



eNEWS

February 2012

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, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30PM - 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** – 7:30 PM, February 21 – Alpharetta Adult Activity Center - - The How's and Whys of QSLing with Chuck AE4CW and BillN4NX
- **Mid-Month Madness – Dalton Hamfest** - February 25, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Boneyard opens at 7:00 AM) – North Georgia Fairgrounds, 500 Legion Drive, Dalton, GA - [Dalton Hamfest web site](#)
- **VE Testing Session** – March 10, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

Program Update / John Kludt K4SQC

So you have placed a large investment in time and effort getting those DX or stateside stations worked. Maybe you would like a Worked All States (WAS) award or a DX Century Club (DXCC) certificate to hang on the wall to celebrate your efforts? For these and many other awards, you will need to get those contacts confirmed. Or maybe you just like to collect QSL cards or the stamps on the envelopes in which they come.

In times past there were not too many ways to do this. In fact there was basically one way, the paper QSL card and two ways to exchange them: either via *The Bureau* or *Direct*. While those ways still exist there are now a number of other ways to accomplish the task of QSO confirmation such as Logbook of the World (LoTW), eQSL and Online QSL Request Service (OQRS).

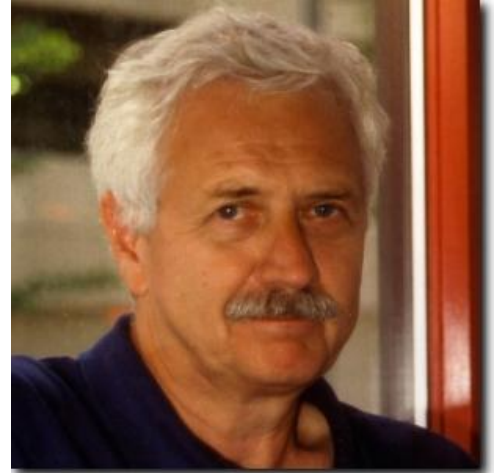


Please join us as Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, and Bill Barr, N4NX, take us through The How's and Why's of QSLing. Chuck probably needs no introduction, as he is a regular and a past president of NFARL. Chuck has been active in everything from Field Day to Build-a-thons to the Elmer program.

Bill Barr is a member of a number of local radio clubs including SEDXC and is an avid DXer. Bill is a member of the DXCC Honor Roll with 357 confirmed entities. He current serves as an ARRL DXCC card checker, verifying QSL cards as they are submitted with DXCC

applications. Both Chuck and Bill are very well qualified to speak on this topic.

As a portion of the presentation we will have for a sale for a nominal fee, sets of envelopes and stamps addressed for the Incoming QSL Bureaus for the 4th call district. Yes, there are *two* incoming QSL operations. Come and learn which one is right for you and pick up a set of envelopes in the process. Should you have a QSL card collection, please bring it along to share with your fellow hams.



NFARL Club Survey / John Tramontanis N4TOL

The members that attended our last club meeting were handed an informal survey that they were asked to complete. The purpose of this survey was for the club to learn what programs, projects, and other activities that would be of interest to our members. Additionally, your thoughts on ways to promote youth activity in ham radio and the club were solicited, as well as ideas for utilization of the club library.



There was a request for more QSL info, and we heard you, so we hope that this month's program on QSLing will provide insight into this popular topic. Please stay tuned, as we plan to set up a link to a survey on the club website so we may continue to get your valued input on such matters.

President's Corner for February

Activities are rapidly ramping up at NFARL! The popular Mid-Month-Madness and kit building is on the calendar, and the meeting programs are expected to result in lots of information and enjoyment for the attendees. We also expect to have several new Radio Merit Badge holders and potentially new hams as a result of the Scouting Special Interest Group (SIG) this month. I am especially enthusiastic about the February and March meetings, as I still am not on Logbook of the World and have never operated in a Georgia QSO Party. This old dog may still be able to learn some new tricks after all!

The March meeting is especially exciting for me. What with the more focused Elmer program led by Chuck, AE4CW (check out the link to Elmers on the web page) and our new Field Day chairman Scott, KB4KBS sharing the Program in a combination describing the Georgia QSO party in April, On-the Air Elmering, and initial planning for Field Day, we hope to make it possible for all that want to operate on HF to do just that. Anyone that is new to HF, Field day and contesting will be able to join an Elmer at their shack and operate with a coach alongside in the QSO Party. From what I am told the QSO Party is truly exciting because all Georgia operators are in demand all over the world as people try to collect contacts with all the different Georgia counties.

Additionally, we need your input on what activities and resources YOU would like to see the NFARL club offer. Please take the time to let us know your thoughts by filling out the questionnaire that will be at the meetings or via the web site.

73,

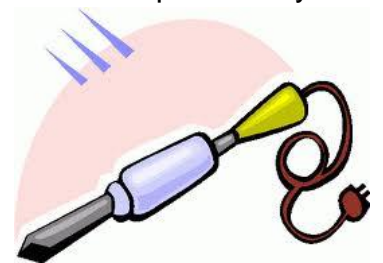
Wes – W3WL



Ready to Build Something? NFARL Build-a-Thons are for you! / Chuck Catledge AE4CW

NFARL is sponsoring a series of Build-a-Thons throughout 2012. These are workshops where you get to build a useful Ham radio device from scratch. Potential projects include Baluns, Wire Antennas, Sound Card Interfaces, Capacitance Meters, Watt/SWR Meters and more.

Our first Build-a-Thon is scheduled for Sunday, February 26. We will build an Elecraft BL2 250 Watt 1:1 & 4:1 Switchable Balun. The cost is \$42. Join the fun by registering at <http://nfarl.org/mart/WidebandBalun>



LoTW-DXCC Plus Triple Play | Dave Higdon Jr. KD4ICT

We now have 120 confirmed entities and we have 318 QSOs in our log. With 191 confirmed contacts, that is a nice QSL rate. We are still accepting entries to our NF4GA log at award@nfarl.org so please continue to contribute when you have time.

In case you missed out last year with NFARL, the North Georgia QRP Club (or should that be qrp?) is trying to achieve what we did last year, except at the qrp level. Maybe those of us that are members of both clubs can contribute to both while working some DX. Use NF4GA for the NFARL contacts and NO4GA for the qrp contacts. Send the qrp contacts to W3HZZ at arrl.net. Phil is coordinating the qrp club efforts. Join in the fun.



We are still planning to work on Triple Play this year. Any questions can be sent to the award@nfarl.org address.

Ten last topic for this month is Logbook of The World. We had a great turnout at the TechFest last month and helped quite a few people get started. If you have not done this yet, there are many people available to help. LoTW is a great way to get QSLs fast.

Those using LoTW have already received VP6T Pitcairn Island QSLs while the DXpedition was still active! How many weeks or months would that take normally? And thought the T32C and STOR guys were fast. Also, starting April 1, 2012 LoTW will work with CQ Magazine awards.

Field Day is Fast Approaching / Scott Straw KB4KBS

As time counts down to the fourth weekend in June, it's time to start asking what YOU will be doing on the weekend of June 23 and 24. There are lots of tasks to accomplish, and many hands make light work. In March I will be laying out an overview of the plans for the club's Field Day effort and will begin lining up resources.

The resource we need the most is personnel. We will need operators who can staff our four primary stations, our VHF and GOTA stations, and our satellite station.

The event officially starts at 2:00PM EDT on that Saturday and runs for 24 hours, but we will be busy on the Friday evening before setting up the make-shift campus and hanging the wire antennas. On the Saturday morning of the event before the green flag drops we will be very busy with other antenna installations and final preparations of the operating stations. In the midst of that cacophony of construction we will be helping a group of scouts earn their communications merit badge. All the while, we will be providing tours and information about our hobby, our club, and our reason for being in the middle of a park on a fine June weekend to visitors. They will be both licensed hams and people who have never heard of Ham Radio. We will need every hand "on deck" to put the best face on our activities and to demonstrate the various aspects of communications we will have on display.

For the past three years, our club has led the nation in the number of people who visited a Field Day site. This is a record that I want to extend to a fourth year. The resurgence of our club and the explosive growth in the number of new hams in our area is a result of direct exposure to the fun and intrigue of communication via radios. No other venue can provide the same "fire hose" flow of



information about our grand hobby than Field Day. It won't happen without a brigade of hose jockeys. Clear your calendars.

And, while your datebooks are open, be sure to mark the 14th and 15th of April as a "don't miss" weekend as well. This is the weekend for the Georgia QSO Party. There are big plans for the North Fulton Amateur Radio League to make a significant showing (again) in this annual event that is one of the top five state QSO parties in the nation. If you are a Technician and have limited HF privileges, or if you don't have access to a HF station, there will be ample opportunities to get on the air as a guest operator at several stations hosted by club members – use the chance to get on the air and get warmed up for Field Day.

Back to the Future – NFARL Elmers Lead the Way! / Chuck Catledge AE4CW

During the January club meeting NFARL kicked off our updated Elmer program. Just by way of clarification an Elmer (or Mentor) is someone who helps another Ham achieve a higher level of experience and enjoyment through:

Coaching

- ✓ Encouraging
- ✓ Challenging
- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Helping
- ✓ Befriending



Our goal is that every new newly licensed or upgraded NFARL Ham (at every level - Tech, General or Extra) has the opportunity to work with a personally dedicated Elmer. And further, we want to give every NFARL Ham access to a cadre of highly experienced individuals who can help on an "as needed" basis. So, if you are a new Ham or an old hand who needs help with a problem, the NFARL Elmer program is for you.

Several newly licensed Hams have already signed up and are already working with their Elmer. Would you like to be next? If so, just do one of the following:

- For newly licensed or upgraded Elmer assistance send an e-mail to Elmers@nfarl.org
- For "as needed" assistance visit our updated Elmer website page at nfarl.org/elmers

Need a Name Badge?

Go to the NFARL Mart and order one of these magnetic badges!



Public Service / Dave Brackett AK4CL

Kennehoochee Hamfest

(Saturday, March 17, 2012 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

The 59th annual Kennehoochee Hamfest will be held at the Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta, GA. The NFARL will have a booth at this event and is looking for members to staff the booth on 1-Hour shifts till noon. The setup crew will meet in the morning at the Waffle House #1219 ((770) 792-6805) located at 1410 Dura Drive, Marietta, GA 30008. Please see more event details at <http://www.w4bti.org>.



Publix Georgia Marathon

(Sunday March 18, 2012 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM)

The Publix Georgia Marathon has once again called on the Ham radio community to assist with the 2012 Marathon on Sunday, March 18, 2012. This is a large event requiring dozens of amateur radio volunteers.



Our job is to communicate race-related messages for the race officials and race volunteers that ultimately ensure the safety of the runners. A majority of the assignments are for Aid Station communicators. These volunteers will be stationed at one of the 19 Aid Stations and communicate supply needs, lead runner information, and make SAG Wagon requests for injured and tired runners. These duties end when the end of the race passes the station.

You will need to provide your own radio. If you do not yet have a radio but still want to help out, indicate so on the sign up form and we will work with you to find a radio you can borrow for the day.

Commit to helping by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/GAMarathon2012> and signing up. The official marathon website is <http://georgiamarathon.com>. Michael Gaertner and George Olive, DeKalb ARES are organizing the amateur radio operators recruitment.

Johns Creek International Day

(Saturday, March 24, 2012 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

NFARL will be supporting the Friends of the NE Spruill Oaks Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Alpharetta, GA 30022, during their annual International Day celebration by providing one operational HF station used to demonstrate international communication and allow attendees an opportunity to talk with someone on the radio. We will need volunteers to set up the shack and antenna, assist attendees with radio communications and answer questions, then take down the antenna and shack.

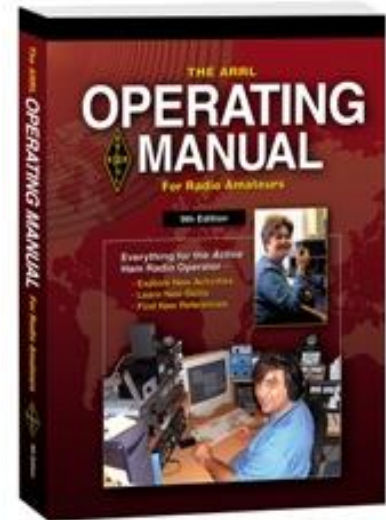


Please contact Dave Brackett at AK4CL@nfarl.org to volunteer.

BROWSING THE LIBRARY / Keith Plossl K4KRX

“Wanna” Become a LID? What is a LID anyway? This last question is easy to answer. The word lid is ham jargon for an amateur radio operator who exhibits poor operating practices. Some LID behavior creeps into almost every amateur station. LID behavior, I understand, comes from ignorance of good operating practices not a desire to be a LID. The ARRL has published the Operating Manual to help combat LID behavior.

The NFARL library has copies of the ARRL Operating Manual. At our next NFARL meeting we will have a presentation on how to handle QSL cards. We all know QSL means “I confirm receipt of your transmission”. The QSL cards are written receipts confirming transmissions. Handling QSL cards properly, so one doesn't look like a LID, is an operating procedure.



Reading Is FUNdamental to combat LIDNESS, I'm told. Makes sense to me. Great book BTW.

Classic Monograms, 3940 Cherokee Street, Suite 302, Kennesaw, GA 30144,

Classic Monograms will be offering a variety of woven and knit shirts, baseball caps, etc. with embroidered NFARL logo and customized with individual name and call sign at the February NFARL club meeting. Jerry Sullivan KD4LZL will be showing samples of the shirts, caps, etc. and taking orders at a table in our meeting room at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center starting at 7:00 PM.

Take a look at the shirts, caps, etc.

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

Contact Us

President	Wes Lamboley W3WL 770-642-2087	w3wl@nfarl.org
Vice President and Training and Community Services Coordinator	Dave Brackett AK4CL 706-333-1366	ak4cl@nfarl.org
Secretary and NFARL eNEWS Publisher	Bill Reed K4YJI 770-993-5758	k4yji@nfarl.org
Treasurer and Repeater Trustee	Fred Moore N4CLA 404-434-4499	n4cla@nfarl.org
Past President and HamJam 2012 Co- Planner	John Tramontanis N4TOL 770-789-9188	n4tol@nfarl.org
Past President and Special Events	Chuck Catledge AE4CW 770-641-7729	ae4cw@nfarl.org
Program and Mid- Month-Madness Chairman	John Kludt K4SQC	k7sys@nfarl.org
Field Day Chairman	Scott Straw KB4KBS	kb4kbs@nfarl.org
ARES Liaison and Community Relations	Jim Paine N4SEC	n4sec@nfarl.org
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden W5JR 404-781-9494	w5jr@nfarl.org
Web Master	Bill Cobb K4YJJ 770-396-5007	k4yjj@nfarl.org



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