



North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

March 2019

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Service | Friendship | Education | Fun*

www.nfarl.org



March Volunteer Examiner Update / Ian Kahn, NV4C

Greetings, all. To this point in the year, we have had three successful volunteer examiner sessions. Since January, the North Fulton VE team has awarded the following elements:

Technician: 17 General: 3 Extra: 0

This includes the numbers for the March session, which we held this past Saturday.

I am also pleased to inform everyone that the North Fulton ARL VE Team is helping the ARRL pilot test new procedures for uploading test results directly to the League, to allow for faster processing and issuance of call signs/upgrades. As of this writing, I am still waiting to see if the first upload, from this past weekend, was successful or not. I am excited that the ARRL VEC is finally moving forward with a system that will speed up exam result processing, and am proud that our team is part of the pilot program, testing the process, providing recommendations, and helping work out the kinks before it goes live.

With this new process comes a key new requirement. When this new system goes live, hopefully later this year, the ARRL will require users have an FRN when they come for an exam. This follows along with the FCC's requirement, also expected to go into effect later this year, that all candidates for any radio service license have an FRN when they arrive for the exam.

Prospective candidates can register for an FRN by visiting, and enrolling, with the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES), found at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>. This is a two-step process. The first part of the process is to click the **Register** link in the middle of the page, and fill in the requested information to register with the system:

FCC Registration - Login

You are accessing a U.S. Government Information System. Information system usage may be monitored, recorded, and subject to audit. Unauthorized use of the information system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties. Use of the information system indicates consent to monitoring and recording.

If you wish to access the Commission Registration System (CORES), you must first REGISTER an FCC Username. Please click the REGISTER button below. Once you have successfully registered a Username, you can then log into CORES to create an FCC Registration Number (FRN), which is a 10 digit unique identifier necessary to conduct business with the FCC, and manage existing FRNs.

[News releases](#) related to the FCC Registration Number.

The image contains three separate web pages from the FCC's CORES system. The first page is titled 'Username Login' and contains fields for 'Username' and 'Password', with a 'LOG IN' button. A note at the top states: 'Note: The Username is the email address associated with your FCC Username Account.' The second page is titled 'Need a Username?' and features a prominent 'REGISTER' button. Below it are links for 'Forgot/Reset your Username Password?' and 'Check Username Availability'. The third page is titled 'Search for public FRN information' and has a single 'SEARCH' button.

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(Continued from page 1)

It is important to note, a social security number is required to register with CORES. As part of this process, the registrant will provide an email to use as a user name, and a password. The password must be at least 12 characters and contain three of the following four items:

1. Upper case letter
2. Lower case letter
3. Number
4. Special character (usually one of the characters above the number keys on the top row of the keyboard)

Once the registration form is complete, the registrant will receive an email with a link, to verify their enrollment. This link must be clicked, and CORES logged into with the new account, to verify the registration.

Once this part of the process is complete, the new user, who is now logged into CORES, requests a new FRN. The user clicks the Register New FRN link, answers the questions, and completes the registration process. The user will receive another email in the next few minutes, that contains his/her new FRN:

The screenshot shows the 'User Home' section of the FCC Registration website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'FCC Registration' and a breadcrumb trail 'FCC > FCC Registration > User Home'. Below this is the 'User Home' header. A large button labeled 'User Home' is present. To its right is a light blue box containing the text 'Select one of the following:' followed by several options: 'Associate Username to FRN', 'Manage Existing FRNs', 'Register New FRN' (which is highlighted with a red box), 'Reset FRN Password', 'Search for FRN', and 'Update Username Profile'.

The team had a computer at the exam session this past weekend, and will have one at the April and May exam sessions, to help users register. After that, it is expected users will come prepared with an FRN. The Test Sessions page of the NFARL web site has been updated with this information.

As always, we encourage people to come test with the North Fulton VE team. We have a wonderful, friendly group of volunteers who help run the exam sessions. Thank you to all of you who help out. We wouldn't be able to do this without you.

If anyone is thinking about becoming a VE and wants more information, or wants to take a test and has questions, please feel free to reach out to me. I can be most easily reached by email at nv4c@nfarl.org.

73 de,

Ian NV4C

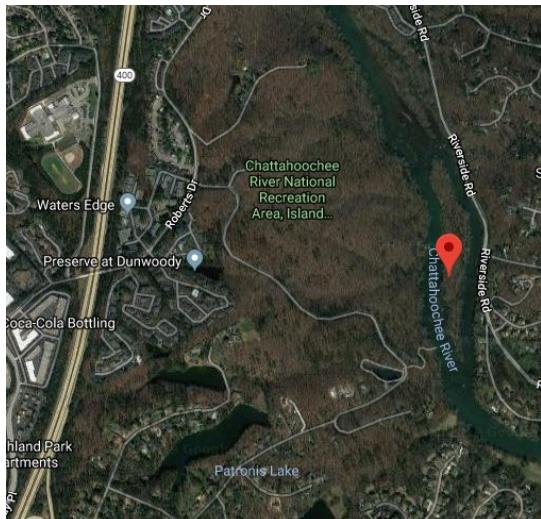
NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

- **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 more information and "how to".
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.
Check [NFARES.org](#) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting - March 19, 2019**, 7:30 PM.
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Program: "GA QSO Party - How To..."
presented by John, N4TOL and Mike, W5JR
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**
March 26, 2019, 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.
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM
Meet with your fellow club members every Wednesday!
Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Thursday — YL OP Net** – 8:00 PM - 9:30 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.
This is a great opportunity for YL's to get on the radio with other YL's!
- **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 Saturday — VE Testing** - 10:00 AM
NFARL provides Amateur (Ham) Radio test sessions on the second Saturday of each month - Walk-ins are welcome, no appointment is necessary. All exam modules are offered at all sessions.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Please check our [website](#) for more information.

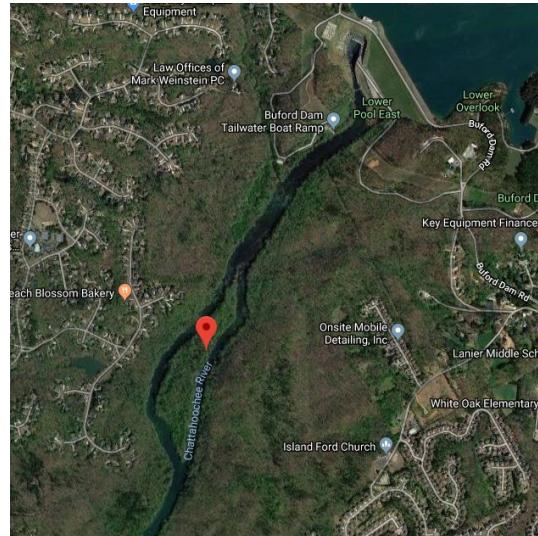
US Islands - & Parks! - Activations / Terry Joyner, W4YBV

Activating an island and a park at the same time can be fun with lots of Qso's and pile ups.

The Chattahoochee river park runs about 18 miles long through our area with three US Islands located on it. Just South of the Buford Dam you will find Bowmans Island GA061, but you will need a small boat to access it. This island has not been qualified yet so a lot of island collectors will be looking for this one.



Island Bar Shoals, GA057



Bowmans Island, GA061

In Roswell just North of Hwy 400 you will find Island Bar Shoals GA057 that has not been qualified yet. Yes, you will need a small boat to access it also but islands collectors will be looking for this one too.

Just North of 285 and the Chattahoochee river is Powers Island GA026R. This is a walk on island with a picnic table by the river and you will find trees for

antennas. You could place your antenna on the island, run about 125 feet of feed line on side of the walk way / bridge and set up your station on the mainland. Jim, N4SEC, and I have verified this is a legitimate "per the rules" method of activating an island.

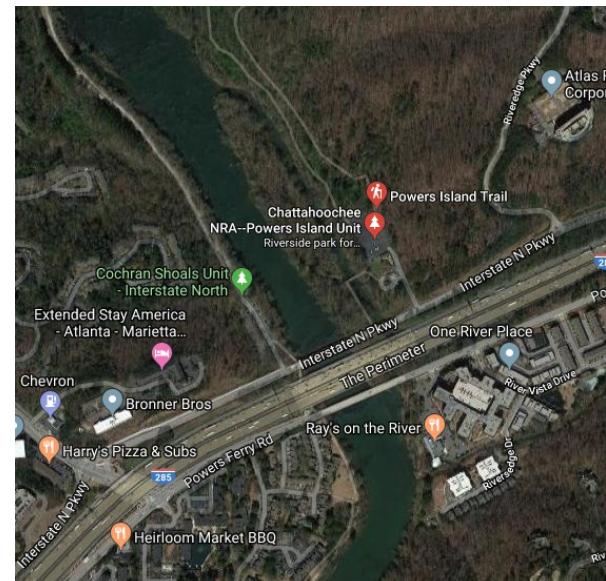
Jim and I activated Powers island back with this method back in August of 2017. Please go to [eNews Oct. 2017](#) and check out our story and photos from the island activation.

Please don't forget to post your activations on the [Parks On The Air](#) and [US Islands](#) calendars.

Good Luck.
Terry, W4YBV



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Powers Island, GA026R

Georgia QSO Party 2019 / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

The 2019 Georgia QSO Party will be held on April 13-14 with **two operating periods: 1800Z Saturday (2:00 pm EDST Saturday) until 0359Z Sunday (11:59 pm EDST Saturday), and 1400Z Sunday (10:00 am EDST Sunday) to 2359Z Sunday (7:59 pm EDST Sunday).**

We encourage all NFARL members and friends to participate in the Georgia QSO Party (GQP). Special "coveted" NFARL certificates will be awarded to all club members and friends for accomplishments and participation in the contest.

The Georgia QSO Party



Can you spell "NFARL"?

As we did last year, there will be operators on the air in the GQP sporting special 1X1 callsigns: N4N, N4F, N4A, N4R, & N4L and K4N, K4F, K4A, K4R, & K4L.

Work all 5 letters to spell "NFARL" to earn a special certificate. Work them in any combination: mixed, SSB, and/or CW, "N" and/or "K" prefixes. Can you get the clean sweep? These stations will be active, but the more time you spend operating in the GQP, the better your chance of winning the "spelling bee". This effort is to increase activity in the GQP, but primarily to have fun in the contest.

The topic for the March meeting on March 19th will be "Georgia QSO Party How To - at Home and on the Road (rover)". Please be sure to attend to get some operating tips for first timers and old hands as well, and NFARL club members will be accessible to answer questions and discuss details about the GQP.

For information and details about the GQP, please visit the webpage

<http://www.georgiaqso.org/>

The site will provide information such as: the contest rules, categories and awards, county lists, and many other details.

Please contact me with your intent to be part of the NFARL contest team for the GQP and we can put you on the list. Also, feel free to contact me at n4tol@arrl.net with any questions.

I look forward to working you in the contest.

John, N4TOL

Good Things Come In Small Packages / Diane Pete, KN4KSD

A new addition to the Pete family ham shack, just in time for the CW Sig, was the DCP Miniature Iambic Paddle Kit by American Morse Equipment.

This miniature aluminum paddle kit was made in the USA, weighs just 2.5 ounces and measures 1 1/2" x 1 7/8" x 1 3/16". We shined up the aluminum and put it together in about 30 minutes. This "Dirt Cheap Paddle" was \$49 including shipping!



Please help support NFARL eNews!

Your eNews team is calling for original articles from NFARL members for your newsletter.

Please always email your articles in MS Word or other original editable format to enews@nfarl.org and include your content as attachments. Please avoid sending PDFs unless it is for reference only and is accompanied by the originating document. Photos, charts, etc. can be included in your document or included as additional attachments.

The submission deadline is usually the second Tuesday of each month.

Thanks for supporting NFARL and your club newsletter!

Amazon Smile/ Jim Stafford, W4QO

From what I hear, not everyone is familiar with Amazon Smile. Basically, it's another gimmick of a way for Amazon to get you to spend more money. If you buy your "stuff" through SMILE, Amazon will give 1/2 of a percent of the purchase to a charity of your choice. It's not much but it is something and can help pay for say BBQ at Field Day or classroom space for our VE testing team for all or part of the year.

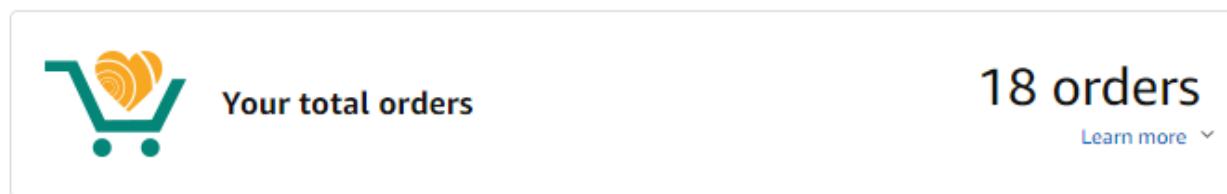
To use it you simply go to smile.amazon.com and make your purchase while at that site which is exactly like the amazon.com site. There is no special login. In fact, since I seem to have automatic login, when I go to smile.amazon.com I'm already logged in. To select your charity (North Fulton Amateur Radio League or whatever you choose), you go to your Accounts section and look for Your Amazon Smile. From there you can search for our club name and select it. We hope you will pick "us".

I've generated less than \$5 for the club and I sometimes forget to use "Smile" but it all helps the cause. From the graphic clip, NFARL seems to have gotten over \$150 although Fred, N4CLA, our treasurer can't seem to find all that money. Still, it's FREE so to speak.

Send me an email if you need help and I'll do what I can!

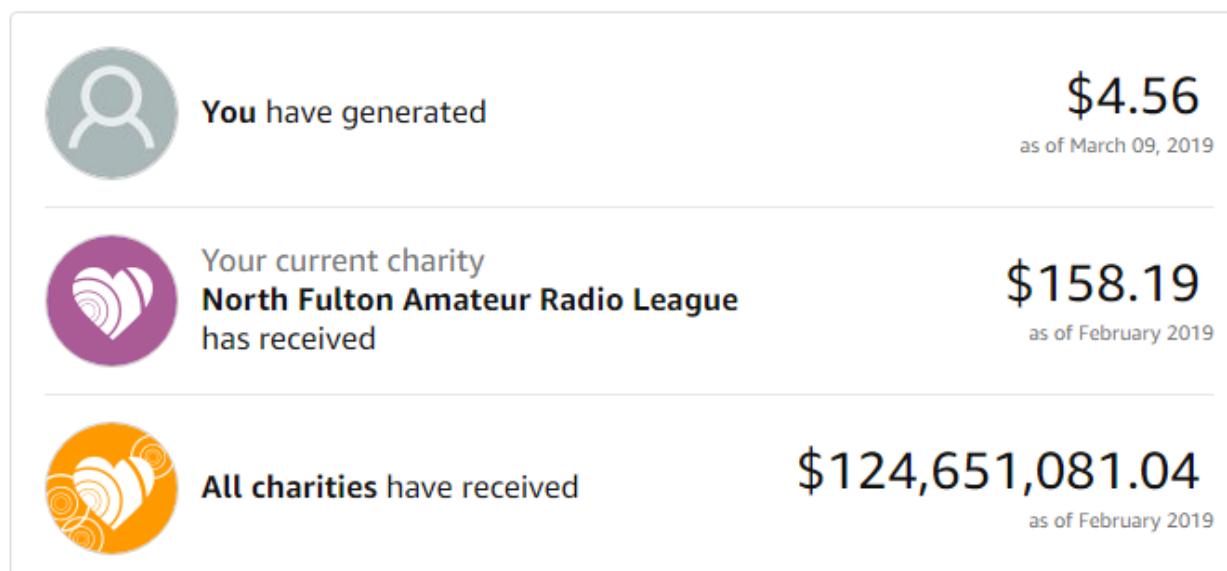
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When millions of supporters shop at smile.amazon.com, charitable donations quickly add up.



CW SIG / Jim Stafford, W4QO

The CW SIG (Special Interest Group) has been quite active since late January. Yes, we had 21 people sign up, some even outside NFARL and now we count the "really serious" ones to be about a dozen. We had a kick off meeting at my QTH on January 24 where we covered how the "SIG" would work, how to study to learn CW, and all the fun a person can have on CW.

After that we have met every Monday and Friday at 7PM on the DISCORD chat room – both voice and text – where we spend about 45 minutes practicing CW and reporting on progress. I've been up front and told folks that our approach is to practice about 20 minutes per day receiving Morse Code and reporting in ala Weight Watchers on progress. We have always recommended that CW be learned in the old ARRL order which begins with the letters in ESTONIA, which makes this approach the "ESTONIA" method! We also recommend CW Player (a program from France) as a good way to practice. But here's the thing – do it every day as much as possible. If you do that you will learn CW in a month easily. If you don't, you won't!

How's it going? Well, I'm happy to say that 3 of our members have passed the 5 word per minute CW test. That would be **Diane, KN4KSD, Colby, KN4KSE, and Scott, WA2AXB!** Others are coming along and we will be wrapping up the "formal" part of the CW SIG by the end of March. But that doesn't mean the graduates have arrived.... NO, we plan to get them on the air and have been meeting on 7117 kHz every Wednesday at 7PM. I've also been giving them tips on how to work slow code with the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). Each person is encouraged to "get their own" member number and many have. Then we work to get them on those very active slow code frequencies which are around 7055 and 3555.

Feel free to join us on any of these activities either on the DISCORD conference site or on the air. Also, contact me to get your code speed up to where you want it. We recommend the CW OPS courses for example. And lastly, there is quite a bit of info to help at the club website: <https://www.nfarl.org/sigCW/cwIntro.html>

Lt. Ray Schwartz (SK)

WWII Army Air Corps veteran Lt. Ray Schwartz K4GRR passed away the morning of March 13, 2019. In the past couple of years, Ray and his daughter Arlene KE6GFI regularly enjoyed attending Hungry Hams and interacting with folks there.

Arlene shared this comment about her father: "Hungry hams was a special time to hang out with the guys and dad always enjoyed that."

Lt. Schwartz handled communications on various airplanes during World War II, an experience he shared with students at Mill Springs Academy in November of 2017. He wound up his visit to the World War II program at MSA with a rapid fire CW exchange with Pavel, AC4PA.

Funeral arrangements: March 19, 2019 at 1:30 pm
Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA
with military honors.



WindCamp PowerPole Splitter / Bob Hensey, K4VBM

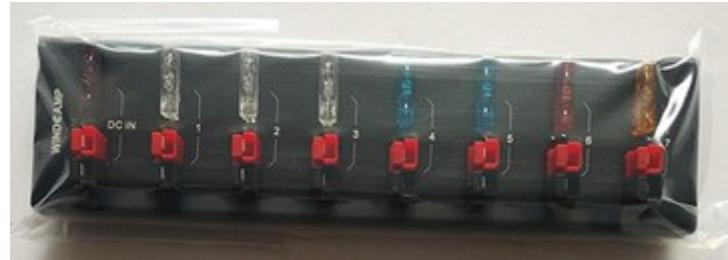
In my search for components for my portable set-up, I was looking for a power splitter so a single battery could be accessed by more than one device. I looked at West Mountain RigRunners which are very nice, and very expensive. While I was searching the internet for alternatives, I happened upon the WindCamp PowerPole Splitter Products.

The WindCamp comes in both a 4-port and 8-port configuration. I decided to purchase the 8-port version, \$48.98 on eBay free shipping from Hong Kong (less than ½ the price of a RigRunner). The specs are:

- Operating Voltage: ≤DC 36V
- FUSE: DC IN(40A*1), OUT(25A*3, 15A*2, 10A*1, 5A*1)
- Material: aluminum alloy
- Connector: Anderson Powerpoles
- Convenient and safe to connect your equipment
- 3M Adhesive Pads: Fixed well in the position such as desktop, workbench
- Dimensional: 188*50*30 (WDH,mm)
- Net Weight: 175g
- Packing Size: 110*15*135 (WDH,mm)
- Gross Weight: 330g

It took a while, but it finally arrived packaged very well. Inside the box was the following:

- WindCamp AP-8 power splitter X 1
- Anderson Powerpole connector X 8pair
- Spare fuse X 8
- Fuse extractor X 1
- 3M adhesive pad X 4



The splitter seems very well-made and solid. It has a rubber pad at either end of

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the bottom, but 3M adhesive pads are included so you can mount it permanently in a place of your choosing (very nice). For now I will just let it sit on its rubber pads/feet. Mine had a ½" scratch on the bottom that had been touched up with black marker which was hard to see unless the light hit it just right.

Also included are 8 pairs of Anderson PowerPoles (black housing, red housing, and 30A terminals) Yes, you should use 45A for the input, and 30A is overkill for the 15A, 10A, and 5A ports, but if you are already using Anderson PowerPoles, you probably already have some 45A and 15A terminals. Nice to see those included.

Then there are some spare fuses (in my case, 1- 40A, 3-25A, 2-15A, 1-10A, and 1-5A), and a neat little plastic tool for pulling out the fuses.

The Splitter has a DC IN port at the very left fused for 40A. To the right of that are 7 output ports fused from left to right for 25A, 25A, 25A, 15A, 15A, 10A, and 5A. I tried out the fuse puller tool, and it worked really well.



Obviously, you can change any of the fuses to what you want, and of course DO NOT EXCEED the 40A capacity of the device.

All-in-all, I am delighted with my purchase so far, and hopefully it will perform well.



NFARL

North Fulton
Amateur Radio League



So you want to be a HAM? This is a one page guide to acquiring your ham radio license with help from the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) – Roswell, Georgia Website: nfarl.org

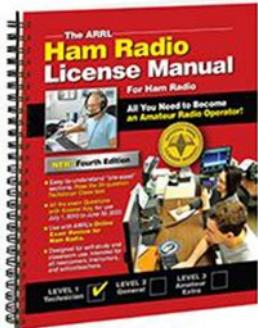
Amateur (or ham) radio is a very fascinating, fulfilling, and fun HOBBY. In fact, it is more than a hobby. It is also considered a **SERVICE**. In ham radio, you can help your community in times of disaster. At the NFARL, we believe that the most fun occurs when you understand the basics behind ham radio.

Look at this video introducing amateur radio from our friends in England: <https://tinyurl.com/ox7b2x>

Although obtaining a license is not difficult, it takes some time commitment on your part. We also believe you will enjoy the hobby the most when you are associated with other amateur radio operators at the local level. In fact, we'd like you to visit our website nfarl.org and attend one of our meetings.

One thing interested people always ask: Does it cost a lot? No. To get started, it costs about \$40. Radios can cost more but some start as low as \$30. A worldwide radio can be obtained for \$100 to \$200. The NFARL club has a radio loaner program for members and club dues are only \$30 per year.

Yes, you do have to obtain a license to talk or transmit on the radio. But you may listen without a license. People achieve their license at any age – school kids to retirees. To obtain your license from the US government (called the FCC), you need to pass a test. We'll help you prepare and do that.



Our program has 4 parts: 1) Let us associate you with a MENTOR (also called an ELMER), a person to help you as you study and learn. This mentor will meet with you either live or on the phone and will be a resource to answer questions and work to get you licensed and "on the air". To get started, send an email to elmer@nfarl.org. Include your phone number so they can chat with you and answer your questions. This is a very important step and highly recommended.

2) We recommend this study book – the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual which you can obtain at one of our meetings in Alpharetta or at our local radio store – Ham Radio Outlet on Buford Highway. <https://tinyurl.com/y7bcedb> To buy? \$30 But our club also has loaner books. We suggest the spiral bound version.

3) A series of videos to watch. We suggest those by Dave Casler, KE0OG, from Colorado on YouTube. Do a search for KE0OG and notice he has a series of 38 short videos that follow the book we recommend. <https://tinyurl.com/ya78swyb> Dave has many other interesting amateur radio links.

4) Take the test at one of the NFARL (or other club) Volunteer Examiner testing sessions. The test costs \$15. The NFARL testing sessions occur once per month in Alpharetta. Tests are around ATL each week.

You may proceed as quickly as you wish but it will require about 12 hours of study to pass the test. You may take longer or shorter, based on your own pace. But here is our most important suggestion – set yourself a time table for taking the test. Your mentor will be happy to work with you in setting this target date and a schedule to reach that goal. Don't worry. The date can be very flexible but it will make your travel to ham radio a great experience and a great accomplishment.

Remember: If it was easy, everyone would be a ham already! But oh, the sense of pride and the friendships you will make around the world.

Contact Us

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North Fulton Amateur Radio League

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nfarl.org

eNews can be located online at:
<https://www.nfarl.org/enews/eNewsIndex.html>

Club Repeaters

Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Morgan Falls
147.060 (+) Primary ARES Repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
* 224.620 (-) Joint Venture with MATPARC	100 Hz	TBD
443.150 (+)	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
444.475 (+)	100 Hz	Morgan Falls
* 927.0125 (-)	146.2 Hz	TBD

* Currently off the air

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