



## **NFARL eNEWS**

**October 2014**

[www.nfarl.org](http://www.nfarl.org)

eNEWS is "what's happening" in North Fulton and surrounding area! Check out each item and mark your calendar. Go to [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



# **HAMJAM 2014: NOVEMBER 8**

**GREAT PRIZES, GREAT SPEAKERS!**

**FREE ADMISSION!**

HamJam 2014 is almost here, and we have a great [lineup of speakers](#) for this year's event! Mark your calendar now – it's 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on November 8, the Saturday after the Stone Mountain Hamfest. The location is the same great facility as last year, the Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta. Admission is free!

Since HamJam 2013, we have so far this year provided more than \$3,200 in funding for scholarships and activities, including ARRL scholarships, ARRL teacher's workshop, Youth DX Adventure, Girl Scout STEM activity, and the recent Maker Faire in Decatur. As youth are the future of ham radio, please consider buying raffle tickets (\$5 each or five for \$20) in support of this cause! Tickets will be available at the October 21 club meeting, or from a club representative (Hungry Hams etc.), or at [NFARL Mart](#).

We are pleased with all the support from numerous suppliers who have donated [prizes](#). They too are believers in helping more youth get involved in ham radio, so please consider buying their products as a "thank you" for their support.

Here's a rundown of just SOME of the FANTASTIC prizes:



**Icom IC-80AD**

**3 GREAT RADIOS!!!!**



**Kenwood TM-D710G**



**Yaesu FTM-400**

Plus, Diamond X50-A, NR779HB and HRH779CA antennas (two each), as well as a Buddipole Deluxe Package, a Begali Simplex Key, a Vibroplex Code Warrior, two copies of Ham Radio Deluxe software, two \$50 ARRL gift certificates, two \$25 ARRL gift certificates, a copy of the 2014 ARRL Handbook (Centennial Edition), five CQ magazine subscriptions and much, much more.

The wonderful prizes are just the icing on the cake for a great day of interesting speakers and camaraderie. The speakers' lineup this year is exceptional.

This year's speakers are **Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA**; **Martin F. Jue, K5FLU**; and **Carole Perry, WB2MGP**.

Carl Luetzelschwab is a recognized expert on solar topics and propagation. He retired last year after 41 years of RF Design with Motorola and Raytheon (formerly Magnavox). Carl (below, left) has been licensed since 1961 and his interest in propagation goes back to his college days at Purdue University.

Martin F. Jue is the founder and owner of [MFJ Enterprises](#), a worldwide business that also includes such prominent brand names as [Ameritron](#), [Mirage](#), [Vectronics](#), [Cushcraft](#) and [Hy-Gain](#).

Martin (below, center) founded MFJ in 1972 and has seen the company grow into a dominant force as an amateur radio equipment supplier.

Carole Perry is the highly recognized Youth Programs liaison for the ARRL and other organizations. Carole (below right) has moderated the Youth Forum and the Instructor's Workshop at Dayton Hamvention for many years. She is a popular keynote speaker and seminar leader at numerous teacher and radio conventions across the country.



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## ***Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates***

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
  - **Every Monday – Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 – Check [NFARL Nets website](#) for “how to”
  - **Every Wednesday – Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM – Slope’s BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
  - **Every Thursday – YL Net** – 8:00 PM -- 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 – Check [NFARL Nets website](#) for “how to”
  - **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG), Lodge One** - 9:00 AM - Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). Everybody’s welcomed: You don’t have to be “old” or a “geezer” to join this breakfast get-together
  - **Third Saturday – JOTA Merit Badge Clinic – October 18**, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Johns Creek Presbyterian Church, 10950 Bell Road, Johns Creek. Advance registration is required. Click [here](#) for more details or to register. Volunteers, email [Jon Wittlin](#).
  - **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – October 21**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
  - **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – October 28**, 7:00 PM - Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL members
  - **First Saturday and Sunday – Stone Mountain Hamfest – November 1**, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and **November 2**, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville. More information available at [Stone Mountain Hamfest website](#). Contact [John Tramontanis, N4TOL](#), to volunteer to help at the NFARL table for an hour or so.
  - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session – November 8**, 10:00 AM -- Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
  - **Second Saturday – HamJam 2014 – November 8**, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta. For more information, see the article elsewhere in this edition of the eNEWS or go to the [HamJam 2014 website](#).
  - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting – November 11**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Talk-in station on the 147.06 Repeater. Check with the [NFARES website](#) for more information.
  - **Third Saturday – HRO Manufacturers Day – November 15** – HRO Atlanta, 6071 Buford Highway, Atlanta. NFARL participation is in the planning stages.
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## ***Program Update / Walt Woron, KJ4HE***

Welcome aboard, new ham!

Now that you have your license and are rarin' to get on the air, you could probably use a few pointers from some veteran operators. Don't worry, our October 21 program has you covered!

The topic, "Setting Up Your First HF Station," promises to cover all the basics. And, who knows, a few of our "old dogs" may even pick up some new tricks! This promises to be an informative and entertaining program with something for everyone.

Our presenters will include **John Tramontonis, N4TOL**, (at right) who will cover everything you need to know about how to pick out your first HF rig. There are lots of choices out there and John promises to steer you in the right direction. John has been licensed since 1988 and enjoys chasing DX. He has DXCC on eight bands and 317 countries confirmed.

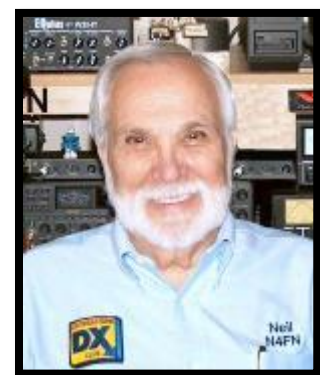


John will be joined by **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, (at



left) our resident antenna guru, who will provide insight into options to consider in choosing your first HF antenna or antennas. Chuck is the wire-wrangling wizard behind our successful NFARL Field Day antenna systems. Chuck got his first ham license in 1957 and then left the hobby for a while, getting relicensed in 2007. In addition to his antenna work, he is knowledgeable about test equipment and is re-creating his 1958 station with vintage equipment.

Finally, club President **Neil Foster, N4FN**, (at right) will give you the lowdown on station accessories that will come in handy for years to come. Neil will provide you with more than enough items to start your ham radio "wish list" for future holiday gifts, birthdays and other special occasions. Neil was first licensed in 1960 and, after about a 10-year hiatus, returned to the hobby. He has played an active role as an officer in several metro Atlanta radio clubs and has achieved DXCC Honor Roll, with 344 countries confirmed. He also holds British call sign G0NBJ.



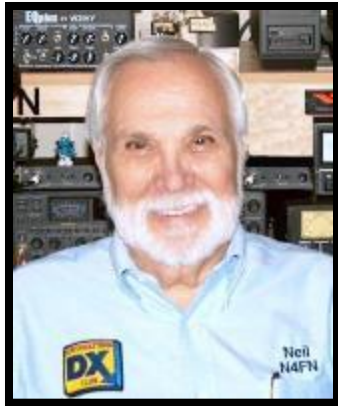
But, don't worry, you don't have to spend a ton of money to get on HF. The most important thing is to get started by getting on the air. Our program will include plenty of practical, everyday information about how to hit the airwaves running without spending a fortune!

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## ***President's Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN***

As we head into the final quarter of an outstanding year, I wish to thank three members of our first-class eNews staff. These three are responsible for putting together, publishing, and disseminating probably the best newsletter in the metro area, if not the country. My thanks go to **Bill Reed, K4YJI, Jim Smith, W4JDS, and Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**. They do a truly outstanding job.

This past month has been quite a busy one with activities galore. Unfortunately, due to personal conflicts, I was unable to participate in Maker Faire, but by all reports it was a great success for our club and amateur radio. Be sure to read the account by **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, elsewhere in this edition. We did participate in the Girl Scout Super STEM Expo, and it was a great deal of fun to see the young ladies send their name in CW and make a bracelet with their name in Morse code, using three different colored beads: one for a dit, one for a dah, and one as a spacer.



Did I mention we had a myriad of activities coming up? The Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) takes place on Saturday, October 18, followed by the Lawrenceville (Stone Mountain) Hamfest on November 1-2. In my opinion, the two-day Stone Mountain event is one of the best in the area. We will have our usual booth, probably in conjunction with our friends at the Southeastern DX Club. Immediately following

the hamfest is our PREMIER event of the year, HamJam 2014 on Saturday, November 8.

**Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and his staff have put together an incredible program that is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. In seeing some of the emails zipping about our [Yahoo! Groups Reflector](#), it appears that the NFARES SET was a huge success. Great job, **Mike Birmingham, K4LJG**, and participants! Saturday, November 15, is a special day for two reasons. It is the Ham Radio Outlet Manufacturers Day open house (which is a great event) and also that day marks my 80th birthday. I spoke with **Mark Holmes, KJ4VO**, and **Robert Ferrero, W6KR**, (he and his dad, **Bob, W6RJ**, own HRO) at HRO and told him I thought it was very nice of them to throw such a great birthday bash. I will be present at our club table and also helping my old buddy, **Rick Ruhl, W4PC**, with Ham Radio Deluxe. If anyone thinks we have not had an activity-laden year they are just plumb wrong!

To round out the year, we will have our usual Christmas/Holiday Party at our club meeting venue. **Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT**, will be heading up this project again. I am happy to report that Bob is doing well. **Walt Woron, KJ4HE**, and I had a great visit with him after his surgery. I missed seeing Bob at a recent Hungry Hams get-together because of a need to make my doctor a bit more endowed with my hard-earned bucks.

During October, our by-laws specify that the Nominating Committee put forth a slate of officers for 2015. In September, I asked that **Walt Woron, KJ4HE, Jim Smith, W4JDS, and Ron Gill, NV4U**, search out candidates for the officers to serve the club in 2015.

They have done so and will publish the report in this issue as the by-laws specify. Of course, there can be nominations from the floor.

We have had several requests from newer hams to have programs that will appeal to new hams and help in setting up their first HF station. Our October program will cover this topic in a way that all members will appreciate and enjoy. Remember, if there is a subject you want to see presented, let a club officer know about it.

In closing, let me make a comment about the NFARL Reflector. The purpose of the Reflector is for a discussion of items to benefit our ham radio community as a whole. It is NOT a sounding board for personal gripes and problems. We must keep the Reflector civil by all means. So, if a perceived issue needs to be followed up, please contact an officer of the club rather than posting an inflammatory item. Most, if not all, issues can be addressed in a civilized manner.

I look forward toward seeing you at the meeting on the 21st.

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## ***Officers Slate Announced for 2015***

Voting for club officers will take place at the October meeting. At that time, nominations for the various offices also can be accepted from the floor.

The Nominating Committee of **Walt Woron, KJ4HE, Jim Smith, W4JDS, and Ron Gill, NV4U**, presents the following slate for your consideration:

<b>K4BB</b>	<b>Bob Beeman</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>KB4KBS</b>	<b>Scott Straw</b>	<b>VP / Program Chairman</b>
<b>N4CLA</b>	<b>Fred Moore III</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>KK4UBQ</b>	<b>Catherine Todd</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>N4TOL</b>	<b>John Tramontanis</b>	<b>Activities Chairman</b>
<b>K4WSW</b>	<b>Bill Weathers</b>	<b>Membership Chairman</b>

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## ***Maker Faire a Big Hit With All / Martha Muir, W4MSA***

Many members of NFARL contributed to the outstanding success of the Georgia ARRL Section booth on amateur radio at the Atlanta Maker Faire held in Decatur on October 4-5. Under the leadership of **Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV**, a coalition of [metro Atlanta radio clubs](#) joined forces to help the 30,000 Faire visitors learn more about amateur radio. “Ham Radio - One of the Original Makers” was the theme for the booth, letting visitors know that hams have been “making” for a long time.

We involved our visitors with Morse code with a display of many styles of keyers all hooked up to make dits and dahs, an HF station that was involved in the Simulated Emergency Test, **Steve Garrison, N4TTY**’s “original texting” teletype machine, three tables full of kit building, **John Kludt, K4SQC**’s satellite equipment, and the ever-popular Morse code bracelet-making for our youngest visitors.

Special thanks go to NFARL member **Jeff Burgett, KI4UTS**, who did a great job with the NFARL table. His “Electrons to Go” activity was especially popular. Jeff reported



Mill Springs Academy Lower School Principal Laurie Jones and son Andrew Jones check out the Wimshurst machine at the Maker Faire in Decatur. Photo by Martha Muir, W4MSA

that more than 250 youth and adults learned more about breadboarding circuits.

Many guests began their adventure with ham radio by being shocked by the Wimshurst machine, a device that, among other things, is really good at attracting folks to our booth. Once drawn in, greeters answered questions our guests had about ham radio and all the areas on display in our booth were pointed out to them. Our booth was clearly not a one-stop event. I was there to talk with teachers about why they should add ham radio concepts to their classrooms.

One of the highlights of the event had to be meeting Audrey Maxim, great-great grand-daughter of Hiram Percy Maxim, founder of the American Radio Relay League! Her mother casually mentioned this heritage to Steve Garrison, possibly unaware how excited the hams there would be to meet her. Audrey was promptly escorted around to meet as many hams as could spare a moment from their duties in the booth. Though this young lady is not a ham, she was told that she “must” become one and was given contact information to provide her with all the help she’d need to get this done.

Folks in charge of the Maker Faire presented our booth with three “Maker of Merit” blue ribbons citing that “we made things, had active displays, looked good, and kept a steady

flow of traffic in our exhibit.” Guests thanked us for all their great experiences at our booth. The folks from Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society said that at least five visitors signed up for their upcoming HamCram. Who knows how many visitors, young and older, were inspired to begin their wonderful adventures with ham radio because of all the marvelous opportunities they had at our booth?

Thanks go out to all NFARL members who helped out at this booth as well as to all the hams from all the clubs (GARS, Alford Memorial and Atlanta Radio Club in particular) who contributed to this stunning success. It was also great to see so many visitors from Mill Springs Academy.



Jim Stafford, W4QO (left) and Wes Lambole, W3WL, grab a photo op with Audrey Maxim, great-granddaughter of ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim. Audrey was a visitor to the amateur radio booth. Photo by Martha Muir, W4MSA



Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK, helps a youngster with a Morse code bracelet at the Maker Faire amateur radio booth. About 40 hams from several metro Atlanta radio clubs participated in radio-related activities at the booth. Photo by Martha Muir, W4MSA

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## ***Hamfest Kicks Off Activities / John Tramontanis, N4TOL***

The [Stone Mountain Hamfest](#) will be November 1-2 in Lawrenceville. NFARL will be represented with a club booth. All are welcomed to visit our table, socialize with friends, and promote the club to visitors.

NFARL supporter Ham Radio Outlet will be holding its annual "Manufacturers Day" on Saturday, November 15. Representatives from various manufacturers will be present and there will be lots of goodies and prizes available to those attending.

Mark December 20 on your calendars for the NFARL Holiday Party. Full details will be in the November eNews.





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## **CQ YL! CQ YL! / Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ**

The YL Net kickoff on Thursday, October 2, was fantastic! Thanks to all of you who participated! Due to such great and overwhelming success, the YL Net will be held every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the 145.47 repeater. The YL Net will be followed by all YLs who would like to join the YLRL (Young Ladies' Radio League) 20 meter net at 9:00 PM on 14.288 MHz.

The purpose of the YL net is to encourage YL participation in ham radio. It is also a way we can get together on the radio waves, get to know each other and have some fun! While the net is to encourage YLs to get on the air, please be assured that we will have fun on all topics that interest the group and not just "tech and radio." The radio discussions will be more generic to assist YLs with questions about getting on the local repeaters, getting on HF, protocol, etc. We want all YLs to feel comfortable getting on the air! NFARL's Tech Talk on Mondays at 8:30 PM is a great resource for discussing the more technical aspects of ham radio and more detailed questions can be covered there.



Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ, (left) and Lori Young, K4UPI, operate during NFARL Field Day 2014. Both are now taking part in the YL Net on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO

Information on how to get set up to participate is located on the [NFARL website](#). Here's a summary of the first YL Net:

15 check-ins, including net control

7 local, including net control : K4UPI, KK4USM, KI4SBK, KK4VLR, K4QIK, and W4ILO

2 DX: VK6DE from Australia and VE7IM from Canada

6 additional states: WB2EKV in New York, AK4LQ in Alaska, KC8PKY in Michigan, K6GRL in California, K4IJK in Rhode Island, and a late check-in due to EchoLink trouble, N7HVF in Utah.

We had a blast sharing how we got started in ham radio and what non-ham hobbies we enjoy! Several common hobbies were cooking, traveling, arts and crafts, and camping. We had YLs with lots of experience as well as new hams, which is what it's all about!

YLs - Please join this exciting net each week! We look forward to lots of YL participation! Please [email me](#) with any questions or suggestions for the net.

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# ***Hams Prove Their Worth During Emergency Test***

***/ Mike Birmingham, K4LJG***

Thanks to the 2014 NFARES SET team and everyone who helped during this year's event, we have had another successful Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

The scenario for this year's SET involved a truck crashing into a train carrying hazardous material : A tank car derailed and exploded, sending a plume of black smoke into the air. An evacuation was ordered by the county.

ARES members were dispatched to fire and police stations, EMC, remote locations, hospitals, shelters, etc., for communications support for the emergency services.

Although this national event is not a contest, the ARRL requests that we complete a form listing specific accomplishments. The results are still being tallied. Last year, we broke all records and, this year we again showed significant improvements. Many of our volunteers for the SET were licensed fewer than five years. That's major for our SET and for our hobby's future!

We have received compliments from the fire and police personnel who were monitoring.

Let's continue to review this SET at future NFARES meetings to discuss not only what we did right, but what we can do better next year.

Thanks again for all of your support to accomplish this team effort.

I would love to hear your personal experiences from this year's SET. Following is mine.

My wife, **Lynne, KK4PMY**, **Betty Buran, KK4QPY**, and myself arrived at Sandy Springs Fire Station 4 at 8:30 AM. The fire station was closed and locked down.

We called the SSEOC, checked in from the car and advised them that the fire station was closed. We were told to go to Station 3. We got there just as **Rob Alford, KK4LZV**, was arriving. Rob was all set to run the station with his laptop and the radio at the station. He was unfamiliar with the radio so I was able to help him and answer some questions about FLdigi. He was confident that he could run the station by himself so we didn't see a need to have four people at that station. We decided not to go back to Station 4 to see if it was open. But we thought it would be more realistic to simulate the loss of Fire Station 3 due to the spill.

We set up our station at Betty's house and we called it Remote Station 1. We checked into the SSEOC with voice and then digital at 9:53 AM. We received 11 digital messages and sent six digital messages including messages to Alpharetta.



**Bill Reed, K4YJI, operates from a Sandy Springs fire station. Photo by Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**



Grant Register, KK4PCR, worked the SET from the Sandy Springs Fire Station 1. Photo by Tom Koch, W4UOC

I used my Yaesu FT-8800 radio with a J-pole antenna in the attic. We acoustically coupled from my laptop for digital.

It was a good experience for many reasons. It was good to know that we could receive and transmit on simplex from a remote location outside of North Fulton to many of the stations. It is important to remain flexible in a real emergency and have a "go kit" available to move to a remote location. It also would be realistic to set up a station at someone's home outside the event area.

I heard a lot of the transmissions and found the operators very professional.

**Tom Koch, W4UOC**, was the area-wide NCS for the Sandy Springs EOC.

He reported that the Sandy Springs and Johns Creek fire stations, Northside Hospital and Emory Johns Creek Hospital were well-covered with amateur radio operators during the SET. Other stations that were covered included Sandy Springs Fire Station 2 with **Bill Reed, K4YJI**, and **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**.

**Mike Lozano, KF4UPO**, operated the Emory Johns Creek Hospital and **Brian Mallard, N2EYI**, operated from Johns Creek Fire Station 62.



Stew Tarkington, N1DQC, was also stationed at Sandy Springs Fire Station 1. Photo by Tom Koch, W4UOC

Roswell, Alpharetta and Milton amateurs operated stations in those cities as well and those included: Alpharetta EOC, **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, NCS, and **Mike Clark, KK4YDQ**; Alpharetta Fire Station 1, **Pavel Anni, AC4PA** and **Tony Fullard, K4AWF**; Alpharetta Fire Station 4, **Wayne Rand, W4CJV**; Alpharetta Mobile Command Vehicle **Bret Arnold, N4BTA** and Alpharetta Police Detective **John Strika, WC8V**;

Roswell NCS **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**; Roswell Fire Station 1, **Tim Romashko, KK4VHZ**; Roswell Fire Station 2, **Ron Gill, NV4U**; Roswell Fire Station 3, **Bob Coleman, KM4CJF**; North Fulton Hospital, **Garry Brass, AK4NA**; Roswell Shelter Roswell High School, **Daryl Young, K4RGK**; Roswell Shelter Crabapple Middle School, **Lori Young, K4UPI**, and **Tim Lemmon, WK4U**; and North Fulton Community Charities, **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**.

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## ***On the Road? Meet Some Hams! / Scott Straw, KB4KBS***

If you are out of town on business, the odds are good that your days are filled with work but your evenings may be filled with sitting in a hotel room watching TV. This was my case for two weeks recently.

I was in a small town near Lansing, Michigan, the state's capital. Searching the Internet, I discovered that the [Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club](#) was based in the area and while I would not be there for the club's monthly meeting, I was able to join them at a Saturday evening social dinner gathering.

Similar to NFARL's Hungry Hams, this group meets at a Denny's and they are adamant that it is intended to be a family event with spouses and children encouraged to attend.

The dinner has occurred every Saturday night since June 2007 – that's over seven years and they proudly boast that the only time they didn't meet was when a horrific ice storm froze the city. They would have met that night except the restaurant lost power just after 6:00 PM and closed early.



It wasn't hard to find this group and they welcomed me warmly.

Denny's is the place to be for hams on Saturday nights in Lansing, Michigan.  
Photo / Courtesy of Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Not surprisingly, they were very much like the members of NFARL. There were engineers, retirees, military veterans, software programmers, a pastor, and various other professions. Over the course of the evening I counted about three dozen in attendance including several wives and lots of children. There were Extras, Generals, and Technicians, rag chewers, Digital enthusiasts and Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) members. I even met someone with a Peanut Power Sprint number!

One neat thing they had was a "geek table." This was a tongue-in-cheek joke, but there was a gentleman with a laptop and he had a collection of interface cables that would allow him to program most every make and model of hand-held and mobile radio with all of the repeater and simplex frequencies used in the area. He could load frequencies into your radios "while you eat."

I enjoyed the fellowship and a chance to meet new ham radio friends. I was happy to tell them about how our club has rebounded with such resiliency. In turn, they were

proud of how they had made a concerted effort to include family members in their activities. It was a wonderful experience.

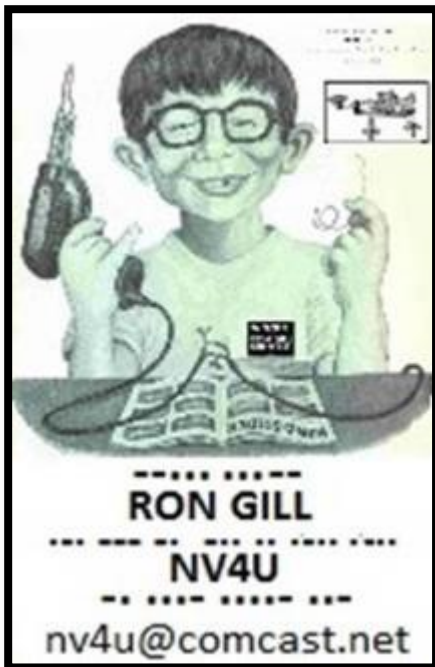
I encourage you to take the time to look for clubs and repeaters in the cities you might travel to and make an effort to attend any of the club social events or meetings that might occur during your stay. Sharing the common bond of our great hobby is a good way to make new friends and to escape the dreariness of eating alone and staring at the walls of a hotel room in a far-away city.

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## ***When Going Mobile, Keep It Simple / Ron Gill, NV4U***

I have not operated a great deal in the VHF regions and I have not used a lot of the more exotic modes such as digital or modern radio systems like SDR.

I have, however, done my share of mobile and portable operation using phone and CW. Probably the area that I get the most questions about is mobile operations.



While mobile I have Worked All Continents, many states and many countries on 5 watts QRP AM with less than \$50 worth of equipment.

As with most aspects of ham radio, we hams usually tend to make things a bit more complicated than they need to be. You basically need to have the same equipment on the road that you would need for a "base" station.

You need to have a radio, a power supply, a feed line and an antenna. Nothing more is necessary.

Fortunately, your vehicle comes with a power supply. The 12-volt battery in most vehicles is more than adequate to supply the average mobile transceiver.

The feed line can be any 50-ohm coax that you care to use. A lightweight coax like RG-58 is a good choice since in a mobile installation there are rarely any heavy power-handling requirements and cable runs are

relatively short.

The antenna is probably the most controversial part of any mobile installation.

There are so many choices : screwdriver antennas, Hamstick-style antennas, Hustler multibands with interchangeable coils, steel whips, halos, squalos and on and on.

I like to keep it simple and CHEAP.

I use a Hamstick-style antenna, made by MFJ. I favor the MFJ because the top section separates from the main mast of the antenna rather than telescoping into the mast. This eliminates having to retune when reassembling the antenna.

These antennas only cost between \$15 and \$20 each and if you whack one off your car you won't feel nearly as bad as if it were a \$100 or more.

I use the well-made Hustler quick disconnect fittings so that changing antennas for different bands is fast and easy. Once I stop the car I can get out, remove and store the antenna that I have been using, assemble an antenna for another band and mount it on the car and be back behind the wheel in less than two minutes. Not bad for a gimpy old man.

The radio I use is a Yaesu 857D with 100 watts HF, 50 watts VHF and 25 watts UHF.

It's compact-size and remote head capability make it ideal for on-the-go mobile operation.

My feedlines (one HF and one VHF/UHF) are very short.

The power cable is connected directly to the battery terminals using fuses on both the negative and positive leads. The power cable is fed through the fender well and back into the passenger cabin using grommets to protect the cable where it passes through bulkheads.

Just remember: The key is keep it simple.

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***Show Your Support for HR 4969,***

***the Radio Amateur Parity Act of 2014!***

***Contact Your U.S. Representative!***

***Learn More [Here!](#)***



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***EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT HAMJHAM 2014 CAN BE  
FOUND AT***

***[HAMJAM.INFO](http://HAMJAM.INFO)***

## **Contact Us**

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## Club Repeaters

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

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