

Reminder: Holiday Party Is Our December Meeting



NFARL eNEWS December 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**.



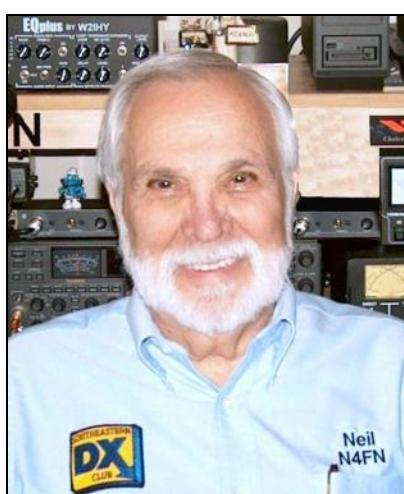
Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
 - **Every Monday – Tech Net** - 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 get-together.
 - **Third Tuesday – No NFARL club meeting December 16. NFARL Holiday Party on December 20 replaces our regular December meeting.**
 - **Third Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – December 16**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
 - **Third Saturday – NFARL Holiday Party – December 20** - The party will from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM with dinner served about 7:00 PM. The festivities will be held at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, site of our monthly club meetings. Dress is holiday casual.
- **January 2015**
- **Second Saturday – Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society TechFest 2015 – January 10**, 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM - Gwinnett Medical Center's Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway (Georgia 120), Lawrenceville. See the [GARS website](#) for more info.

- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session – January 10**, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting – January 13**, 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. See the [NFARES website](#) for more info.
 - **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – January 20**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
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President's Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN

This year has really flown by with a number of accomplishments by all the members of NFARL! I have been proud to serve as president and play a part in the year's accomplishments. I have been fortunate indeed to have a great crew on the Executive



Committee, as well as other former exec members. It has been an honor to serve the club this year. It is a smart individual to let capable people handle the projects they worked on, and not micro-manage or interfere. I would hope that I had been that "smart."

We now have a new slate of officers coming in to manage the club's affairs, and I would hope that we all support them in their endeavors. The key to the great meetings we have had in the past is input from the members. **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, will be responsible for programming, so please support him with ideas and suggestions for continued great programs. It is your club.

I know **Bob Beeman, k4bb** (that is the way he likes his call), will do a great job as we begin the transition to 2015. So please continue with your support to him.

I would like to wish one and all a Happy and Healthy Holiday season.

Thanks again.

Neil Foster N4FN

Show Your Support for HR 4969,

the Radio Amateur Parity Act of 2014!

Contact Your U.S. Representative!

Learn More [Here](#)



Meet NFARL's 2015 President: Bob Beeman, K4BB

Bob Beeman, K4BB, will be taking over the helm as NFARL president in 2015. The following blog article, reflecting on this year's HamJam, is from k4bb.com, Bob's ham radio website, which contains a wealth of interesting ideas.

HamJam 2014 – A Great Event

HamJam is not a hamfest. HamJam is not a club meeting or a field day type of operating contest. There is no flea market or section for vendor booths. It is not a convention.

HamJam is bigger than all that.

HamJam is an event organized by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League where top speakers are invited to talk about their amateur radio passions, and to paint their vision of amateur radio's future. This is a home-grown, tried and true, mom and apple-pie, American-made pure ham-radio event for radio talk.



For this year's HamJam, there were three notable speakers on the program. The event was well organized, and the speakers all had things to say that were relevant for the amateur radio community.

Carole Perry, WB2MGP

Carole was the first speaker on the agenda, and properly so. Her presentation was all about how to get the amateur radio message and hobby to youth. She is the youth programs liaison for the ARRL and other noteworthy organizations. She talked about the opportunity that amateur radio has in the nation's schools, and how amateur radio can be blended into a curriculum.

Carole's presentation caused me to realize how wrong I have been about teaching high school kids about amateur radio. I had assumed that the purpose was to bring young people into the hobby to bolster our ranks to be able to keep doing the things we do. This is only a part of the reason we should have programs for teaching amateur radio in our schools.

The primary reason for teaching amateur radio in our nation's schools is that we are not only making a future for ham radio, but we will be making a better future for our nation. I know that many people, including me, were influenced to get technical degrees because we were involved with amateur radio in high school. After all these years, I had been taking that influence for granted.

Mrs. Perry's message was simple. Don't hesitate to venture forth in carrying the amateur radio message to schools. We have the physical and people resources to get this job done. Just think of how much better this world would be with more hams that value technology and friendship.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

[Carl](#) gave us an interesting and informative talk about the historical and future sunspot cycles. He began his talk with comments on the famous graph of historical temperatures called the Hockey Stick. His indication was that the graph was not correct, and that it did not reflect the influence of the sun on Earth's climate. At least that was my interpretation.

Please allow me to expand on this theme. The so-called Hockey Stick graph has been thoroughly refuted in peer-reviewed studies. The tree-ring data was misused, and the statistical algorithms were juiced to show just one result, a hockey-stick shaped graph. The purported result was that well-understood historical periods were erased, and 20th century temperatures were boosted relative to those historical periods. The so-called hockey-stick erased the Maunder Minimum along with the Little Ice Age, and the Medieval Warm Period that scientists have determined was as warm as the current warm period. Hundreds of peer-reviewed studies were supposedly trashed because of just one study. For one scientific view, see [Ross McKittrick's short write-up on the Hockey Stick.](#)

I believe that Carl's message was that the correlation between climate and solar activity were being given short shrift. This may be true because the much-vaunted climate models have failed to predict the current halt in global warming for the last 18 years. The global temps have, on average, been flat for almost two decades. All this bodes ill for the assumed cause/effect relationships upon which climate scientists base their usually incorrect projections.

Simple translation – The lower the solar activity, the worse the HF propagation, the colder the climate. Of course all this is subject to future measures of climate and propagation. I, for one, will plan on lots of low-band activity and will lay in a supply of flannel pajamas.

If I have misinterpreted Carl, I apologize. I would certainly like to hear from him.

Martin F. Jue, K5FLU

[Mr. Jue](#) was the icing on the cake. Martin presented the story of his life, and the history of MFJ Enterprises, his company. Martin named his company with his initials so that if the company were a failure, his family name would not be dishonored.

Starting life working in a family grocery store, Martin learned humility and hard work. The family grocery store was in the Mississippi Delta town of Hollandale, which is south of Greenville. At the time of his youth, the rural South, and especially the Mississippi Delta, was locked in poverty with the hangover of the "Cotton Is King" economy.

From humble beginnings he went to Mississippi State University at Starkville, where he earned his BSEE. Later, he earned his MSEE from Georgia Tech, and went on to work in the PhD engineering program at Mississippi State. He never did his dissertation because he was busy building his company, concentrating on the amateur radio market.

The early days of MFJ were the most interesting to me. It was almost like Martin was just trying to earn some lunch money, and his low-cost audio filters, and other small inexpensive products, propelled MFJ into the forefront of the amateur radio market. Martin Jue had correctly read the market as being a low-cost market. After all, hams are famous for doing their own thing, and Martin was smart enough to take advantage of that.

His affiliation with Mississippi State University has stood him in good stead. The folks there love him, and he has made Starkville famous for something other than good engineers and SEC football. Times are good for the Magnolia State and its successful children.

One of the big things I learned about the early MFJ products was the rationale of using that atrocious glue to hold the small circuit boards and battery holders in place. It was not the best solution, but it was something cheap and effective that Martin used to keep costs down. It worked for him, and most of us lived through the experience of dealing with the ucky stuff when things went wrong and we needed access to the underneath of something ensconced in cheap glue.

HamJam 2014 was an unqualified success. I had fun, and I believe everyone else experienced the same thing. Plus, I bought a couple of sheets of raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the really beautiful prizes. Like I said, HamJam ain't no hamfest. It's better.

NFARL Helps Students With Rover / Martha Muir, W4MSA

This semester NFARL member **John Kludt, K4SQC**, has been spending Wednesday afternoons working with Mill Springs Academy students **Trey Reid, KK4QJB**, and **Megan Brown** to replicate parts of the ARRL Mars Amateur Radio Exploration Activity (MAREA) project. Trey and Megan are students in the ACE class. MAREA is designed to give students a simulated experience of “driving” the Mars rover, using five-step computer programs sent via digital modes on an HF radio.

John worked with Megan and Trey to learn basic computer commands to send via 2 meter packet radio that would cause the Boe-Bot robot to drive a certain direction for a specific distance or to turn left or right a precise amount. Even John was impressed that “we actually had that working and it was pretty cool!”

Next, Megan and Trey put several large sheets of paper together and drew an “obstacle course” that the robot would have to cover without running off the roadway. Doing all of this required Trey and Megan to measure distances and angles. Eventually bridges and hills were added to this course, which made the measurements much more critical.

In spare moments, John helped Trey and Megan make digital contacts on the radio. They were excited to contact operators in Cumming as well as in Utah, Nevada, Canada and Brazil.



NFARL member John Kludt, K4SQC, works with Mill Springs Academy students Trey Reid, KK4QJB, and Megan Brown on their MARES Boe-Bot project. They also made digital contacts on the radio. Photos by Martha Muir, W4MSA.

Party Closes Out the Year / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2014 NFARL Holiday Party on Saturday, December 20. It is our final event of the year and some may say we save the best for last.

For 2015, we will kick off the new year with the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society [TechFest](#) on January 10. This is an event with free admission (and free lunch if you like chili!) with great activities based on technical themes that should not be missed.

The hamfest season in Georgia will start in Dalton on February 28. It's a short drive for a good time.

Did you know that 2015 will mark the 40th anniversary of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League? Stay tuned for special happenings ahead.



NFARL Hams 'Talk Turkey' / Jim Paine, N4SEC

Way down upon the Suwannee River ... I bet you can't say that without singing it!



Three NFARL members, **Terry Joyner, W4YBV**, **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, set out on November 22 and 23 from Steinhatchee, Florida, for fun and a good time with ham radio by making contacts from the Turkey Islands on the beautiful Suwannee River in west central Florida.

The Micro-DXpedition operated from Terry's 26-foot center-console boat and wire antennas were deployed on the islands. Although the antenna installations weren't "pretty," they worked quite well.

The two islands were successfully activated with the USi group and assigned numbers FL 496R and FL 497R. Even a little rain and wind each day didn't dampen the spirits of the team! Over two days, 168 contacts were made with other ham radio operators in 40 states and 11 countries.

What a great way to spend the weekend before the real turkey day!



Jim Paine, N4SEC, Wes Lamboley, W3WL, and Terry Joyner, W4YBV, put the Turkey Islands on the air in November.

NFARL Prepares Mill Springs Students for Wireless Electronics Seminar / Martha Muir, W4MSA

On December 12, **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, and **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, worked with more than a dozen students in grades 7 to 10 to introduce them to the Wireless Electronics topics they will be taking up next month.

During the first two weeks in January, students in grades 7 through 12 at Mill Springs Academy pick two one-week seminars in which to participate. Topics of these specialty seminars range from Team Building to Investigations in Science Fiction to trips to Puerto Rico and beyond. Fourteen students signed up for the Wireless Electronics seminar designed by Jim and Chuck.

That Friday was Winter Learning Prep Day, where students met with the instructors of



the seminars to find out what they will be doing over the upcoming holiday break. Jim and Chuck went over the tentative schedule which features different lessons and

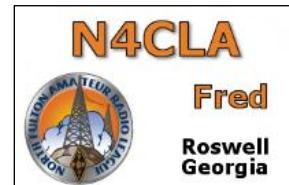
activities every day and will involve Jim, Chuck, **Mike Cohen, AD4MC**, **John Kludt, K4SQC**, **Wes Lambole, W3WL**, **Pavel Anni, AC4PA**, and perhaps other members of NFARL. There is time scheduled every day for students to “get on the air” using a different mode. Please be listening or watching out for them and respond.

Before the prep session, Jim and Chuck helped **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, with her prep session for the first week of Winter Learning. During this first week, Martha will be working with some seventh through ninth graders to master the material required for the Technician license. Hopefully, NFARL will be able to add 10 more licensed hams to its membership by the end of that week.

Towards the end of this prep session, Jim, Chuck, Martha, and **Ken Dalton, KI4BQS**, who happened to be on campus that day, took the students outside and got them on the air in an emergency net simulation. Apparently, “Germzilla” was attacking the parking lot and gym at the school at the same time a tsunami of pasta was about to descend upon the high school. All potential tragedies were appropriately relayed to the net control operator and were resolved by the end of the session.

Need a Name Badge?

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



The Worst Thing You Can Do / Ron Gill, NV4U

I really empathize with the people I hear on 2 meters, saying that they really want to get on HF but they don't have an antenna. I have been in that position a few times myself.

However, it never lasted more than a few hours.

An antenna is nothing more than a conductor. Some antennas are better than others but I can't remember ever building an antenna that was cut to resonant length that didn't work to some degree.

A good friend of mine suggested at Hungry Hams recently that any ham ticket test should start with the same question: What is the formula for a resonant dipole? The question should be asked and answered verbally and if the examinee cannot answer the question they should be sent home to study.

Most people who say they want to get on HF are Technicians. They will say that they are waiting to get their General or they are shopping or saving for a rig or an antenna or whatever.

Need a rig? Borrow one! The NFARL club has loaners for members

.Need an antenna? Build one! There are plenty of plans out there. It's not hard. NFARL issued a challenge to anyone who wanted to get on HF. The club would build an antenna for free for the first five takers.

Ten meters is a good place to start right now. The simplest antenna you will ever build is a 10 meter dipole. Remember the formula: $468/28.4 = 16.48$ feet. That is the total length of a half-wave dipole for 10 meters. Technically, it only needs to be 8.25 feet above the ground to work (but try to get it higher). If you're using insulated wire, you don't really need insulators.

The one thing that might cost money is coax. But if you want to Get On The Air, DO IT. NO EXCUSES!

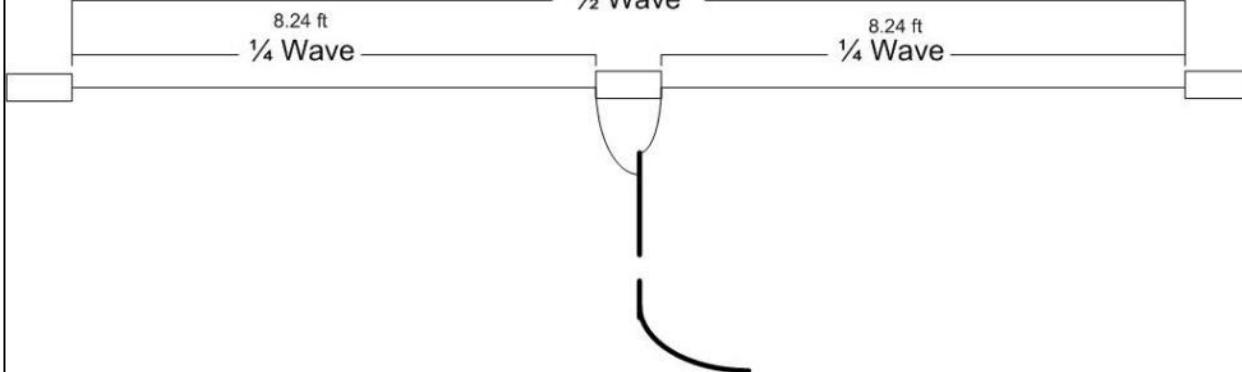
If you need help, [email me](#).

10 Meter GOTA Antenna

The additional length of the center insulator is insignificant.

$$468/28.4 = 16.48 \text{ ft}$$

$\frac{1}{2}$ Wave



YLs Looking Forward to 2015 / Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ

I cannot believe that 2014 is coming to a close so quickly. The YL Net started back in October and it's hard to believe it's already been three months since the beginning. I would like to take a moment to thank all the YLs who have participated and continue to participate on a regular basis! As you know, a net's success depends on people joining in and actively participating. I'd also like to thank the OMs who have graciously sat back and listened and also those who have shared feedback.

The YL Net will continue in 2015 and we're looking forward to a great year! As you may be aware, 2015 marks North Fulton Amateur Radio League's 40th anniversary! However, our challenge to all the North Fulton Amateur Radio League YLs is to see how you can be more active on the air and also to help come up with YL activities you would like to do!

Would you all like to meet one weekend each month for a breakfast, lunch, or dinner as a YL meet-and-greet? We could get together as a YL group, getting on the air at one of our radio shacks (mine is open). We are looking for ideas and suggestions from you on what you would like to see and do next year! Please see me at the NFARL meetings or [email me](#) with any thoughts, suggestions, etc., you have.

The YL Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM (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) 20-meter net at 9:00 PM (0200 UTC) on 14.288MHz.

The purpose of the YL Net is to encourage YL participation on ham radio. It is also a way we can get together on the air, get to know each other and have some fun! 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!

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

W4YBV's Article Available on NFARL Website

An article by **Terry Joyner, W4YBV**, that appeared in the September digital edition of CQ magazine is now available on the NFARL website. In "After My Last CQ, Paying Forward the Fun and Thrill of Amateur Radio," Terry describes how he created a book using old QSL cards, shack photos, etc., for his grandkids.

Courtesy of CQ magazine, those of you who don't have access to the CQ digital product can read the article on the NFARL website. [Just click here](#).

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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 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

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