



## *North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS*

*May 2019*

*Over 40 Years Promoting  
Service | Friendship | Education | Fun*

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



### ***Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, Accepted for Youth DX Adventure! / Wes Lamboley, W3WL***

NFARL is most pleased to announce that Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, has been selected as a participant in the 2019 Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure! Audrey and her dad, Tom McElroy, W4SDR, will be going to PJ2T, the superstation located on Curacao in July 2019.



Audrey currently attends Forsyth Central High School in Cumming, GA and holds an Extra Class Amateur radio license received at age 13. She is in Honors Academics and has been selected for the STEM Honors program. She is also an accomplished clarinet player and holds a high ranking in her school band.

Her ham radio skills include land-navigation using a compass and a map, and using her HT and directional antenna in local Fox Hunts. She is hands-on and designs, builds, hoists, and tunes antennas during simulated emergencies and contests, and is a seasoned contest operator as well. She and her family will be joining the NFARL Field Day activities in June.

Audrey is most proud of the fact that the prestigious Atlanta Track Club appreciates her being a runner with an HT in her waist-pack in local races. She's a quick and nimble runner capable of being a first-responder in the thick of a race when "All Else Fails"!

Audrey joins two other NFARL past recipients of the Youth DX Adventure, Edward Doyle, KJ4NRN, in 2012 and Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, in 2016 who received the highly selective all-expenses paid trip for themselves and a parent to actually BE DX and experience the thrill of working the pileups! The NFARL Youth, Education, Scholarship and Activities (YESA) Board is proud to contribute HamJam monies to the YDXA program.



*See more photos of PJ2T on [qrz.com](http://qrz.com)*

Congratulations, Audrey, on your selection to go on the 2019 Youth DX Adventure!



### ***Low Sunspots and Thunderstorms Fail to Dampen Enthusiasm of NFARL Operators!***

The 2019 Georgia QSO Party is now in the books. Although total scores did not match those in prior years, the reported levels of excitement and enjoyment of the NFARL participants was at an all-time high. Some fine scores were posted in spite of some challenging conditions.

First, of course, we all faced the challenge of operating at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Looking at various contest boards, a common thread was that scores in the GQP were lower this year due to poor solar conditions.

Second, operating time for many participants was curtailed by severe thunderstorms and threats of tornadoes on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. I had to unplug a couple of times on Saturday evening, and even had one of my wire supports succumb to the high winds. However, the element still dangled haphazardly in the trees and soldiered on through Sunday's operation.

Third, a historic finish at the Masters Golf tournament may have cut into the chair time of many operators. I will admit, I took my lunch break on Sunday to watch the final holes at Augusta.

Unofficially, total scores reported in the "NFARL Challenge" were 23% lower than last year, in spite of the increased participation.

### **However, the following records were set:**

- 46 - the Number of participants in the "NFARL Challenge" !!!
- 6 - the number of "Rookie" participants in the "NFARL Challenge" !!!
- 7 - the number of NFARL members earning the "Spell NFARL" certificate !!!
- 17 - the number of non-GA stations earning the "Spell NFARL" certificate !!!

### **Some "Challenge" operators did surpass last year's scores:**

- HC5DX - David Sturm - our DX club member increased his score by 77%
- K4RAB - Rick Black - our club member from Florida increased his score by 28%
- W3HZZ - Phil Graitcer - operating as K4L this year increased his score by 25%
- N4F - although Jim Stafford and his multi-op team's total score was down slightly from last year, the N4F effort did increase their number of contacts by 3% this year as well as their participating operators by 14%!!!

**The "Spell NFARL" 1x1 stations turned in impressive scores in the GA QSO Party:**

N4N	224,448
N4F	48,975
N4A	92,880
N4R	61,256
N4L	21,484
K4N	20,032
K4F	18,912
K4A	7,562
K4R	10,368
K4L	53,238
<b>Total</b>	<b>559,155</b>



*The N4N Rover team ready to hit the road*

The club would like to recognize Daryl Young, K4RGK, for managing the QRZ pages for the special 1x1 calls, facilitating the "Spell NFARL" award program.

Kudos go to Bill Cobb, K4YJJ, for maintaining the info on the NFARL website related to the GQP and his most timely responsiveness to our requests.

Thanks to Jim Stafford, W4QO, Mike Roden, W5JR, and Bob Hensey, K4VBM, for their promotion of the GQP and aiding in the planning.

NFARL would also like to thank all those who participated in the Georgia QSO Party and for their efforts in enhancing the fun for all in the contest.

For those who participated in the "NFARL Challenge", scores are being reviewed and compiled for certificate awards to be presented at a future club meeting.

**Please help support NFARL eNews!**

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

Email your articles in MS Word or other original editable format to [enews@nfarl.org](mailto: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!**

## ***Free \$\$\$ for Your Favorite 501(c)(3) / Fred Moore, N4CLA***

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Here is a way that you can help **NFARL** and it will not cost you any money. Amazon has a foundation that doles out money to non-profit organizations that are registered 501(c)(3) with the IRS. If you use Amazon, you can go to [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com) and register your account as a Smile.Amazon participant and Amazon Smile will make donations on your behalf from all of your purchases.

For every Amazon customer that shops on **smile.amazon.com**, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. This means you can go to the list of charitable organizations and select **North Fulton Amateur Radio League** as the recipient of your donations.

Remember **this costs you nothing!** So remember to be sure that you log into **smile.amazon.com** to make this work. NO rewards come from [www.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

This is the easiest free money anyone could ask for.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## ***Pound That Brass! / Diane Pete, KN4KSD***

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Learning any new language takes practice, practice, practice and that includes Morse code.

The Straight Key Century club (SKCC) recently announced a new monthly event that will be helpful to those new to CW. Their **Slow Speed Saunter** will run the first day of each month starting July 1, 2019.

*"The Slow Speed Saunter will run concurrent with the SKCC SKN [straight key night] from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC to encourage new CW operators and those of us who enjoy operating at slower speeds to get on the air independent of sprints, contests, or special events, and improve our CW skills in a friendly relaxed environment."*

The SKCC has a Sked page on their website which is especially great for newbies. You can post that you're looking for a slow QSO and open a separate chat window with one of the friendly folks to exchange some words in plain English (like "Let's meet on 7061" or "I didn't catch that last part. Can you please send it again slower?"). For more details, visit the SKCC website: <https://www.skccgroup.com/>



For some quick CW practice when you have a few free minutes, try the software we used during the CW Sig class earlier this year. It is **CW Player** by F6DQM: <http://f6dqm.free.fr/soft/cwplayer/en/cwplayer.htm>

In this program you can easily setup groups of letters and characters that you'd like to practice and set the words per minute and spacing between characters to meet your needs.

As always, there are a great number of CW resources on NFARL's **CW Sig webpage**: <http://www.nfarl.org/sigCW/cw.html>



## ***NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates***

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- **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, GA 30075  
Check [NFARES.org](http://NFARES.org) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting - May 21, 2019, 7:30 PM**  
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00 PM  
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
**May meeting topic: "6 Meter DX" presented by Mike Greenway, K4PI**
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**  
May 28, 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, GA 30075
- **Every Thursday — YL OP Net** — 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100  
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."  
This is a great opportunity for YL's to get on the radio with other YL's!  
OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in to this YL net.
- **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.
- **Tuesday, June 18 — RSVP Deadline for Field Day Picnic**  
Please send an email to [FDFood@nfarl.org](mailto:FDFood@nfarl.org) and let us know how many will attend the picnic and what side dish or dessert you will bring
- **Saturday June 22 to Sunday June 23 — Field Day!**  
Groveway Community Park, 160 Dobbs Drive, Roswell, GA 30075  
The picnic will be Saturday June 22 at 6pm

## ***U.S. Islands One Day Getaway / Mike Riley, KN4OAK***

Were you aware there is an island on a lake at Stone Mountain Park?

NFARL activated Indian Island in Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, GA on May 11, 2019 using the call NF4GA. Favorable weather for the event (mostly cloudy with no rainfall and a light breeze, far from the forecast 90% chance of thunderstorms) helped make the day a success.

Indian Island is one of 66 islands recognized by USI inside the state of Georgia. It is identified as island # GA025L by The United States Islands Awards Program (USI). While there, the NFARL Team made 31 contacts including Spain and Venezuela.

Thanks to all those who were able to participate including Terry Joyner W4YBV, Jim Paine N4SEC, Don Deal KK4E, Lori Young K4UPI, Daryl Young K4RGK, Stew Tarkington W8LLX, and Mike Riley KN4OAK.



<b>NF4GA</b>			
North Fulton County, Georgia's Amateur Radio Club			
NFARL P O Box 1741 Roswell, GA 30077 <a href="http://www.nfarl.org">www.nfarl.org</a> PSE QSL _____ TNX QSL _____			
CONFIRMING QSO WITH		DAY	MONTH YEAR
UTC	MHz	RST	MODE





# ***NFARL Ham Highlight!***

*Get to know some of our newer and more established hams!*

**Mark Coleman, KJ4YM**  
**Marietta, GA**

I've been interested in ham radio since I was about 13 (1961). Growing up in rural North Georgia in the 1960's, there were not many ham operators around to be an Elmer. My grandfather had an old RCA broadcast/shortwave receiver that he gave me and I had a lot of fun listening to hams working AM and CW. Even though I did not get a license then, I kept my interest throughout high school and college.

After college, I worked for Southern Bell (Bellsouth/AT&T) and after a few years I found out there were several hams and a local club (MATPARC) at the company. Thanks to my elmers Dave Meadows, K4LDI, and Jim Stafford, W4QO, I got involved in the club and was able to get my novice license in 1984 (KB4OTB). I upgraded to extra class in 1985 (KJ4YM) and have been enjoying the hobby ever since.

In the late 80's and early 90's I served as Newsletter Editor for MATPARC and also served terms as club VP and President. During that time, I was also an ARRL volunteer examiner and instructor of several ham radio classes. I participated in several MATPARC Field Days and public service activities working 10 years for the Peachtree Rd race, 5 years in the Thanksgiving Day Marathon, and 5 years as lead communications for the Juvenile Diabetes Walk-a-Thon. In the early 90's my XYL got her license (KD4APR) and we have worked several events together.

In 2018 I was Activity Chairman for NFARL and in 2019 I will serve as SSB captain for Field Day.

My first HF rig was a Kenwood TS-520 and a Kenwood 2-meter rig for FM and Packet. I really enjoyed working SSB and CW. I also acquired a Heathkit HW-8 and fell for QRP.

Today my station consists of two Icom IC-746PROs, an Icom IC-706MKIIG, an Icom IC-7300, a Yaesu FT-817, an Elecraft K1 and K2 for QRP, and a Yaesu FT-847. I work several modes (SSB, CW, PSK31, FT8, JS8Call and FM) from my base station.

I also collect old radios such as a Drake TR4, a Heathkit SB-230 Amp, and a Kenwood TS-520s with VFO, tuner, and speaker.



I also have a Yaesu FT-857 in my truck using Hamstick antennas for HF mobile.

In the words of a great ham, Tad Williamson, W4FW (SK), "I'm radio rich." However there will always be room for another radio...HI HI.

Today I really enjoy working QRP setting up at local parks with fellow hams.

# NFARL Ham Highlight!

*Get to know some of our newer and more established hams!*

**Diane Pete, KN4KSD**  
**Colby Pete, KN4KSE**  
**Alpharetta, GA**

I have always admired my father's (Colby's grandfather's) 1936 Philco radio. When he was a boy in CT in the 1940's, he would listen to it for hours and would sometimes hear amateur radio operators from South America and Europe. That radio sits in our kitchen awaiting restoration.



Our family's first experience with amateur radio wasn't until November 2017 when we decided to drop by HamJam at Mill Springs Academy after seeing an article about it in the local newspaper. Knowing absolutely nothing about amateur radio, the presentations were over our heads but Martha Muir W4MSA gave our family a tour of the ham shack in her classroom and an overview of some of the facets of the hobby, including the school's upcoming ARISS contact.

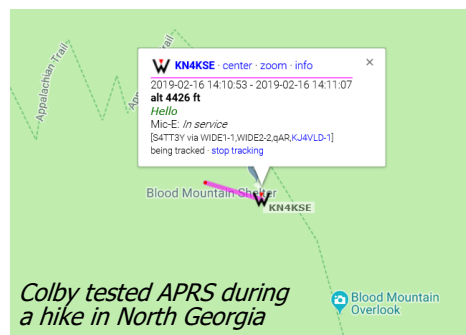
We attended a NFARL club meeting in January 2018 then went to the GARS Techfest later that month. To our great surprise Colby won their Grand Door Prize, a Kenwood TH-D74 — now we really needed to get serious about getting licensed! We studied then took our Tech test in March 2018 and we were happy to have been assigned sequential callsigns. I upgraded to General in October 2018, and Colby is thinking about studying for General after he wraps up 7<sup>th</sup> grade this month. Be sure to ask him how his studying is going!

We currently have an IC-718 and a side-fed inverted delta loop antenna (see the design on the NFARL website: <http://www.nfarl.org/sigAntenna/AntennaSIGLinks.html>). Chuck Catledge AE4CW and John Tramontanis N4TOL were generous with their time advising on what we needed and leading the antenna installation.



We've enjoyed volunteering with NFARES on a few events including the Sandy Springs Lantern Parade and the GA 400 Bike Ride. Earlier this year, we both participated in NFARL's CW Sig class and achieved 5 words per minute! We also had fun working the GA QSO party from our QTH as a multi-op station.

Our goals for this year are to check out more features of the Kenwood, to get on the air to continue building our CW skills, and to setup our new Signalink so that we can explore digital modes.





## ***NFARES to Support Sandy Springs Lantern Parade / Mike Cohen, AD4MC***

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The Sandy Springs Fire Department has requested that NFARES again provide amateur radio communications support for their **Sandy Springs Lantern Parade—Take it to the River!** which will be on Saturday, June 15th, from 7:30-11PM. Here's a link to the event on the Sandy Springs web page: <https://www.visitsandysprings.org/lanternparade/>

Like we have done for the past two years, we will be teaming up with the Sandy Springs Fire Corps volunteers. Our task is to report any issues by radio to the SSPD/SSFD IC (Incident Command) unit that require Police Department or Fire/Rescue Department response. We will be stationed throughout the Parade route where participants and visitors will start at the Steel Canyon Golf Club, go as a parade down to Morgan Falls Park, and later return to the Golf Club.



We will be using 145.470, (-) 100 Hz, {Memory #2, NF-2 on pre-programmed radios}. Note that our NFARL repeater is now located on a tower at Morgan Falls. Backup frequency is 146.400 Simplex {Memory #5, SS-2 on pre-programmed radios}.

Both SSPD and SSFD have told us that by having ham radio operators stationed along the Parade route to report issues to the Incident Command unit, where our NCS will be stationed, we can help minimize the number of 911 calls.

As many of us have been experiencing, amateur radio support for public service events is very much appreciated and is a lot of fun.

## ***Transmitter Hunting / Diane Pete KN4KSD***

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In the April 2019 club meeting, we heard a great presentation from Jim Sorenson KA4IIA on transmitter hunting. In case you missed it (or if you'd like an encore), his full presentation can be found on NFARL's excellent YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3zbkSahhDY>

If you were inspired by Jim's presentation, you may want to check out USA's national championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) in Raleigh, NC from July 28 to August 4, 2019. The week begins with a variety of practice sessions while the championship events begin August 1. Events include foxoring, sprint, blind ARDF, two-meter classic, and 80-meter classic.

For more information: <http://www.homingin.com/farsnews.html#raleigh19>





Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2019 will take place on June 22 and 23.**

NFARL's 2019 Field Day Chairman is **John Norris, N4IHV**. Contact him at [jwn45@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwn45@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in joining the 2019 Field Day team.

Station	Captains
GOTA	Jim Paine, N4SEC, and Terry Joyner, W4YBV
6m	John Kludt, K4SQC
CW	Don Deal, KK4E, and Jim Stafford, W4QO
Phone / SSB	Mark Coleman, KJ4YM, and Chuck Catledge, AE4CW
Satellite	Daryl Young, K4RGK
Swing	Wes Lambole, W3WL

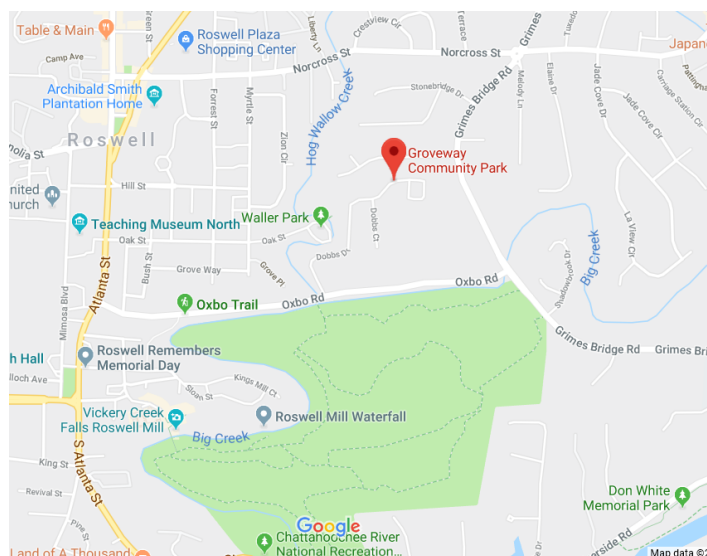
NFARL will again offer the ever popular **Scout Merit Badge Workshop** on Saturday. After the workshop, we hope many stay to see our operators at work and visit our Get On The Air (GOTA) station to experience the fun of ham radio!

Lynn Kahn, N4MSK, is coordinating our **Annual Field Day Picnic** which will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 22. In order to be sure we have an accurate count for dinner, please RSVP by Tuesday, June 18. Send an email to [FDFood@nfarl.org](mailto:FDFood@nfarl.org) and let us know:

- How many will attend the picnic, and
- What side dish or dessert you will bring

NFARL's Field Day activities will take place at:

Groveland Community Park  
160 Dobbs Drive  
Roswell, GA 30075



**We look forward to seeing you at Field Day!**

## Contact Us

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## North Fulton Amateur Radio League

P.O. Box 1741  
Roswell, GA 30077

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

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



## Club Repeaters

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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*

## Club Callsigns: NF4GA and K4JJ

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