES Liaison, Youth Programs and others as required. As past president, I will also serve on the Executive Team as past President.

If you would like to share your talents (and I KNOW you would!) to help our club prosper and grow, just contact any of the officers or executive team members. They will be delighted to help you find a way to "plug in"!

Last but not least, don't miss **HamJam 2010 on November 13**, and mark your calendar and make your reservations now for the **NFARL Holiday Party on December 11!**

For now 73,

Chuck, AE4CW

Hams Helping Hams

At the top of the 40 foot tower is Mack WB4MAK hoisting Chuck AE4CW's hex beam up above the tower top plate and positioning it into the tower bushings and antenna rotator. Chuck, Jim W4QO, Dave AK4CL and Bill K4YJI were on the ground fetching tools, pulling on the rope to hoist the hex beam to the top of the tower, and mostly watching in amazement as Mack completed the antenna positioning.

Chuck immediately tested the antenna and found all bands below 1.5 SWR as projected by EZNEC software. Contact Chuck at ae4cw@nfarl.org for more details.



Contesting SIG: Operating from a BIG contest station – my experience

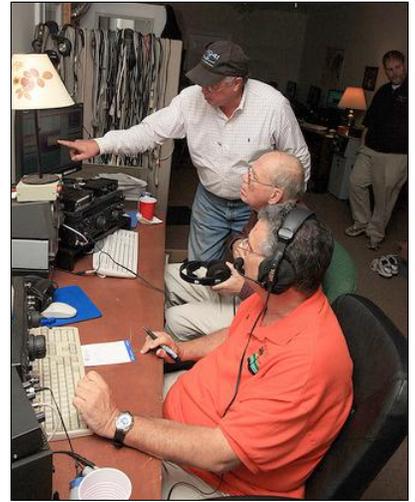
By Jim Stafford, W4QO

The last weekend in October, I was asked to operate from the NQ4I contest station in Griffin. Rick has an amazing setup there with about 7 towers and complete contest stations on all bands from 160M to 10M. See his web page: www.nq4i.com. The CQ World Wide SSB contest started at 7PM on Friday night and ran for 48 hours. NQ4I operated in the Multi-Two category. This means there were multiple operators but only TWO stations could be on the air at one time. Doing this coordination added a flavor to the whole contest that I had not experienced before.

On each band there are actually full 1.5 KW stations – one is called the RUN station and the other is the MULTIPLIER station. To only have one transmitter on the air at a time, these two stations work together in a LOCK OUT fashion. The RUN station is calling CQ and working as fast as possible (not uncommon to be 150 to 200 QSOs per hour). At the same time, the MULT station is tuning around the band looking for DX stations calling CQ where we have not worked that COUNTRY or ZONE (which are the multipliers). I was assigned to the 40M MULT station. Remember, I'm tuning around while my buddy is working IN THE SAME BAND at 1.5 KW output! So there is some hash during his transmissions and I can only hear between his CQs or for about 4 seconds at a time. The hash is not too bad as the antennas we are using are separated by over 1000 feet. He is using two 3 element 40M beams – one at 155' and the other on the same tower at 85'. They are independently steerable. My antenna is a meager 4 elements at 95'! We may both access 4 beverage antennas for listening.

My job was to find unworked MULTS and when the timing was right to slip in the NQ4I call sign. My rig, when I stomped on the foot switch, would override the RUN station even if it was transmitting at the time. So the idea is for me to get the call sign out to the calling station during the 4 second break. There is a switch that I could use to turn on a yellow light IF the other station came back to me. This would signal the RUN station to hold up on calling CQ until I had exchanged reports with my MULT station – usually about 4 or 5 seconds! Then I release the foot switch, turn off the yellow light, and he's back to calling CQ again, virtually without a break in the action!

So how it all go? Well, NQ4I made 3858 contacts in 553 countries and 168 zones with a score of 6,917,995! Now remember you get to count a country on each band where you work them so for example, we had 836 QSOs, in 35 zones and 109 countries on 40M alone. It was a great time. Check out that station and those towers. Contesting is not for everyone, but sure enjoy the symphony of it all. I'm moving on to more contests this winter. Try an easy one and work some new states or countries.



Hungry Hams

Come join us at **Slopes BBQ** in Roswell, Tuesdays at 11:30 AM.!! Over 35 Hams regularly enjoy great B-B-Q and swap the latest information. Click [here](#) for a map.

Quickie QSO

A monthly feature aimed at helping NFARL members get to know each other

Name, call: Jim Smith, W4JDS

QTH: Woodstock

Personal: Native Georgian, UGA grad, retired Atlanta Journal-Constitution editor; married, two daughters, five grandchildren; 64 years old

First licensed/other calls: WN4ARE in 1961; WA4ARE, KD4ZKY, KQ4VG

Main equipment: Yaesu FT-890, FT-817, Kenwood TH-K2 handitalkie. Attic inverted V antennas for 20, 15, 10 meters

Favorite hangout: 20 meters, phone and cw

Favorite activities: Chasing DX, contesting, listening

I'd like to know more about: PSK, talking via satellites, "fox-hunting"

Fantasy: Operating a KW station with a beam atop a 100-foot tower from some exotic (but civilized) location in the South Pacific

Memorable on-the-air moment: A station in Africa was calling a W6 on 20 meters. I could also hear the California station calling the ham in Africa. They were not hearing each other, but I could hear both so I acted as a relay. Turns out it was a missionary son attempting to keep a weekly schedule with his father in California.

My elmer: Ben Jordan, W4PCF (sk). Auto mechanic by day, 75-meter AM ragchewer by night. He didn't care for "sidewinders," which was what they called single sideband operators back in those days.

When not in the shack: I enjoy reading English murder mysteries and non-fiction. I'm a crossword puzzle fan. I spend way too much time surfing the Net. My wife and I are both retired and travel often.

Something you might not know about me: I turned down a chance to be an extra in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."



With the help of attic antennas, Jim Smith W4JDS chases DX from the guest bedroom closet at his Woodstock condo.

Service Opportunities



Position: Communications (Amateur Radio Operators)

Description: Amateur (Ham) Radio Operators provide a layer of communications. Commercial radios issued to select volunteers. The primary concern of the ham radio traffic is to coordinate communications in the event of emergency or other unusual circumstances. Non-critical communications include lead runner positions and supply requests.

Time Commitment: Arrive 60 minutes prior to start of race and depart as last runner leaves assigned area. Start time is 7:30 AM. The half marathon course has a 3 ½ hour time limit.

Equipment Commitment: Supply your own radio equipment (usually HT) and accessories appropriate to your assignment.

What to wear: Always dress for the weather and be sure to wear comfortable shoes as your volunteer assignment will require you to be on your feet. You will receive a fleece vest and commemorative event pin upon volunteer check-in.

Online volunteer sign up is available on the following web site:

http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer2/jobs-by-date.tcl?event_id=196828

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society TechFest 2011 Saturday, January 8, 2011, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The NFARL club will host a kit building experience for youth - 8 to 18 - at Techfest this year.

Mentors/Elmers will assist each "builder" with learning soldering skills and assembling a simple electronic kit. And it's FREE to kids so invite/bring your kids, your grand kids, your neighbor's kids, Scouts - Cub, Girl and Boy - to the RadioActive YOUTH area for an hour of kit building FUN. Each kit will light up, make noise, or something else totally "cool".

Volunteers for Mentors / Elmers will be needed. Contact Jim W4QO at w4qo@nfarl.org for more information and to volunteer.



North Fulton ARES Update

The next NFARES Meeting is December 14th at 7:00 PM. The meeting is at the Sandy Springs Municipal Complex.



NFARL Elmer Program

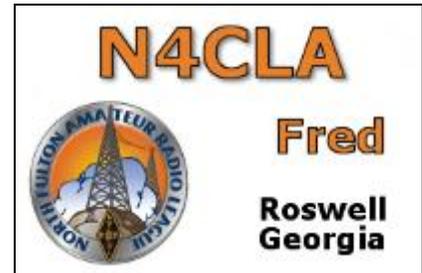
An Elmer is a person you can call up and get help on any ham Radio subject you may have questions about. We have at least 13 Elmer volunteers in the Club: Bill Reed – K4YJI, Neil Foster - N4FN, Gary Bush - W6GB, John Kludt - K7SYS, Tim Lemmon - WK4U, Joe Camilli - N7QPP, Bill Hampton - W4OO, Mike Roden - W5JR, Steve Mays - KS4KJ, Jim Stafford - W4QO, Wes Lamboley - W3WL, Chuck Catledge - AE4CW, and Mack McCormick - WB4MAK.

We need additional volunteers. Contact Wes, W3WL at w3wl@nfarl.org to volunteer.

The NFARL's motto is "Hams helping Hams" - give it a try if you have not already!

Name Badges

If you have been considering ordering your NFARL Name Badge, now would be an ideal time to do it. 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. To the right is an example of what the badge will look like, but with rounded corners and NO black border. If you are interested, they are \$9.00 ea. All you have to do is go to NFARL and click on the badge icon after you log in. We accept PayPal, personal credit cards, and checks sent to the club mailbox: NFARL, PO Box 1741, Roswell, GA 30077. See N4CLA at the meeting or go to the Mart and place your order.



NFARL Membership

We currently have **272** active members as of the writing of this newsletter. The following members have joined since the June of this year.

first_name	last_name	call	mbr_since	class
David	Bourne		2010-10	Not Licensed
Kathie	Coleman	KD4APR	2010-10	Technician
John	Jones	KJ4VPJ	2010-10	General
Daniel	Bushee	KJ4PQS	2010-09	Technician
Larry	Gantt	KJ4YOT	2010-09	Technician
Manu	Rao		2010-09	Not Licensed
Zac	Hinds	KJ4PRE	2010-09	Technician
Greg	Johnson	W4GMJ	2010-08	Technician
James	Clark	W2OKQ	2010-08	General
Ron	Kral	KJ4VWX	2010-08	Technician

**Please greet our newest members and
welcome them to the organization the next time you see them.**

ARRL Membership



Thank you for supporting our National organization, ARRL. 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 for your membership. It is called QST. If you are not a member of the ARRL, please consider supporting them. You can join or renew your ARRL membership through NFARL. You can make your ARRL membership renewals at www.nfarl.org/mart . If you renew directly with the ARRL, thank you, but please send me an email to n4cla@nfarl.org indicating that you did renew so we can update your club record and also keep current on the memberships.

NFARL and ARRL Renewals

This is just a friendly reminder regarding your NFARL and ARRL memberships. It has now been a year and a half since we moved all of our membership records to the www.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 your membership record.

You should now be receiving automatic renewal notification for your **NFARL** and **ARRL** memberships **30 days before your membership expires**, and **then one after it does expire**. This should give you plenty of time to renew on line before your expiration occurs. As with all database migrations, there will be exceptions. So if you feel that your name is not on the membership roles, and should be, or it is incorrectly categorized, please send a note to n4cla@nfarl.org . Your membership is good for 365 days from the date you renew or join.

The other piece of this is that your name will automatically fall off the membership roles after the 365 days if you do not renew. You can, however, renew your membership at any time prior to the expiration and the renewal is just added to the current expiration date. Please, if you change your email address or are not sure that it is correct, or you have a question about why you are not receiving notifications, please log in to your account at www.nfarl.org/mart and insure your email address is correct. We DO NOT ask for any personal information, credit cards numbers or bank account numbers. All we need are your phone numbers, email addresses and mailing addresses.



Click any of the logos above to visit our NFARL supporters and affiliates

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
Webmaster	Bill Cobb, K4YJJ 770-396-5007	k4yjj@nfarl.org

Club Repeaters

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