



NFARL eNEWS ***September 2015***

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 – NFARL Club Meeting – September 15**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Pre-meeting activity starts at around 7:00PM.

Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)

13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 [map](#)

Talk-in: 145.47+ (PL 100)

Meeting **Topic: D-Star and Fusion 101**

An Overview and Introduction to Digital Modes on VHF/UHF.

Speaker: John Davis, WB4QDX

John Davis, WB4QDX, holds an Amateur Extra Class and has been licensed since 1969. He has been in wireless communications of various types throughout his professional career. He built his first VHF repeater in 1975, his first UHF repeater in

1982 installed on Stone Mountain and has been involved with VHF and UHF repeaters of various modes. Having professional roots in early cellular digital communications, he became interested in digital voice and data modes for Amateur Radio and in 2009 secured a \$250,000 grant from GEMA to build out D-STAR systems across Georgia. John is currently involved with various digital modes including D-STAR, System Fusion and DMR/MotoTRBO.

- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – September 22nd**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.

Coming Events

• **October 2015**

- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – October 20th**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.



President's Corner / Bob Beeman k4bb

Summer is almost over, and the kids are back in school. You know this because of a huge increase in traffic, and the sudden appearance of big, yellow buses that seem to appear when you are running a few minutes late. You will also hear talk about ball games, kids, and even ham radio.

No matter the subject under discussion, chatting on the radio is a healthy thing. Friendly chats keep anxiety levels down, and that is good for your blood pressure. It is good for your job as you arrive at work calm, collected, and in a good mood. Repeater chatting while driving will continue to be a healthy thing if you stay safe, and that means keeping your attention on the road. Be careful out there.

Our repeaters are operating twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, year-in and year-out. We welcome non-members on our machines. Our club nets operate on these machines. North Fulton ARES uses our repeaters for training and coordination. The occasional parade or bicycle run is coordinated over our repeaters and those of other clubs.

This is the budgeting season, and now is the time to re-assess our position with respect to our technology platforms. Repeaters cost money, and antenna sites are now considered strategic assets for tower companies. Antenna sites are not cheap, either.

All repeaters need Internet access for remote control and network connectivity, no matter the protocol used. We need to consider our future technologies and financial commitment to those technologies as carefully as any organization.

Our September program subject is **Ham Radio In The Age of Digital Communications**. John Davis, WB4QDX, will be presenting. John is a subject matter expert in digital voice communications in Georgia. This will be an opportunity to find out just what digital voice communications is all about, and how it can benefit amateur radio.

There will be a table at the meeting for your special treasures you wish to give away, or sell. Remember that if nobody wants your stuff, take it home with you. If you sell something please make a donation to the club ~~otherwise Fred will break your legs~~. There will be an HRO gift certificate for the attendance raffle prize. Don't forget to bring your folding-money to buy tickets for the 50/50 raffle

You can go to your favorite restaurant for dinner before the meeting. People start showing up at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at 7:00 PM for pre-game festivities. The meeting starts at 7:30. Be there!

73

Bob Beeman k4bb
President
North Fulton Amateur Radio League

H_{AM}J_{AM} 2015

Presented by **North Fulton Amateur Radio League**
Endorsed by Southeastern DX Club

Saturday, November 14, 2015 8:00am -- 1:00pm

Talk in:

145.47 (-) PL 100.0Hz 224.620 (-) PL 100.0Hz

444.475 (+) PL 100.0Hz 927.0125 (-) PL 146.2

On-site questions: 146.52

HamJam 2015 is going to happen again this year Saturday, November 14th
at the
Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Pkwy, Alpharetta, GA 30005

NFARL and our sponsors are pleased to be able to present this event as a public service to the amateur radio community. We hope you will be able to attend and enjoy a morning of visiting with fellow hams, listening to and interacting with our speakers, and the potential to win one of our raffle prizes.

The event is open to all hams as well as visitors and admission is **FREE** thanks to the generosity of our sponsors ... and **your** generosity in purchasing raffle tickets.

Speakers

This year's speakers include **Jamie Dupree, NS3T** of Cox Radio, **Mike Corey, KI1U** of ARRL, and one other speaker soon to be announced!



Jamie Dupree, NS3T

Jamie Dupree, NS3T is the Radio News Director of the Washington Bureau of the Cox Media Group and writes the Washington Insider blog.

A native of Washington, D.C., Jamie has covered Congress and politics in the nation's capital since the Reagan Administration, and has been reporting for Cox since 1989. Jamie has covered 11 national political conventions, with his first being the 1988 Democratic Convention in Atlanta.



Mike Corey, KI1U

Mike Corey, KI1U, joined the ARRL HQ staff in April 2010 as Emergency Preparedness Manager. Prior to joining League staff he worked in law enforcement in Indiana and Mississippi. He has also served as an emergency management volunteer, disaster response volunteer, reserve police officer, law enforcement academy and public safety instructor, and on emergency operations center staff. Mike has been licensed since 1988 and holds an Amateur Extra class license.

Raffle

A number of wonderful prizes have been donated by our sponsors and will be raffled off to help offset expenses and hopefully have funds left over for our youth programs and scholarships.

Click to view the Raffle [Rules](#).

Raffle tickets will be available soon for a \$5 donation per ticket or (5 tickets for \$20). You may purchase raffle tickets at our ticket sales tables at HamJam until the mid-morning break or you can purchase on the internet by going to [Tickets](#).

You do not have to be present to win the top prizes.

You or your proxy must be present to be awarded one of the other non top raffle prizes.
([See raffle rule #9.](#))

Go to [Hamjam.info](#) for more information
Please talk this up -- invite your ham and non-ham friends to this unique event.
It promises to be one of the southeast ham radio highlights of the year!!!

ARES /W4LJG Mike Birmingham

SET (Simulated Emergency Test)

"The SET is a nationwide exercise in disaster response and emergency communication, administered by ARRL emergency coordinators and net managers, in which volunteers respond to a mock emergency or disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane."
<http://www.arrl.org>

This year's SET is scheduled for October 3 and for November 18, 2015. The SET on October 3rd is called a "mini" SET. The "actual" SET will be on November 18th.
Confused?

The reason for the two dates is that the Department of Public Health Strategic National Stockpile drill will be conducted from November 13 through the 18. ARES will be supporting the communication needs for this drill.

So, what is the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)?

"The SNS is a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items. The SNS is designed to supplement and re-supply state and

local public health agencies in the event of a national emergency anywhere and at anytime within the U.S. or its territories.”

“This year, in cooperation with our served agency, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), we are participating in a full-scale exercise that tests the ability of DPH to deliver SNS supplies to local PH agencies for timely distribution to the public.”

This a big opportunity for us as a group to show what amateur radio can do for the community in emergencies. We need as many of you to volunteer as possible this year.

We know that Maker Faire is also the same weekend as the SET in October. So, Mike Cohen, AD4MC, will be setting up a station at the Maker Faire. This is such a great opportunity for us to demonstrate to the public what ham radio can offer to the public.

All you need is technician license to participate! What a great opportunity for new hams as well as experienced hams. This is a big one. You don't want to be left out of this one. We will be posting more information on the Yahoo Group website at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/nfares/info>.

Sunday Night Weekly Nets / Digital Training

Every Sunday night at eight-thirty local time we have our weekly ARES NET. Also, Mike, AD4MC will be having a digital training net right after our regular net on the first Sunday of every month. This is a great opportunity that Mike is providing for anyone interested in digital communications. This month, due to the SET, he will be doing digital training on September 20 and 27. Mike has also offered “private” lessons. Contact Mike at AD4MC@ARRL.net.

I would like to thank our AECs for all their great work and dedication. Mike, AD4MC, Wayne, KG5WU, Jim, N4SEC, Jim, W4QO, Tom, W4UOC, Mike, KK4YDQ and, Tim, K4RA. Thanks so much for all you do! I hope to see everyone at the next ARES meeting as well as our regular ARES Net on Sunday nights!

Check our website at <http://www.nfares.org>

Join our Yahoo group at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/nfares/info>

73,

Mike, K4LJG

Maker Faire / W4QO Jim Stafford & W4MSA Martha Muir



MAKER FAIRE – The next BIG Ham Radio opportunity Remember how popular this event was last year (30,000 attendees) and how much fun hams had in putting together the #1 booth at the show (BLUE RIBBON)?

Well, it's coming up again and the **interclub ham team** is organizing another (we hope) award winning booth! But we need your help.... For more info on the

Faire, go to: <http://makerfaireatl.com/> It's held in Decatur on October 3 and 4. This is a great event to take the entire family, especially teenagers! There are hundreds of booths demonstrating everything from 3D printers to drones!

The NFARL club is responsible for 2 (or 3) of the exhibits at the ham radio booth:

1. MAKE (get it MAKER FAIRE) a small electronic project involving solder. We have 300 simple LED kits ready to go. We need a minimum of 3 workers at the construction table for the entire time that the show is running. Sat 10AM (setup 9:30) to 5PM and Sunday noon to 5PM. If you would like to be one of the instructors, please send me your positive response. Anyone over 12 years old can be an instructor, so why not make it a family affair? Breaking into 2.5 hour shifts, we need 9 workers Saturday and 6 Sunday. After all ham operators were the original MAKERS!



2. Demonstration Ham Station - We have the special event callsign **W4Y** (get it: WHY) because it's FUN! We need one person per shift on the radio. We have some cool ideas on how to get folks to "talk on ham radio" so this can be fun! We'll have a ROVER team walking around the FAIRE asking folks to say HI on ham radio. We'll be on 440MHz of course. As visitors say HI on ham radio, we give them a slip of paper to go by the HAM RADIO booth and pick up their special commemorative card (we call it a QSL card)! Then we let them be the base station operator and say HI to others. We need 3 people SAT (for 2.5 hour shifts) and 2 folks on Sunday **PLUS a team leader!** In addition, we need groups of 2 teenagers to be our ROVING reporters, that's another 6 ROVERS we need for Saturday alone! And get this: **W4Y will be part of the NFARES Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday! Is this cool or what?**



3. **Satellite Radio demonstration** – Details are still being worked through but if this is your interest, we will expect to need helpers there as well. Let me know that this is your specialty or just curious!

Let's just say in addition to the smiles on people's faces (and you won't believe the number of young folks at this thing), there is a *tee shirt* involved! So if you volunteer, please send along your shirt size!

Please let me hear from you **as soon as possible** and don't forget to wear your NFARL name badge on your special HAM RADIO tee shirt. Shirts will be available when you arrive at **MAKER FAIRE 2015**. Contact me at: W4qo@nfarl.org for details and an assignment. Specify your time/date preferred.



Mills Springs STEM Program Achieves State Honor / Jim Stafford, W4QO

The Mill Springs Academy, with a lot of help from NFARL mentors, was nominated as one of 5 finalists in the state of GA STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) awards program. As part of the all day event, John, K4SQC, Chuck, AE4CW and I along with Martha, W4MSA, and 3 student hams were invited to attend a luncheon, seminars, exhibits, and dinner which included Governor Deal as the luncheon speaker on August 28. The young hams were Sam, KK4NVJ, Megan, KM4HFY, and Eli, KM4HYZ (all NFARL members) who worked the exhibit magnificently highlighting the STEM activities at MSA.



I felt MSA had the most outstanding display among about 50 that were presented. Unfortunately, the exhibit did not count toward winning FIRST place and sadly MSA did not win but the amateur radio program at MSA was a big part of the honor as described in the Revue and News. Click [here](#) to see the story.



SOTA / K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter

Navigating to Nowhere

[This month's topic is about a subject that could get you hurt. Make sure you understand the risks. Do not rely on this content to keep you safe.]

Initial Planning

After you've visited a few summits, you may get a hankering to visit a summit that is... out of the way. Perhaps it is on a remote trail. It might require bushwhacking. This month's topic is how to get to the middle of nowhere.

After you've visited <http://www.sotamaps.org/>, you'll have a good idea of where your summit is located. You just need to figure out how to get there. (If you're lucky, there will be a trail marked on SOTAmaps.)

When planning a hike to a summit, the first thing I do is to Google the name of the summit and the words trail, trailhead, or hike. If someone has written up a guide, this search will usually find it.

Topographic Maps

The next resource to check is a USGS topo. Visit <http://store.usgs.gov> and select "Map Locator & Downloader." You can use this to download topographic maps (often called "quads" or "quadrangles"). These maps show mountains, streams, dirt roads, trails, and other geographic features. You may have learned to read these as a Scout. You can download PDF files with the exact map you would see on a paper map. These are big files; they will take time to download and your PC display them sloooowly. If you prefer, you can purchase paper maps from the same site.

There will be many editions of a map on the USGS site. I usually download the 2 or 3 most recent, look to see which is intelligible, and discard the rest. The newest edition often adds aerial imagery, which makes them tough to read.

Take a quad with a grain of salt. Just because it shows a road/trail is there, it doesn't mean the route is passable. If you see a candidate route, use Google Earth to see if you can find evidence that the road/trail is still there. When you travel, the reality on the ground supersedes the reality on the map!

[National Geographic Trails Illustrated maps](#) are an excellent resource, if there is a map for your destination. These are much like a quadrangle, except they often contain more relevant detail.

Reaching the Trailhead

Once you've found a trail, you'll need to navigate the drive to your trailhead. Google Maps has worked well for me for 90% of my back-country trailheads. Occasionally, it thinks that a power line right-of-way is a road, so watch out for unnaturally straight

lines on the route. Occasionally, it will route you via a closed Forest Service road. You can check for gates on the relevant [Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Map] (http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps.shtml).

A Word About GPS

When you head out into wilderness, you may elect to carry a GPS. Don't take a GPS designed for use in a car! You don't want a *street* GPS; you want a *topographic* GPS. I recommend using a dedicated GPS and not a smart phone app. The dedicated GPS will show your position more accurately and its batteries will last much longer. (I've found multiple people on the trail who were using an app who were not clear on their location.) I recommend a rainproof GPS. I have one with a tiny little screen, and I've never really needed a bigger display. You will want a GPS with a moving map display, and not just a latitude/longitude display.

Do not rely on your GPS to get you back to the car. Pay attention to your route. Have a plan for how to find your car if the GPS fails. Risks include electronic device failure, a geomagnetic storm, dead batteries. (I once dropped my GPS as I was crawling through rhododendron.)

Bushwhacking

If you bushwhack, navigating *to* a summit is easier than navigating back to the trail. If you're on the right mountain, heading up will eventually reach the summit. When you come down, there are an infinite number of destinations you reach by heading down.

I avoid bushwhacking unless the sun is shining; I prefer to bushwhack in the winter. It is easy to travel in a straight line when you can see your shadow. If your GPS conks out, you should know the general direction to head in order to find the trail. When planning your trip, plan a fail-safe route back to the trail that has you hitting a long stretch of the trail perpendicularly. You want to know that even if you're off course by 30 degrees, you've got a big target to hit.

Wrap-up

I won't get into general wilderness safety. For that, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Essentials is a good place to start.

Some really nice summits are off the beaten track. They just require a little more planning. To get you started, guides for several southeastern summits can be found at <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-trip-library>.

See you on the summits!

73 DE K4KPK / Kevin

Where can I find out more?

- Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>
- Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>
- K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>
- Email me (K4KPK). My email address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. His first QSO was on a SOTA activation. He has completed more than 150 activations.

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TWENTY Thoughts For New Hams / W4QO Jim Stafford ***Continued.....***



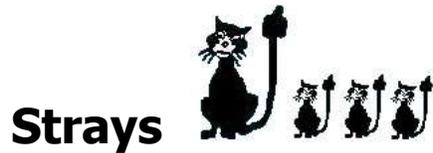
5. Don't worry & search for the best "ground" for your antenna – in fact, why would you want to ground your antenna? That kills the signal! Use the tried and true method; disconnect antenna when idle.

6. Build (don't buy) an HF antenna; in fact, put up a simple 20M dipole or doublet such as a G5RV. Don't go for a vertical UNLESS you have no reasonable way to put up something like a dipole. Verticals work but not as good as a 35' high horizontal antenna. Inverted V's work better than verticals (99% of time.)

7. Get it as high as you can, easily! Just throw a rock with a string up into the tress and hang it!

8. Don't have trees? Hang one from the corner of your house to a point out in your back yard.

Finally, be nice, do your part to help, be a credit to ham radio. Make friends and have FUN!



JOTA / John Wittlin K4WIT



NFARL has been invited to the Atlanta Area Council Merit Badge Day at Oglethorpe University in Chamblee/Brookhaven on 10/17.

We will teach 1 morning session of Radio Merit Badge and have JOTA stations set-up.

Currently I have a heavy travel schedule for work and do not see this letting up any time soon. I need help from members to teach the RMB and help out with JOTA.

Anyone interested please contact me
k4wit@nfarl.org

Additional photos from all events in the **NFARL eNEWS** can be found on
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFARL/>

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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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