



# *North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS*

*November 2017*

*Celebrating 40 Years  
Service | Friendship | Education | Fun*

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



## ***US Islands Report: NFARL in Alabama ! / Scott Straw, KB4KBS***

I have been a regular visitor to the Gulf Coast of Alabama for almost three decades and love it there. When the North Fulton Amateur Radio League announced that as part of its celebration of their fortieth anniversary it planned to activate forty U.S. Islands I immediately began to think. How cool would it be to activate a few of the islands that I frequent when I visit Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Alabama? I knew of three immediately, but it didn't take long for me to find that around the Mobile Bay area there are sixteen islands and that many of them could be visited by car.

Convincing my wife that we needed to make a trip to her "favorite place on earth" was an easy sell. The only challenge was finding time to get down there. We finally settled on October 25 to 29, 2017. Our plan was to activate islands on the Thursday and Friday since a major international contest, CQ WW DX Phone, was scheduled for Friday night to Sunday night local time.



I consulted the US Islands Awards

Program web site ([www.USIslands.org](http://www.USIslands.org)), gathered a list of the islands that we could reasonably activate in one day, and charted a course. The decision was made to begin the day at Fort Morgan, Alabama, on the east side of the mouth of Mobile Bay, and take a ferry across to Fort Gaines, Alabama on Dauphin Island, the first island we would activate.

As a veteran of many state QSO party events as a rover, getting an HF station set up in my wife's van was easily accomplished. I used my Yaesu FT-450D HF Transceiver, an MFJ 949 antenna tuner, and two Hamstick antennas resonant on 40 meters and 20 meters. I brought along my paddles and my USB



**KB4KBS Rover Station Setup**

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**The North Fulton Amateur Radio League**

Cordially Invites You to Our

# ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 16

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Alpharetta Adult Activity Center  
13450 Cogburn Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30004

Make your reservations at the [Mart](#)

\$25 per person for adults - \$10 for youth (children 12 and under)



## NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

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- **NFARL Holiday Party !**  
December 16th, 2017, 6:00 PM  
Make your reservations in the [Mart](#) today !  
  
Location [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
- **Every Sunday — NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100  
*All licensed Hams are welcome, you do not need to be an ARES member!*
- **Every Monday — Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100  
NFARL's flagship technical based "non check-in" net. The net is always better when using the web based chat room but Internet is not required to join the net. 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."  
OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in to this YL net.  
Great opportunity to get your YL's on the radio!
- **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). Everyone is welcome: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.  
Check [NFARES.net](#) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - 7:30 PM.  
HamJam replaced our meeting this month - We hope you enjoyed HamJam!  
Usual meeting location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting**  
November 28, 2017, 7:00 PM  
Location: [Arbor Terrace at Crabapple](#)  
12200 Crabapple Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Meetings are open to all NFARL members. Space is available on a first arrival basis. Please contact the [President](#) to ensure available space.

## **NFARL 2017 Field Day Results / John Kludt, K4SQC**

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The 2017 Field Day Results are in and NFARL, operating as N4O, did well again. One of our goals was to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the community. I am pleased to report that NFARL led the nation in terms of participation. With 204 documented visitors we were again #1 in the nation at getting our message out to the community. In second place was W6ARA the Palo Alto ARA, Santa Clara Valley, with 178 visitors operating 4A. Rounding out the top three was N7V, the Hams on a Hill, Nevada, with 168 visitors operating 6A.

The competition in 3A was rather interesting. If you sort on score we were third nationally with 11,946 points. In first place was W2RDX, the Rochester (NY) DX Association with 15,095 points. Second place with 12,410 points was K9OR, the North Shore Radio Club in Illinois. Sorting on QSO's gives some different results. W2RDX remains in first with 4,100 QSO's. Interestingly N4O moves into second place with 3,641 QSO's. K9OR drops to 6th place overall with 3,264 QSO's. The detail analysis of the Q's and points will need to await the availability of the 2017 Field Day downloadable database. Our hunch is it has a lot to do with the mix of 1 point Q's (SSB) and 2 point Q's (CW and digital).

Needless to say Ian and I thank all of you for another stellar Field Day effort. Seems however we call it, Field Day is an operating event where score is kept and we do rather well no matter what the orientation. Gosh, only 460 more Q's and we could be #1 in both Participation *and* QSO's!

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This Certificate of Appreciation was Presented to NFARL at HamJam 2017  
by the ARRL - the Amateur Radio Relay League



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sound card so that I could make CW and FT8 contacts, but that never materialized.

In the days leading up to my adventure, and on Thursday morning, I sent emails to the NFARL email reflector reminding folks of my activation. I also included the Southeast DX Club reflector and the Texas DX Society reflector as well. I included my cell phone number with my messages and as we were crossing the bay on the ferry I received a text message from Scott Marlowe, WX4SKY. It turns out he was on Dauphin Island doing some work to some property he has there, and offered to allow me to use his station on the island. I was flattered but since we were on a schedule, we didn't have the time. He then offered to drive down to the ferry dock to greet me. A few minutes after we disembarked, here he came and we were able to chat for a few minutes. It was a great way to start the day. The camaraderie of Ham Radio is a fabulous thing. I hope that if he keeps his promise to activate some of the islands only

accessible by boat in and around Mobile Bay, he'll remember to invite me.



**"Selfie" with WX4SKY**



**My wife and driver Eileen**

north off of Dauphin Island to the island called Mon Louis. We made a few contacts there then headed up toward the heart of the city of Mobile. We got on I-10 and went through the tunnel under the ship channel for Mobile Bay and emerged on Blakeley Island. We didn't stop there at that point but continued to Pinto Island just to the south where the ship building yards are located.

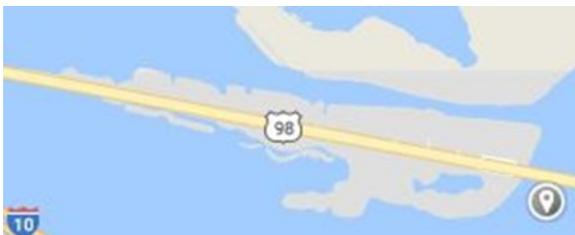
My first QSO from Dauphin Island was on 40 meters with K4VBM in Norcross, Georgia. After that, I was never able to make any contacts on that band in spite of repeated attempts, but did have good success on 20 meters. I was able to work several stations in the Toronto area and in the northeast United States as well as across the mid-west. We continued on our adventure as we headed



**Battleship USS Alabama**

We worked some stations on Pinto Island, mindful of the warnings that damage to vehicles from paint over-spray was possible. We then went back onto Blakeley Island which is where the Battleship USS Alabama is permanently moored as a museum. We worked several stations from the parking lot of this tourist attraction and then

continued on to Chacaloochee Island. Another half hour or so and we were off to Oyster Island, appropriately enough, the location of The Original Oyster House Restaurant. Of course



**Oyster Island**



**Break for Lunch !**

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we had lunch there (including a dozen raw oysters) and enjoyed the respite and beauty of an absolutely perfect weather day.

Finally back in the vehicle after a delicious lunch, we moved on to Big Island and then Shelbank Island before calling it a day and heading back to the rented condominium. The band conditions were not great throughout the day, but there were several stalwart stations that were able to add most of the islands I visited to their logs.

As beautiful as Thursday had been weather-wise, Friday was absolutely miserable. A cold front moved through overnight triggering lightning storms, heavy rains, and Flash Flood Warnings for South Baldwin County. Our agenda for this day was less aggressive than Thursday's, and this turned out to be a fortuitous bit of planning. We waited until the weather was a little less inhospitable and set out for day two of our island-hopping expedition. The condominium was located in Alabama on Perdido Key Island. Just a few hundred yards down the road to the west was the Alabama Pass Bridge that put us on Orange Beach/Gulf Shores Island. A mile to the east was the GA/AL state line, home of the world-famous Flora-Bama Lounge.



**Oyster Bay Island**

Our first objective was Oyster Bay Island/aka Plash Island. We set up in the parking lot of Oyster Bay Baptist Church and operated in a steady drizzle for about an hour. The bands were in as bad a shape as the weather. After an hour, we headed back toward the Condominium, stopping for a delicious lunch at Fish River Grill #3 in Gulf Shores where we enjoyed the house special and local favorite, "Swamp Soup".

Warmed and dry, we again set out through the rain, trying to add stations to the log for Orange Beach/Gulf Shores Island. We made a grand total of about 10 contacts between the two islands over the course of three hours.



**Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Island**

We moved on to Perdido Key Island, Alabama for a half-hour with no joy, then we wandered over the state line to Perdido Key Island, Florida, where we sat in a now steady heavy rain calling CQ with no response for about 20 minutes. Because the conditions were so miserable, both in the air and on the air with the weather and the band conditions, we decided to pack it in and forego a trip to Ono Island.

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**Perdido Key Island & Ono Island**

The final tally was 82 contacts on 11 islands. In addition to all of the US and Canada operators, I logged stations in France, Portugal, and Italy. We had a wonderful time and already have reservations for the same condominium after Christmas. I plan to try operating FT8 from inside the twelfth floor condo on Perdido Key Island, Alabama, and will maybe try a few phone contacts if I can get an antenna that will cooperate.

I would like to thank my wife for her indulgence and patience as she sat in the van for long periods while I worked the bands and also her experienced driving skills that allowed me to operate while we were moving. Thanks also to Terry, W4YBV and Jim, N4SEC for the encouragement to be a part of the islands activation event, and all of the stations that answered my CQ calls.

## ***President's Letter / Mark Schumann, KK4FOF***

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It has been a busy couple of months for NFARL. At our October meeting, NFARL elected our 2018 officers. Congratulations to:

President - Daryl Young, K4RGK  
VP - John Tramontanis, N4TOL  
SEC - Martha Muir, W4MSA  
Treasurer - Fred Moore, N4CLA  
Activities - Mark Coleman, KJ4YM  
Membership - Pavel Anni, AC4PA

The 2018 officers will take office after the Holiday Party on December 16th. I also want to thank our current board especially Lori Young K4UPI and Bob Beeman k4bb who will be "retiring" having served the last two years.

HamJam 2017 was an overwhelming success! For the first time we sold every HamJam raffle ticket printed and awarded over \$10,000 in prizes to lucky attendees!

The event was kicked off by ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF who delivered a welcome address via Skype. Tom was followed by three world class speakers including Ward Silver N0AX, Bob Schmieder KK6EK and Dan Henderson N1ND.

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John Kludt K4SQC, on behalf of the YESA HamJam team, presented Dan Henderson of the ARRL a \$2,000 check for the Scholarship Fund and a \$1,000 check for the Teacher Institute. I had the pleasure of presenting Dan a \$1,000 donation on behalf of NFARL for ARRL HamAid earmarked to support the recent disasters in the Caribbean. The ARRL also presented NFARL a certificate of Appreciation for our continued commitment to support Amateur Radio.

It takes a team to orchestrate a world class event like HamJam. Special thanks goes to Mill Springs Academy for the use of their facilities and the HamJam (YESA) team:

John Kludt – K4SQC  
Wes Lambolely – W3WL  
Martha Muir – W4MSA  
Jim Stafford – W4QO  
Tim Lemmon – WK4U - Prizes  
Jeff Otterson – N1KDO - Marketing  
Chuck Catledge – AE4CW – A/V & Presentation  
Steve Mayes – KS4KJ – A/V  
Grant Register – KK4PCR – Parking along with NF ARES

The Holiday Party is Saturday, December 16th at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center on Cogburn Road from 6pm to 9pm ET. This year's party will be catered Italian Cuisine by Alessio's.

The dinner menu includes antipasto salad, chicken parmesan, veal parmesan, cheese lasagna, garlic knots, broccoli, creamed spinach, cheese cake and cannoli's. Soft drinks, sweet and unsweetened iced tea will be provided.

The cost is \$25 per person or \$10 per child (12 and under).

As in previous years, we will be collecting toys which will be donated to children who are in the hospital or will be hospitalized over the Holidays!

Wrapping is not a requirement. If you choose to wrap your gift, please tag the outside with "boy" or "girl".

Tickets are on sale at the NFARL Mart until December 10th!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 16th!

73's

*Mark*

Mark Schumann, KK4FOF  
NFARL President  
KK4FOF

# ***Get On The Air - We Are NFARL and Are Here to Help***

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So you have earned your amateur radio license, maybe recently, maybe a while back, but you just haven't gotten on the air yet.

Perhaps you haven't had the time to set up your station or you just don't know what is the first step to take. You have no radio, no antenna, and with so many options and choices, are faced with the exciting, but sometimes daunting decision process of what to start with for your particular location and interests. Don't be concerned, we all have been there, and have all relied on the help of others to get started.

Our club has a loaner radio program, which allows members to borrow radios, power supplies and related gear to get on the air and become acquainted with the various bands, modes, and types of operations and equipment they may be interested in. We have members that can help do a site assessment at your location and strategize about antenna installation options. They can assist you in getting your first antenna in the sky, and then provide a loaner radio to get you in operation.

Many club members operate on the HF bands with great success in HOA restricted neighborhoods using hidden wire antennas. Don't accept HOA restrictions as an excuse not to get on the air. It can be done. Also, VHF/UHF antennas are small in comparison to HF antennas and can be installed easily and stealthily to get you active on the club repeaters.

With this great fall weather in Georgia upon us, now is the perfect time to have an antenna party. Please contact me for details about the club loaner program. Our team can help set you up with a simple, but effective antenna, and get you on the air with a loaner radio to have fun and enjoy the privileges of your hard earned amateur radio license.

Contact me at [n4tol@nfarl.org](mailto:n4tol@nfarl.org) or visit our website at <http://nfarl.org/LoanProgram/LPOverview.html>

*John*, N4TOL



Stealth Antenna in the trees

## ***EME Contest 2017 – Setting the Stage / John Kludt, K4SQC***

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The EME contest for 2017 is now history. This contest is a little different from others in that it is divided into three separate parts. On September 9-10 Part 1 of the event was staged for 2.3 GHz and up. Having no gear, or big dishes, we did not play in this part of the event. Part 2 was held over the weekend of October 7-8 for 50 to 1296 MHz. Between myself and Bob Lear, W4ZST, we did have equipment for 144 MHz and 432 MHz and we did participate. The last and third part of this contest was held November 4-5 again for 50 to 1296 MHz and we did participate in spite of some challenges – the Stone Mountain Hamfest. Running back and forth between Dahlonega and Stone Mountain got a bit old but both are annual events – guess the calendar just did not work out this year.

EME much like some aspects of VHF/UHF contesting is a little different. If you are attracted to sustained run rates of 60-100 Q's per hour EME contesting is probably not for you. If you do enjoy the technical challenge of a 250-252 dB path loss and the ability to work anyone who can see your Moon then there may be some hope that you will find this mode of contesting interesting. Working the Falkland Islands or Thailand on 2 meters for a multiplier is kind of a rush! So, what did our station look like and what modes did we use?

The thing that makes EME affordable for many of us is the advent of the digital modes, specifically JT65b for 144 to 432 MHz. Folks run JT65a on 50 MHz and JT65c on 1296 MHz. Station requirements have been greatly reduced. One station on the air during the contest was running 50 watts into a very modest single Yagi. We never heard him but watching the reflector he was working the really big guns, and hey, he was in there trying. The software of choice right now is WSJT 10.0. While JT65b is in WSJT-X the general consensus in the EME community is it is not quite as sensitive and JT65b in WSJT 10. I run a lot of FT8 and kept forgetting that in WSJT 10 all of the things that can be run automatically in WSJT-X are manual in WSJT 01. Things like moving from one message to the next, enabling Tx and disabling Tx after 73. Little things like that!

The 2m station consists of a DEMI 2m transverter using a Flex 1500 for the 28 MHz IF. This feeds an M2 2M-1K2 running about 800 watts in JT mode. The antennas are a pair of M2 2MXP20's horizontally stacked. These antennas allow the choice of either vertical or horizontal polarization. The ability to switch between the two polarizations makes a large difference in success rate. On 2m we started the night on vertical polarization and then switched to horizontal as the night progressed. The month before it was just the opposite – horizontal at Moonrise and then moving to vertical. So the ability to switch between the two can make a big difference.

The 432 station again uses a DEMI 432 transverter with a FT-920 for the 28 MHz IF. This feeds a LunarLink amplifier running about 800 watts. There are four 432 Yagi's configured in pairs, one pair at -45 degrees and the other at +45 degrees with the ability to switch between the pairs. So why do it that way? At +/- 45 degrees the effects of a metal cross boom and feedlines running up the booms are minimized. That is a good trick to remember – here at K4SQC we do some of our satellite antennas the same way for the same reason.

EME contesting is a little different in that potential propagation windows are known years in advance. The Moon must be up for the possibility of a contact to exist! And it is not always a

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nighttime event. Often the Moon is up during the day and while we cannot see it with our eyes, the radios can see. The one caveat is there must be enough angular separation between the Sun and the Moon that sun noise does not overwhelm our echo coming back off the moon. Moonrise and Moonset for any location can be easily found on the Web in published astronomical tables. A host of other issues can make the path difficult but at least we all know when to try.

At our Moonrise we have access to Europe. About the time the Moon sets in Europe it becomes available to most of the Western hemisphere. As we begin to lose the Moon here on the East Coast it becomes available to Asia and the western Pacific Rim. The physics behind the contest strategy then become Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion tempered by local obstructions like tall trees, mountains, metal buildings, etc. If you can't see the Moon you are probably not going to be too successful. And trees love VHF/UHF RF on some bands more than others. Case in point, we usually lose the last 20 degrees of Moon secondary to trees, a mountain behind Bob's Dahlenega QTH and the metal building that houses the operating position. There are then band conditions to contend with but that is a subject for another time. At least we know when to go look.



**Typical EME array for 432 MHz.  
Maybe we made contact with this station!**

So how did we do? More on that in the next eNews. If any of this interests you, you are always welcome to come along on the trip to Dahlenega and see what it is all about. You may be wondering why Dahlenega.....no HOA covenants to deal with! While my system is small somehow I don't think the architectural purity police would approve.

And Bob Lear, W4ZST, has been a most gracious host.

Thank you, Bob, for allowing this all to happen.

## ***My 80 Meter Adventure / Garry Brass, AK4NA***

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In a previous newsletter I told you about my 30 meter dipole adventure. For reasons I can't remember I took the 30 meter dipole down. Instead I put up a short G5RV for 40 meters and up. Recently Walt, W0RON, has been trying to get up a SSB Thursday night round table on 80 meters. Since I didn't have an 80 meter antenna it was time to build one if I wanted to get on 80 meters with Walt and the gang.

I used two plastic tent stakes and my 100 foot cloth measuring tape and laid out a quarter wave length which I figured was 65 feet. I had a 500 foot spool of 14 gauge, THHN, stranded wire from Lowes which I hadn't used yet so I tied the wire to one stake leaving an 18 inch pigtail, took it down to the other stake, pulled it taught, took it back up to the first stake and cut it with another 18 inches to spare on each half's end for hooking up to the center insulator and twisting on the two "dogbone" end insulators. I used the center insulator from the departed 30 meter antenna for this one.

I wasn't going to try to get it up too high so I used the tennis ball projectile from my spud gun and just threw it by hand over a couple of tree limbs in my yard. It's meant to be an NVIS cloud warmer anyway so height was not a priority. I already had a line up in a tree right at the middle of the new antenna which had held one end of the old 30 meter wire. I used this as a support for the center insulator. One hundred thirty feet is a long span and would have put a terrific stress on both the wire and the end twists without a center support. I had a spool of ¼ inch polyester rope and some old scrap pieces so I hauled the ends up with downhauls so I could pull them back down easily.

When I put the Rigexpert AA-30 Antenna Analyzer on her the SWR was a nearly perfect 1.1:1 but it was at 3.500 MHz, the bottom of the band. Too long! I got out my calculator and divided 3.500 by 3.750 (the center of the 80 meter band) and got 0.9333... I multiplied this times the 65 feet I had made the antenna halves in the first place and found they should be only 60 feet, 8 inches long (this corresponds to a velocity factor of 0.925 for the 14 gage wire). Down she came and a quick snip at the ends took off 4 feet 4 inches from each. Up again and the best SWR was 1.1:1 at 3.750 MHz, right on the button, and better than 3.0 to 1 all across the band.

I'm sure this antenna will fail since I put her up all by myself and it was an absolutely gorgeous October day. We all know that the best antennas are put up in the winter by three or four friends during a freezing rain and maybe a little lightning (this is known as bonding with your fellow hams).

Nevertheless, while she lasts I'll listen for you on the 80 meter round table at 8:30 Thursday nights on 3.999 MHz.

## ***HamJam: I'm Naming Names / Martha Muir, W4MSA***

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As we all know by now, HamJam 2017 was an outstanding success! Over \$10,000 worth of prizes were up for raffle and given away to the lucky ticket holders. Speaking of which, all the tickets were sold, \$10,000 worth! How incredible is that? The 200 folks in attendance heard presentations by outstanding hams, including a Skype chat with ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher.

To some degree, the title of this article is misleading. I would like to cite all the names of the folks who contributed to the success of HamJam but I did not 'take roll' of all the folks who attended nor of all the folks who bought tickets. They contributed to our success but they will have to remain anonymous.

HamJam is a unique event put together and run by many outstanding members of NFARL. Rather than expressing my thanks and admiration 'for all who contributed to the success of HamJam,' I want to name names and recognize these folks for who they are: hardworking, dedicated members of NFARL and its efforts in our community.

First off, I'd like to thank the 'big three' who have been in charge of HamJam for a number of years now. Wes W3WL somewhat 'retired' from the YESA leadership this year but was actually fully involved none the less. Jim W4QO worked tirelessly on HamJam, securing many of the prizes and even showing up at 6:30 AM on HamJam day to blow the leaves off the sidewalks between the buildings we used at Mill Springs. John K4SQC, the chairman of the HamJam Committee, was among those who met with MSA Headmaster Robert Moore to secure the use of the MSA facilities for this year's event. He also added to the publicity about HamJam with his article in the local papers. All three sought out speakers and sold raffle tickets everywhere they went. Actually though, there is a fourth leader of the HamJam campaign: Mack W4AX. Mack started the generation of prizes by working with Flex to secure its donation of that wonderful radio.

Next up, I'd like to recognize the contributions of Chuck AE4CW and Steve KS4KJ. Chuck spent many days checking out the A/V needs and capabilities in the Upper School Great Room, once that was chosen as the site for this year's HamJam. Chuck worked with Technical Director Patrick Rose and IT head Thomas Berg from Mill Springs to ensure all necessary components would be working at HamJam. Steve joined Chuck in the final weeks leading up to HamJam and also worked with Jim W4QO to create that video that generated much comment and praise after being shown at HamJam. Our speakers from ARRL HQ, Dan and Daniel, asked for a copy of that video to take back to HQ with them.

Add to that bunch Jeff N1KDO, Tim WK4U, and Bill K4YJJ. Jeff was in charge of HamJam's social media appearances. A new Facebook posting about HamJam was made nearly every week. Those postings were often shared to other Facebook pages, broadening the publicity about HamJam to an ever expanding audience. Tim was in charge of collecting the raffle prizes as they came in and then ensuring their proper distribution at the end of the raffle. Tim's prize table crew consisted of Tim K4RA, Aaron KK4LOV, Walt W0RON, Shane KF4TJY, and Garry AK4NA. Bill, NFARL's webmaster, had the challenging task of keeping the HamJam webpages up to date with speakers and prizes as they were secured. Bill, along with Bob K4VBM, took photos of the HamJam events. Bill has posted them on the NFARL website and is in the process of captioning many of them.

For the first time in HamJam history, a VE session was held. Led by Hal KK1B, the VE team of

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Mike N4MEP, Jim N7TTO, John W4TXA, Bob AB4VT, Steve AB4TT, and Bill N4WLW helped three candidates earn their Technician class licenses and one candidate his General class license. Well done and thanks.

How to fit potentially 200 or more cars on the Mill Springs campus? How to ensure folks attending HamJam knew where to go once they arrived on campus? These issues were solved by members of NFARES, led by Grant KK4PCR and Mike AD4MC. Grant scouted out the parking situation at Mill Springs a couple of weeks before the event and developed a plan for his team. Mike and Grant's team consisted of Tony K4AWF, Larry AA4QO, Steven KW4HQ, Paul K4MPD, Brian K4EYI, Scott KM4JXE, and Jim KJ4QVT. Grant also credits Jim W4QO as being part of his team for all his work in developing the parking plan. The NFARES parking crew directed the majority of the cars to the upper level parking lot and then told the folks to 'follow the yellow vest road' back down the hill for the HamJam activities.

Fred N4CLA, NFARL Treasurer, had the task of keeping up with HamJam ticket sales, before HamJam, tickets sold via the NFARL Mart, and in person sales at HamJam itself. John N4IHV helped Fred man the ticket tables at HamJam. As a result of Fred's organization of all of this, ALL RAFFLE TICKETS WERE SOLD!!!! People at HamJam wanted to buy more tickets but no more were available.

Part of what makes HamJam a success is the opportunity to meet, greet, and converse with your fellow hams in a relaxing atmosphere. Jim N4SEC recruited his wife Sandra, Betsy K4BID, and Mike KF4UPO to help him with the brewing and serving of seemingly endless gallons of coffee which added to the sense of camaraderie in the PreUpper Great Room.

Throughout all the planning of HamJam and all the decisions that had to be made about it, NFARL President Mark KK4FOF and Vice President Daryl K4RGK were there to add their support and advice. Mark led the team that made contact with Mill Springs to secure its use as the venue for this year's HamJam.

Without a doubt, a great deal of the success of HamJam is due to the support of NFARL members and members of other clubs in the area and beyond. However, let's take a moment and thank these folks whose notable contributions directly and positively impacted the success of HamJam 2017. Thanks folks.

*Editor Note:*

While Martha is naming names NFARL would like to do the same.

Martha, W4MSA, single handedly, provided the embellishment of the HOSPITALITY room where all kinds of munchies were laid out for all to enjoy. She also coordinated the recruitment (along with Vaidehi, KM4IOL, the science department head) of about 10 MSA students who were great ambassadors for the school and handled many small tasks.

Thank You Martha!

### **Chuck Breaks Things at MSA's Flex Friday**

Chuck, AE4CW, came to Mill Springs Academy on November 3rd to guide some students into taking apart some old electronic devices and then helped them identify the components they found. One student chose an old vacuum tubed device and the others had more modern transistor devices. Chuck had the students entranced throughout the whole session.

Flex Friday is a first Friday of the month session where students get to choose a specialized activity they'd like to do. This 'Electronics Decomposition' was offered to both PreUpper and Upper School students.



### **John Kludt Tells Teachers about ARISS Opportunities at GISA Conference.**

On Monday, November 7, John K4SQC presented to a roomful of teachers at the Georgia Independent School Association's Annual Conference a program about ARISS. ARISS stands for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station and is an opportunity for schools and other organizations to apply to be able to talk to an astronaut via Amateur Radio while he/she orbits above their location.

John, of course, is an expert at ARISS, having assisted many schools and groups host this phenomenal experience.

The teachers in attendance followed what John had to say very closely and asked questions to help them figure out what they needed to do to get the ball rolling at their school to get this opportunity. The deadline to submit applications for the recent window was November 15. The next application window will open sometime in early 2018.



# Great Lakes Special Event Stations / Terry Joyner, W4YBV

November's Fury Amateur Radio Operation recognizes the terrible disasters of November gales on the Great Lakes during the twentieth century.

The gales in November have caused three major tragedies and those events are being remembered.

The cargo ships Carl D. Bradley on November 18, 1958, the Daniel J. Morrell on November 29, 1966 and the Edmund Fitzgerald on November 10, 1975 were all lost on the Great Lakes during the month of November.

Work these special event stations and learn more about the Great Lakes and November's Fury. Great QSL cards and certificates are offered.

**Terry W4YBV**



Commemorating the 34th Anniversary of the loss of the **Edmund Fitzgerald**

**K8F**

Paradise, Michigan on Whitefish Bay 11 miles South of Whitefish Point

Ralph KW8G    Laura W8JUZ  
Dave KBEDR    Chuck K8SWHQ

Amateur Radio Station \_\_\_\_\_  
November 2009    UTC    BAND    MODE    RPT  
6 7 8    \_\_\_\_\_  
6 7 8    \_\_\_\_\_

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum

The Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society  
W8NJH  
210 S. Main St. Plymouth, Michigan 48170

**N8F**

Whitefish Point, Michigan  
Chippewa County EN76  
Lighthouse USA 887

Rich W8VS    Jordan K8BNKX  
Dave W8QGE    George W8YUZ

Amateur Radio Station W4YBV  
November 2009    UTC    BAND    MODE    RPT  
6 7 @    0941 40    SSB    5X  
6 7 8    \_\_\_\_\_

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

eNews can be located online at:  
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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
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