

Reminder: HamJam Was Our November Meeting



**NFARL eNEWS
November 2014**

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 for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



***Holiday Party: December 20
Make Your Reservations
Today at NFARL MART!***

Festivities will be from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center (our usual meeting site) and will feature traditional Italian cuisine catered by Baminelli's (same as last year). Good food and good company and it's only \$20 per person. Last day to buy is December 13. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.



Meeting Reminder.

The Holiday Party will be our December meeting.

Our next Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Third Tuesday of the month) will be on January 20.

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 No. 1** – 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 group.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – No NFARL club meeting November 18. HamJam 2014 replaces our regular November meeting.**
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – November 25**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting – December 9**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Talk-in station on 147.06 repeater. Check the NFARES [website](#) for more information.
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session – December 13**, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – No NFARL club meeting December 16. NFARL Holiday Party will replace our regular December meeting.**
- **Third Saturday – NFARL Holiday Party – December 20**, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Dinner tickets are on sale at [NFARL Mart](#). Ticket deadline is December 13. No tickets sold at the door.

Show Your Support for HR 4969,

the Radio Amateur Parity Act of 2014!

Contact Your U.S. Representative!

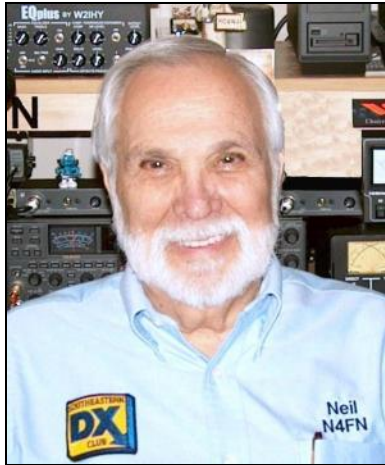
Learn More [Here](#)



President's Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN

It looks like this will be my last article of the year and my last as president of NFARL. I am not sure where this year went but it has flown by. Looking back, I am happy to report a good gain in membership, not only due to the testing sessions, but also due to the HamCram events this year. Kudos to those responsible.

We just completed a great HamJam event, and, as expected, we not only had a great program but excellent attendance as well. The choice of speakers was outstanding and a great mix of topics presented. The presenters and their hosts went out to dinner the evening before to get acquainted with each other. The presentations were great and



very informative. For me, I learned things from **Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA**, on propagation I was not aware of. It just shows that although I have been a ham for almost 56 years, one can always learn. I was most impressed with the dedication that **Carole Perry, WB2MGP**, has had in working with youth programs for all these years. Although I have known **Martin F. Jue, K5FLU**, for more than 30 years, I enjoyed hearing about his humble beginnings growing up in rural Mississippi and how he built MFJ from the ground up. His humor was a side of Martin I had not seen before.

On November 1-2, we were at the Stone Mountain Hamfest, which is always a great event. Attendance seemed to be a bit off, and I am sure that the wind and cold had a lot to do with that. The flea market was not as well attended, and I am sure the weather was a huge factor. I braved the cold for about 30 minutes and called it quits. The inside vendor attendance seemed to be about the same as in past years.

On November 15 we were represented at the Ham Radio Outlet Manufacturers Day. Thanks to **Bob Beeman, K4BB**, **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and **Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT**, for helping staff our club display. The attendance was quite good and there were a number of NARFLites present. It seems we did OK in the prize drawings since I noted a number of us winning nice gifts from HRO and various vendors. It was a nice turnout and a lot of fun: Kind of a "mini hamfest." **Mark Holmes, KJ4VO**, and crew provided lunch for those attending. We even had our DX friend **Dr. Vito Leo, ON6VL**, present. Nancy and I had dinner with him later that evening, as we try to do whenever he is in town.

Our annual Christmas/ Holiday Party will be on December 20 at our monthly meeting place. Please go to [NFARL Mart](#) and make your reservations as soon as possible. All the information is there and the menu has some slight changes for this year. The great news is that the cost per person did not change.

[TechFest 2015](#) will take place on January 10, sponsored by our friends at Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society. This is always a fun event, and a freebie, too. Techfest is a show-and-tell of amateur radio and we will participate.

Because of the change in the question pool for the Technician license, we had to postpone the HamCram until early 2015. Hopefully, we will have a date soon.

New officers will take the helm in 2015, and I am sure they will do a great job. Those elected at the October meeting are:

President: **Bob Beeman, K4BB**

Vice President: **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**

Secretary (effective February 1): **Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ**

Treasurer: **Fred Moore, N4CLA**

Activities: **John Tramontanis, N4TOL**

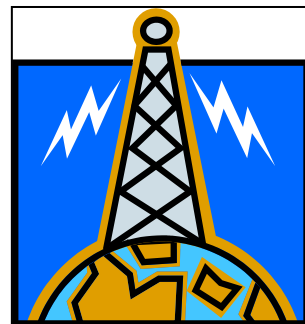
Membership: **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**

Congratulations, all! Please support them in all the club's endeavors this coming year. I have enjoyed working with the Executive Committee and all the members of a GREAT club, and I wish to thank one and all for the opportunity. I hope you have a wonderful Holiday season and a HAPPY and HEALTHY New Year.

10 Meter Contest – You're Invited! / Jim Stafford, W4QO

The ARRL 10M contest comes up the weekend of December 13-14. As **Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA**, told us at HamJam, that great 10M propagation will not be as good as it now is for very many more years. So why not join the Contest SIG in one of two ways:

1. Come to my shack that weekend for a couple of hours of operating fun. 10 meters is mostly open during the day so I'll take guest operators from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Saturday and from noon – to 7:00 PM on Sunday. Send me an [email](#) to reserve an hour or two during those time slots. If you are licensed, you can operate totally by yourself (within your license band limits, of course). You may operate where I am the control op if you are not licensed or want full access to the entire band. You'll learn logging and many more skills to have fun. If there are enough of you interested, we'll use the club's contest call sign, K4JJ.



2. Operate your own station and send only your total score to me after the contest as you're also sending your full entry to the ARRL. You may show the North Fulton ARL as your club affiliation for this one. Let's see what kind of club score we can muster this year.

If you know CW, we'll do that as well and get twice the points! See the [ARRL website](#) for full details. So mark your calendars, send me an email along with the time you'd like to operate and we'll make it happen!

HAMJAM 2014

Three Speakers Share Expertise at HamJam

/ Wes Lamboley, W3WL

Another HamJam – Number Six - is in the books – and we are already planning for next year! Please let [me](#) or [Jim Stafford, W4QO](#), know what you might want to hear, not hear, see, not see, etc., for next year. We would love to hear from you.

As for this year, it was an exciting event. **Carole Perry, WB2MGP**, led off with a history of her involvement with teaching youth about ham radio and electronics for over 40 years. She is a mainstay at Dayton in the Youth Lounge and Forums, as well as in the public school classrooms in New York City. She offered many ideas on how to get youth interested in radio, and offered to help anyone who asked. Our own **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, of Mill Springs Academy was able to get some good ideas from Carole.

The second speaker was **Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA**, who followed on beautifully from Carole's lead, and spoke to other ways to involve youth in the science of ham radio. He then went on to describe the sun and what is going on with spots and weather and propagation. It was really interesting, especially to DXers. Carl has done webinars on the Gray Line and Propagation and the Maunder Minimum that can be found [online](#). Carl's slides that were discussed at HamJam can be found at his [website](#).

Our last speaker was **Martin F. Jue, K5FLU**. Martin founded MFJ in 1972 and his story is one of the greatest success stories of all time! His entire presentation can be seen in the videos that **Wey Walker, K8EAB**, took. The story is in three parts and is well worth watching if you were not there, or worth watching again if you were! See them on YouTube: [Part I](#), [Part II](#), [Part III](#).

Again – thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets in support of the youth projects NFARL underwrites. We hope to see you again next year!



HamJam again drew a large crowd to hear three top-notch speakers. Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

HAMJAM 2014

Youth: Where Do We Go From Here? / Jim Stafford, W4QO

HamJam 2014 is history. I have not heard how much we cleared for the Youth Fund (money set aside for youth projects only), but last year NFARL gave more than \$3,000

to such projects. Last I heard, all expenses were paid before the event so every cent spent for raffle tickets that last week and at HamJam went straight to the fund.

OK, we have more money now. How do we invest it for promoting not just youth in amateur radio but for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)? After all, many of us old timers can attribute our interest in ham radio to getting us into technical careers. We should pass along the concept and support the next generation in their dreams.

I paid close attention to what **Carole Perry, WB2MGP**, youth promoter extraordinaire, said during her talk, Yes, giving to scholarships is fine but it focuses the money on one or a couple of young folks. Her approach has been aimed at finding young achievers and rewarding them publicly. Rather than a thousand-dollar scholarship, she would give smaller stipends to more youth who demonstrate exceptional talent. This might include winning a science fair, designing a robot, or even seeking a patent. I would expand it to include even those youth doing something other than ham radio! Wouldn't



Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK, helps a young visitor to the ham radio Maker Faire booth in October, an event that received support from the NFARL Youth Fund.

it be impressive if NFARL awarded \$200 for a winner of a science fair with a photo in the paper, recognizing ham radio and the young person at the same time? How about a stipend for every student in north Fulton who gets a perfect score on this year's SAT? Those almost always are in newspapers and are honored at school. And North Fulton Amateur Radio League could be acknowledged as well!

Of course, if it is a ham radio project or study, all the better. Awards would be based on whatever the Youth Fund administrators think it should be.

Spread the money around, not just give a scholarship to someone who has a ham license, but to those students who "rise to the top" in achievement.

Here are some of the things that Youth Fund money went for this past year: Scholarships, ARRL teacher institutes, Maker Faire, youth DX adventure, a teacher workshop with 10 science teachers attending fully funded. I'm sure there were many more areas of support and I'm sure we can do much of this again.

Now, put on your thinking caps and help find the best place to put our investment in 2015. Keep your eyes out for opportunities. And maybe we can invite some or all of our recipients to come to a club meeting and tell us what they do/did. Just email our 2015 incoming president, [Bob Beeman](#), with your ideas.

YLs on the Move / Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ

The NFARL YL Net is proving to be a huge success! I wanted to take a few moments to share some stats and feedback with everyone.

First, thanks to all the wonderful YLs who have participated and provided suggestions and feedback. It takes all of us to make this a success! I want to also thank the OMs for standing back and letting the YLs get amazing things going. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated!

So far we have had YLs from 15 states checking in! Wow! Represented so far are: Washington, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Hawaii, Florida, Alabama, Ohio, New York, Rhode Island, Michigan, New Jersey, California and Georgia. Not enough you say? We've also had YLs checking in from Canada and Australia! Such awesome participation and we're continuing to grow. We started our first YL net with 14 check-ins. Now we are averaging 19 to 20 check-ins each week! No doubt we're just getting warmed up!

What do we talk about? We've covered such topics as historic moments and YL icons in the wireless arena (Medora Olive Newell, for example), statistics on YL activity in the United States and Australia, cultural fun facts about Australia, ham radio experiences we have had, how we got started in ham radio, the history of the VK5YL call sign held by regular check-in Shirley (at right), YLRL and other international YL groups, what is "33" and when is it used, 2 meter repeater protocol, what is a repeater, etc. As you can see, we've covered so much in just seven weeks!



What are people saying about the YL net? Here are some highlights:

"Could you please add me to your contact list for the YL net you run? Your net tonight was actually my very first time on the radio. Thanks, Kelly"

"Hi, Catherine, so nice to hear from you! I will be on future EchoLink nets. That is such a GREAT idea. I am going to suggest EchoLink be used as a net here in Massachusetts. 33, KA1ULN"

"Looking forward to joining your net this week! 33, Anne"

"I hope we get more check-ins this week. We need to keep these types of nets going to get more YLs involved in the hobby. It's not just an OM's hobby. 33, Linda"

"I am new to ham and we have also gotten my mom try it out. She tried to check in tonight with the North Fulton but she was having a problem with her radio, she wants to try again next week. I am still learning my radio but this YL group is a great way to practice and talk to other ladies. I really appreciate you putting together this net. Leslie"

The YL net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM ET (0100 UTC Friday) 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) 20M net at 9:00 PM ET (0200 UTC) 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's purpose 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 or concerns 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 Monday evenings is a great resource for discussing the more technical aspects of ham radio and more detailed questions can be covered there.

Information on how to get set up to participate in the net is located on the [NFARL website](#).

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.

Club Shines at Stone Mountain / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

A big thank you to all the club members who volunteered at the NFARL booth at the Stone Mountain Hamfest. We were able to promote our club and HamJam to the crowd, as well as having many club members escape the cold of the boneyard and socialize at our table.

Be sure to mark December 20 on your calendar for the NFARL Holiday Party, which will be held at the club's usual meeting site from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The menu features traditional Italian cuisine from Babinelli's. Details for making your reservation are available on the [NFARL website](#).

The club will also have a presence at the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society TechFest on January 10. This is always a fun event, featuring the popular GARS chilli cook-off competition. Full details on the [GARS website](#).



Clark Macaulay, WU4B, and Fred Moore, N4CLA, at the NFARL table at the Stone Mountain Hamfest.

NFARL MART TIPS / Fred Moore, N4CLA

Tip Number 1

What happened to my order?

There have been many uncompleted orders since we started using the mart for various purchases. If you feel that something happened to your order during the entry process or you just got interrupted or whatever and you didn't complete your order, try this and see if your order is still there in an unfinished status.

Log back in with your user ID and password and look at the bottom on the left side of the page for this message:

Your Cart's Contents

1 Item **Total:** \$20.00

([View cart](#)) ([Checkout](#))

If this message is not there, then you do not have an order that was left open.

If the message is there, then you do have at least one open order that never went to completion.

So, click on the **<View Cart>**, then click **<Checkout>** or you can click **<continue shopping>** or you can actually look at the shopping cart and put a check mark in the **<remove>** box and then click **<update>** to remove your order completely.. At this point you are back to where you were, wondering what happened to my order.

If this did not answer your question, then send a note to help@nfarl.org

NFARL Presents Sessions at School Conference

NFARL members continued their outreach to teachers at the annual Conference of the Georgia Independent School Association on November 3. The GISA Conference was held at the Mount Pisgah Christian School in Johns Creek. **Chuck Catledge,**



AE4CW, Mike Cohen, AD4MC, Jim Stafford, W4QO, John Kludt, K4SQC, Wes Lamboley, W3WL, along with **Jim Wingate, WA2EIU,** and **Martha Muir, W4MSA,** presented three programs on different ways and different reasons to use aspects of amateur radio to “Enrich Your STEM Curriculum with Ham Radio.” These sessions were based on the teacher workshop this team held in May following the Atlanta Science Festival’s Exploration EXPO.

Chuck explained and demonstrated that “Electricity is Magnetic!” Jim Stafford followed with a presentation about antennas titled “The STEM That Makes Ham Radio Work.” Mike led off the second session with “Ham Radio is Digital!” and Wes followed up with “Ham Radio = Science,” in which he showed teachers how the concepts of ham radio fit in the state curriculum requirements. John led the third session titled “Amateur Radio and Satellite Technology.” Jim Wingate showed how his school uses concepts of wireless technology in their class projects and Martha presented a packet of resources for teachers to use.

Teachers in attendance expressed their appreciation for the programs that had been presented in these sessions.

How to Get W1AW Special QSLs / Dave Higdon Jr., KD4ICT

You have worked the W1AW special event stations this year and have many confirmations via Logbook of the World. Did you know the ARRL is going to send cards also via the QSL bureau? Normally, stateside cards are not distributed in this manner. But, for this special event, an exception is in the works. To sign up for your cards, use this [link](#) and submit your call sign.



For this to work, you must have envelopes on file with the appropriate bureau. If you are not familiar with the process, check out this [site](#) and be prepared for when the cards are sent. If you have any questions or need help, ask around and you will find plenty of experienced bureau users in the club.

NFARL Kudos

Club members have passed along the following "tips of the hat" to NFARL!

Atlanta Hams Lucky to Have Access to Clubs, Activities

Unfortunately, I got stuck with an early apartment-hunting appointment so I ended up missing HamJam.

I must say that we're very lucky to be hams in the Atlanta area because we have several very active clubs here, as well as a real brick and mortar HRO. We've got two hamfests, HamJam, TechFest, Second Sunday Tech, Maker Faire, ARES and HRO Manufacturers Day. Plus a robust selection of license testing locations, Field Day sites, festivals, parades, races and such.

Rob Osattin, KI4UTY

Thanks to NFARL for an Excellent HamJam Event

The HamJam 2014 event was excellent. Congratulations to NFARL for putting on such a great event.

I didn't have any expectations of winning a prize but when my name was called out for the ICOM IC-80AD, I couldn't believe it. I've been having fun today learning how to operate it. Thanks to NFARL for the prize and I appreciate it a lot. I signed the letter to thank ICOM but also wanted to send NFARL a thank you note as well.

Vaden McDonald, NN4K

Club's Greatest Asset: Members Who Are Willing to Help, Share

The Georgia State Defense Force purchased a repeater to help overcome some of their VHF communications problems during missions. I am the person responsible for getting the repeater up and running. I would not have been able to get this repeater up and operational without the generous help and advice of NFARL member **Bill Hampton, W400**. Bill spent several hours and countless emails getting the repeater programmed, tuned and operating on the required frequencies. This task would have been more difficult and more time-consuming without his help.

It is the huge knowledge base of our membership and their willingness to share that knowledge and help with others that makes this a great club.

Roger Shaddick, N7BU

Who-o-o-o Are You? / Ron Gill, NV4U

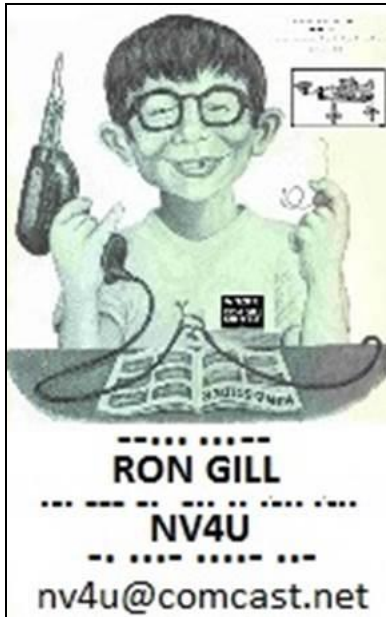
With all due deference to Pete Townshend and The Who.

Who Are You?

We have over 300 members in our club.

Our being the operative word.

How many do you know? How many know you?



There are so many great aspects to ham radio; it's really difficult to gain insight to all or even most of them.

Probably the fastest, easiest and best way to learn about ham radio is from other hams!

The classic portrait of ham radio is hams talking to hams. Actually I've known hams who never communicated via ham radio, but I never met a ham who didn't at least talk to other hams.

That being said, get to know more hams and let more hams get to know you.

I've learned more and had more fun since I've gotten into the social aspects of the hobby.

Everybody has something to learn and everyone has something to add. Join in, participate!

How to participate:

Get on the nets, get on the reflectors, go to meetings, go to Hungry Hams, (I don't like most barbecue but Hungry Hams is more about the hams. It's a great event),

volunteer, (If you've never tried it, you will be amazed! I always come away with far more than I give).

Post on the NFARL Facebook page.

Fill in your history on QRZ.com and post your picture. Check out other hams on QRZ.

If the SWR is less than 10:1, call CQ and have fun!

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	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

Contact Us

President	Neil Foster, N4FN 770-321-9348	<u>President@nfarl.org</u>
Vice President and Program Chairman	Walt Woron, KJ4HE	<u>VicePresident@nfarl.org</u>
Secretary	Mike Birmingham, K4LJG	<u>Secretary@nfarl.org</u>
Treasurer and Repeater Trustee	Fred Moore, N4CLA 404-434-4499	<u>Treasurer@nfarl.org</u>
Past President	John Kludt, K4SQC 770-891-8091	<u>PastPresident@nfarl.org</u>
Activities Chairman	John Tramontanis, N4TOL	<u>Activities@nfarl.org</u>
Membership Chairman and HamCram	Bill Weathers, K4WSW	<u>Membership@nfarl.org</u> <u>HamCram@nfarl.org</u>
Mentors/Elmers	Chuck Catledge, AE4CW 770-641-7729	<u>Elmers@nfarl.org</u>
Field Day Chairman	John Kludt, K4SQC 770-891-8091	<u>k4sqc@nfarl.org</u>
Scout Coordinator	Jon Wittlin, K4WIT	<u>k4wit@nfarl.org</u>
ARES Liaison and Community Relations	Jim Paine, N4SEC 770-475-4454	<u>n4sec@nfarl.org</u>
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden, W5JR 404-781-9494	<u>Repeaters@nfarl.org</u>
Web Master	Bill Cobb, K4YJJ 770-396-5007	<u>Webmaster@nfarl.org</u>
NFARL eNEWS Publisher	Bill Reed, K4YJI 770-993-5758	<u>k4yji@nfarl.org</u>
NFARL eNEWS Editor	Jim Smith, W4JDS 404-406-6330	<u>Editor@nfarl.org</u>

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