



eNEWS

December 2011

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 this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS.**



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:00 AM - Slopes BBQ Roswell
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (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 Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** - 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club meeting** – No meeting in December due to club Holiday Party
- **Holiday Party** – Saturday, December 17 - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center
- **VE Testing Session** - November 19 - 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

NFARL Holiday Party / Wes Lamboley W3WL

I hope to see all at the Holiday Party. What a great time of year to share the JOY of being a member of NFARL. The food is beyond comparison, the behind the scenes work done by Bob Citronberg, Oscar of Oscar's Villa Capri, and Joe Urso is unimaginable, and the recognition of numerous members of the NFARL that make us what we are is significant, but the real JOY is the camaraderie we all share.

Best Holiday wishes to all,

Wes - W3WL

Holiday Party Time and Location

Saturday, December 17th, 6:30 – 9:30 PM at Alpharetta, Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004. Click [Here](#) for directions. 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 December

It has been quite a year for the NFARL. The membership should be very proud of all that was accomplished during the year, from the TechFest in January, with 25 kids building kits, to a world class event in October, "HamJam 2011" to finish out the year. Top that off with another club victory in the Georgia QSO Party, achieving DXCC on LOTW for the club call sign and another impressive domination in the ARRL Field Day event with the largest participation of any club in the nation for the third straight year!

I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our club in 2011 and as well as this special time of season at the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 17th.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as club president for 2011. I encourage you all to volunteer and become more involved in club activities in the coming year. My time serving as president has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in ham radio. I am looking forward to continuing to be involved in the NFARL in 2012 and the exciting things on the horizon for our club. We have a wonderful slate of officers for the upcoming year that should keep the momentum going forward.



73 - I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party and in 2012, and I hope to hear you on the bands!

John N4TOL

January Program Update / John Kludt K7SYS

Part of the joy of making contacts is collecting confirmation of those contacts. When some of us started out, the only way to do this was with the paper QSL card. There were basically two methods – direct to the station or via the ARRL QSL Bureau. QSL cards were frequently a thing of beauty and something to collect and display. As a side benefit, if there was a stamp collector in the family, they were a great source of stamps from exotic places around the world. The downside was it could take forever to get that last needed card. Like maybe a couple of years!

But time and technology march on. Now we have LoTW, eQSL, and the every present PayPal serving as new ways to get those confirmations. Why bother with confirmations? Well, they are fun to collect, especially the paper QSL cards. They are needed for Worked All States, Worked All Continents, DXCC, etc., etc. Not everyone likes to chase awards but awards do give us goals and reasons beyond rag chewing to stay active and on the air. Why time was the ARRL even had an award for rag chewing, the coveted Rag Chewers Club certificate issue by "The Ole' Sock". One proudly hangs in the shack here at K4SQC.

Please join us January 17th as Wes Lamboley, W3WL, and friends update us on the latest trends in QSL collecting. This will be a practical discussion of the "how to" of the QSL process and a continuation of the high level presentations at TechFest. So, if you are wondering how to use the new technologies or be more efficient with the old paper QSL cards this is the program for you.

If you have been collecting QSL cards over the years, please bring along your collection. There will be a prize for the oldest QSL card. And, yes, you must be present to win!

NFARL NF4GA DXCC Quest Continues / Dave Higdon Jr. KD4ICT



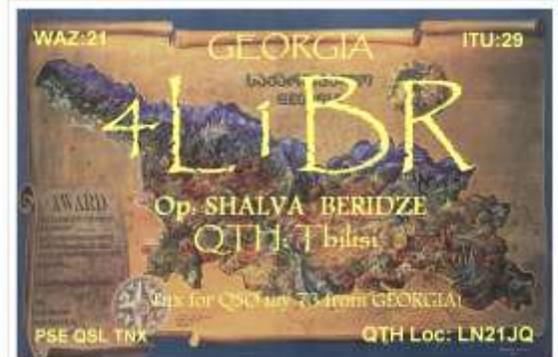
This month NFARL added a few new entities to our DXCC list. We did not have any new submissions, but the confirmations are still coming in. We are now at 116 confirmed. If you would like to contribute to the club logbook, work some DX. Use the club call - NF4GA - stay within the limits of your license and submit the details to award@nfarl.org and it will be added. With 341 current entities to work, we still have plenty of opportunities for more members to contribute.

For those that contributed and have not received their copy of the certificate, please contact me at

award@nfarl.org and we will make sure we get that to you. Thanks again to everyone for your efforts.

Get on Board QSLing at January GARS TechFest / Chuck Catledge AE4CW

NFARL and the SEDXC are teaming up to help Hams get into the QSLing game "Fast and Easy" at TechFest on Saturday, January 14 at the Gwinnett Medical Resource Center in Lawrenceville. Our resident experts, Wes - W3WL, Bill - N4NX and Chaz - W4GKF will present a 50 minute program titled "Pitfalls / Solutions for DX QSLing" explaining all the "ins and outs" of obtaining QSL cards from all those elusive DX stations around the world. These folks know their stuff, and if you are looking for awards or just that great card from an exotic location, this program is designed just for you.



In addition we will have a booth in the "main-tent" where you can get hands-on help with the following:

- Setting up your personal Logbook of the World (LoTW) account (bring your laptop and make it extra easy)
- Setting up to receive incoming QSL's coming through the US bureaus (you will leave with everything you need)
- Learning about the ARRL and SEDXC outgoing QSL services

Details on the time and location of TechFest can be found [Here](#)

Your NFARL club membership record / Fred Moore N4CLA

As you know, NFARL has gone to electronic membership records that are maintained on what is called the MART. These records are Userid and Password protected. These records are how we as a club maintain contact with our members. We try to make sure that all the information is correct in each of these records and we need your help in this maintenance process. By the way, we do "NOT" store any personal information i.e.; SS#, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers. All we ask for is your current telephone numbers and USPS mailing address, FCC license information, email address and some other basic information, all of which can change and we have no control over. All of this data can be managed by YOU. This includes your USERID and your PASSWORD for access to these records. Your USERID can be changed at any time to anything and unlike a lot of other systems the USERID is not a permanent name. If you have forgotten your USERID, PLEASE do not create another record. Ask for help and we can reset that to anything you want. Another important field that needs to be current is your email address. We depend on that address to be correct so we can send you important club information as well as your monthly eNEWS.

Here is another interesting bit of information. People change their Internet Service Providers fairly often, and most often for price. Did you know if your email address is tied to that ISP, and you change to another ISP, your email address from the old ISP goes away and everything about it. This now means that you need to notify "ALL" of your contacts indicating that you have changed your email address to yet another email address. If you do not want that aggravation, consider using an email address by Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail or one of those that is not directly connected to any ISP.

If you need help, please call me at 404-434-4499 or email n4cla@nfarl.org.

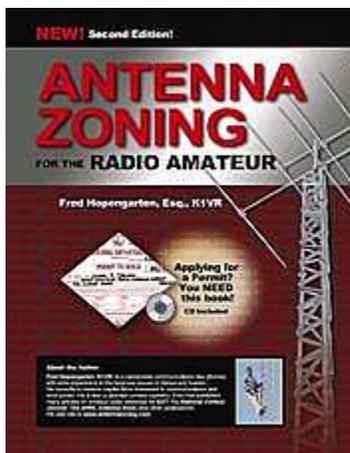
Oh, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you at our January 17th meeting.

Antenna Zoning Help is in the Library [Keith Plossl K4KRX

Several Amateurs have expressed that their homeowners association won't permit antennas and thus Amateur Radios can't be used in homes in their association. Really? Here is the book for December. We suggest reading the following first.

Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur by Fred Hopengarten, Esq., K1VR

By far the dominant reference for zoning matters related to towers and antennas, both amateur and commercial, is authored by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR. Fred is both an active amateur radio operator and a highly skilled lawyer specializing in antenna zoning matters. The cost of either of his books is de minimus compared to the costs of a lawsuit or relocation. You can do no better than to follow Fred's recommendations at all stages of the process.



The book is designed to give you a view of the entire process and help you avoid the pitfalls that others have fallen into along the way. It is a college course in the subject at a graduate level. Some few may discover after reading it that they came across the book too late in the process and would be better off changing their plans or looking for a second dream house.

NFARL has copies of this book in the library. Can you afford not to read one before putting up that new antenna?

Public Service / Dave Brackett AK4CL

GARS TechFest, Saturday, January 14, 2012, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Lawrenceville, GA



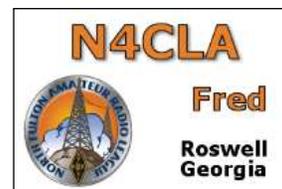
KARC Hamfest, March 17, 2012, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Marietta, GA



More details on volunteer opportunities for all events will be available shortly and published on the NFARL website in the [Public Service Section](#). Contact [Dave Brackett AK4CL](#) for more information and to volunteer.

Need a Name Badge?

Go to the [NFARL Mart](#) and order one of these magnetic badges!



Contact Us

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Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
927.0125(-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mountain



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