

NFARL eNEWS January 2016

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" with NFARL in North Fulton and the surrounding area! Check out all of our news and activities and be sure to visit ARRL.org for national news.



NFARL 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 Wednesday — Youth Net** - 7:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **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.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - **January 19th**, 7:30 PM.
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Meeting topic: Emergency Preparedness, presentation by Tim, K4RA
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**
January 26th, 7:00 PM. Location TBD
Meetings are open to all NFARL members.
Space available on a first come basis
- **Second Saturday — VE Testing**
NFARL provides Amateur (Ham) Radio test sessions once per month at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center. Please check our [website](#) for up to date testing information.

January Meeting / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG

Happy New Year! I can't believe that 2015 is now in the past. It was a busy year and I am looking forward to another great year of ham radio in 2016.

Although we had unusually warm weather it would seem that weather is now behind us and we just *might* have winter soon! In preparation for that the speaker for January's meeting is Tim Romashko, K4RA. If you are on the repeater at all you have probably talked with Tim! He patiently answers questions about traffic and traffic lights while many of you are enduring the Atlanta traffic! Tim's topic is Soup to Nuts on Emergency Preparedness. Everyone remembers the ice storm. Are there things you wished you had in your trunk? This is a topic that everyone will want to be there for whether you are a ham radio operator or not. Bring your family and friends to this meeting! You will be glad that you did.

We have meeting programs lined up for the first three months of this year but I am looking for ideas of what you, the membership, would like to hear for the rest of the year. This is your time so let me know what you are interested in. You can email me at k4ljg@nfarl.org with any ideas of topics and/or speakers.

Presidents Corner / Mark Schumann, KK4FOF

Happy New Year! I am honored and look forward to the opportunity to serve as president for 2016! New Years has always been a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. I would like to thank Bob Beeman, K4BB for his leadership and all the officers and volunteers that served the club in 2015. As I reflect on 2015, the club highlights include:

- Field Day - NFARL placed 1st in the ARRL Field Day division 3A. A special thanks to John Kludt, K4SQC and his team of band captains and the food and logistic volunteer's for a stellar Field Day.
- Youth Activities – Mill's Springs and Megan Brown featured on the cover of August QST Magazine. Martha Muir, W4MSA has been an exceptional Amateur Radio Youth ambassador and mentor.
- VE Testing and Amateur Support Activities – Ian Kahn, KM4IK and his VE team awarded 100 elements and our Ham Cram team completed two Technician classes with over 90% of the students passing!
- Ham Jam – The YESA and our partners exceeded expectations with three world class speakers, over \$8000 in prizes resulting in an over \$1,100 increase in gross proceeds to support youth activities and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).
- Holiday Party – The year culminated in our annual holiday party. Everyone that attended enjoyed exceptional decorations, food and fellowship! Special thanks to Bob, KI4GHT for catering, Lori, K4UPI for decorations and the Kludt family and team for serving the attendees.
- **HAM of the Year** – Bob Beeman awarded John Kludt, K4SQC the Ham of the Year award for his outstanding contributions. John has served the club and the hobby in a variety of leadership roles including NFARL president, NFARL field day chairman, AMSAT coordinator and mentor, Elmer to many and youth advocate. Congratulations!



As we move into 2016, January is a time for planning and setting goals. From a personal perspective, I encourage you to explore a new aspect of the hobby.

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1. Study and upgrade your license
2. Try a new band or mode (HF, 6M, CW, Digital)
3. Explore Radiosport – Every license class can enjoy contesting
4. Projects – Build a kit, build an antenna or restore a radio
5. Join ARES and get involved in emergency communication (the backbone of our hobby)

What makes our hobby fascinating is the possibilities are endless!

Our club is a diverse group of individuals with a common interest in Amateur Radio. It's our club and we get out of it what we put into it! I encourage you to get involved, volunteer and contribute to our great organization. The 2016 Executive team looks forward to your input so we can continuously improve NFARL by providing world class programs and activities that develop our amateur radio skills and ensure we are prepared to serve the community in time of need!

73 and Happy New Year!
Mark Schumann, KK4FOF
President
North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Fox Hunting / John Kludt, K4SQC

A North Metro Transmitter Hunt may be coming soon to a location near you! Here at NFARL some of us have engaged in a Transmitter-Hunt, a.k.a. Fox Hunt, from time to time. We had envisioned a multi-club hunt. But then time and life and who knows what else intervened. Well ladies and gentlemen the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, GARS, has thrown down the gauntlet.

Seems a North Atlanta transmitter hunt is in the offing. Details are still being worked out but the following is known:

- This event will happen in April on some weekend other than the Georgia QSO Party
- It will be a combined car/walking event using a cross-band scenario
- The car part of this will be to locate one 20 watt 2m transmitter somewhere in the North Metro area.
- The 2m rig will be under the control of a 70cm rig, the ultimate "fox." Finding the "fox" on 70 cm will be the walking part of the activity.
- There will be two divisions: Doppler assisted and non-Doppler assisted.
- A trophy will be awarded to the winning club in each division by the Master of the Hounds, Kyle Albritton, W4KDA.

NFARL has a nice collection of trophies and it would really be nice to add this set to the collection. It is going to take a team effort, probably an effort from several NFARL teams.

Don't like to walk? Then be a driver and work on the 2m side of things. Up for a romp in the woods? Ride along with the 2m team and be ready to jump out and begin the chase for the 70 cm fox.

We need at least two teams, one with Doppler and one without. After all, if one trophy is good, two are even better. So far nothing says we can't have more than two teams so if you are interested even in the slightest please think about joining. The basic piece of equipment is a dual band HT – anybody not own one of those? Heck, if you want to play and you don't own one, I am sure there are enough dual band HT's in the club somebody can loan you one.

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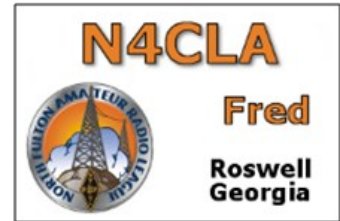
The local contacts for this are [John, K4SQC](#), and [Tim, WK4U](#). Let's get the NFARL teams together, do some practicing and then let's find the fox and win those trophies!

Name Badges

Need a Name Badge?

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

We encourage all of our members to purchase one of these name badges to wear not only to our meetings and gatherings, but to other gatherings as well so people will know who you are when you stop to visit. Basically this is what your Name Badge will look like with your Call, your first name that you go by and the city where you live, (Roswell, Alpharetta, Marietta, Johns Creek, etc....). We sell them for \$10 each, and you can go to [nfarl.org/mart](#) and select the icon (image) for the name badge and complete the form that follows.



NFARL Mart "How To's" / Fred Moore, N4CLA

Let me begin by saying that each and every profile on the MART is completely capable of being modified by you the owner of that profile. This part of the system was designed to minimize maintenance changes to profiles by the system administrator. All you have to do is log into [www.nfarl.org/mart](#). Look down the left side of the page after you log in and find the link that says My Account. Click on that link and you can change your User Profile Name, Password, License Call Sign, Date of License Expiration, email address, basically any and all fields. You can also view all the orders that you have placed and the status of each. There is one thing however that you MUST do in order to save your changes, and that is to go to the bottom of the page that you just updated and in the lower left there is an option to <UPDATE> or <SUBMIT> that you must click on. This is necessary for each and every page you change for that change to be permanently changed.

Two users with different UID profile names can NOT share the same email address. You could literally have all the user profile names on the MART be the same for everyone, but their email addresses need to be unique. So, if you have a family member that is interested in becoming a NFARL member and they do not have an email address, contact me and we can arrange for that person to have a name@nfarl.org address that will be forwarded to your email address.

Email n4cla@nfarl.org for help with this.

NFARES Update / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG

We accomplished a lot in 2015. Several of us now have their Georgia ARES badges! Congratulations to all! We still need all active ARES members to get their badges and maybe 2016 will be the year. Go to the Georgia ARES site at www.gaares.org for details. We are here to help. Any questions you may have don't hesitate to contact any of us.

We now have seven active AECs for North Fulton. If you go to the Georgia ARES site you can find them under <https://gaares.org/php/dec-ec-summary.php>. The seven AECs are as follows; Mike Cohen, AD4MC, Stuart Williams, AK4EX, Tim Romashko, K4RA, Wayne Chapman, KG5WU, Mike Clark, KK4YDQ, Jim Payne, N4SEC, and Tom Koch, W4UOC. Talk to any of us if you are interested in getting more involved in NFARES.

It's all about digital, folks! Last year the Metro Atlanta ARES appointed 6 digital Assistant District Emergency Coordinators for Metro Atlanta. If you are interested in digital, then join us. We practice digital messaging most Sunday night nets.

Arduino Project / Neil Foster, N4FN

At the recent NFARL meeting, Warren Merkel, KD4Z, presented a program on the *Arduino*. I was intrigued by what the tiny board could do. At the recent NFARL HamJam, Glen Popiel, KW5GP, presented a program on the *Arduino*. This was to be a podcast, and I was sure it would be a bomb. *Au contraire*. It was fascinating! A trip to HRO's toy store was in order, and I purchased his ARRL book on Ham Radio and the *Arduino*.



My first Arduino project! I have always been a clock enthusiast, and so with the aid of Warren, I ordered all the little bits and pieces to build a UTC clock for the shack, similar to the one that Warren displayed. I decided to put the works in a nice shadow box so that I could have it running on my station console. Finally, all the bits and pieces arrived from Banggood Technology in China. They appear to be a Chinese broker for a myriad of goods. For most items, shipping is either expedited or free. Just do not be in a rush.

When all the parts were here, Warren came over and first downloaded the clock software that he wrote (called a sketch). This was done via the USB port. BTW, the UNO board came with a USB cable. All went well. The next item was to make the connections to the *Arduino* Uno, the display, and then the antenna. The antenna was the most expensive part. It was about \$16.00. That little gem picks up the GPS transmissions in my basement.



The photos are of me holding the bare unit, and then the finished project in a nice shadow box. The shadow box was on sale at Michael's Arts and Crafts store (\$4.50). Looking at the completed project, the antenna is the small board, the *Arduino* UNO is the large

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board, and you'll see the display. I never have power to the station when it is not in use, and the radio antennas are never attached. The clock is connected to the AC via a 5VDC wall wart that is attached to an outlet that has power all the time. You can also run it from a USB port on your PC as well.

This was an easy first project, and the best thing was when we powered it up, it worked! The first thing you will see on the display is *Arduino* then "No Fix", meaning it is searching for GPS satellites. It took about two minutes, and, lo and behold, the time started to display UTC, minutes, and seconds. Every 8 seconds, it will display the current UTC month, day and year. If you need some *Arduino* stuff and are in a hurry, the Micro-Center store in Marietta stocks some *Arduino* components. I would guess their other stores do as well.

My thanks to Warren for his expertise and help. One nice thing that Warren sent me was a "Fritzing Diagram". This is like a block diagram but showing all the connections to the components. Warren will be posting information needed to build this project on his QRZ.com page soon.

Now I need to see what the next project will be!

Emergency Preparedness / Tim Romashko, K4RA

Is the car ready?

I have often discussed the need for a "go bag" for each member of the family in the event you need to evacuate your residence in short order. In the same line of thinking, is your vehicle ready for a roadside emergency? You certainly should have a spare tire and the tools to change the tire but what if you are stranded? Now that colder weather is coming, do you have something to keep you warm with you if the car breaks down and you need to sit and wait for help? I grew up in Minnesota where a winter breakdown can be a life threatening event. Minnesota drivers never go anywhere without a blanket, shovel and ice scraper in the car during cold weather. In Georgia we are blessed with mild winters but you may not agree if you grew up in the south.

If you travel long distances in your vehicle, are you prepared for a break down? Do you have something warm in the car at all times? Do you have a cell phone? Do others know where you are and when you are expected to arrive? In rural areas cell phones may experience dead spots where they become useless. Do not rely on modern technology when traveling in remote areas, especially in bad weather.

If you slide into the ditch, how will you stay warm until help arrives? Do you have any snacks to eat? How about water? These things all go bad rather quickly in a car if they sit and are forgotten. Have you considered the possibility of break down or accident? Do you have the ability and resources to deal with these situations?

Many of us just get in the car and drive without considering if the tires are in good condition, the engine has oil and enough gas to get you where you are going. A vehicle walk around is a very good idea before each trip. Tire wear is predictable but can be cut short by road debris and there is lots of that here in Atlanta. If you don't maintain your vehicle, it will surely leave you stranded at the worst possible time.

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I met a young man a few weeks ago that had run out of gas on State Route 92 in Woodstock. He was literally 4 or 5 blocks from home. His girlfriend had driven his car and ran the gas down to only fumes. He ran out of gas on SR 92 in rush hour traffic trying to get to the gas station. I'm telling you this because running out of gas still happens in the metro area with gas stations every mile or so. In winter, you should never let the car get below ¼ of a tank of fuel and ½ tank is even better. If you are stranded, you may need the heater to stay warm and that takes fuel. In the event of a power outage, gas can be hard to find when you need it most so don't let the tank run dry.

It is very easy to take our cars for granted because they have always got us to where we were going. During this time of year when we may travel long distances to visit family and friends, make sure your vehicle is ready for the trip. This means more than just checking the oil and gas. How about the radiator? When was the last time you had it flushed and filled with fresh coolant? Have you checked the belts and hoses lately? How about the transmission? If you have no idea what I'm talking about, find a good mechanic and keep them on speed dial. Have the mechanic put the little plastic oil change sticker inside the front window so you can see it. That can act as your service interval reminder.

I met a young lady at one of the Woodstock Quik Trips a few weeks ago and she told me that she killed the engine in her car because nobody told her that she needed to change the engine oil. She literally drove the car to death. A new engine was not a cheap or planned expense for her.

Plan ahead, live well and be safe!
Tim

This article was previously published in "Christian Community News", Woodstock, GA

Mill Springs Academy Update / Neil Foster N4FN

New Hamsters at Mill Springs Academy!

Martha Muir, W4MSA continues her outstanding work with the students at Mill Springs Academy. She recently completed a course for her students striving for their amateur radio license.

On Friday 08 January 2016 two students successfully passed their technician class license. Four ARRL VE's administered the license exam and they were pleased with the results. The VE's were Martha, W4MSA, Chuck, AE4CW, Bob, AB4VT and Neil, N4FN.



Above, Martha poses for eNews with the new Hams, Zach Haidari (left) and Grace Gersack (right). Their new call signs will be coming soon!

Martha presented each of the new hams with an HT!

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Club Repeaters

Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 56086 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES Repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with MATPARC	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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