



North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

November 2019

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www.nfarl.org



A Very Successful Ham Jam!

HamJam 2019 took place on Saturday, November 9th at The Metropolitan Club in Alpharetta GA. Approximately 150 hams attended the event. This year's outstanding speakers included:



Kris Bickell, K1BIC, ARRL's Lifelong Learning Manager talked about the ARRL's plans



Jeff Stuparits, W4DD, provided insights into how to reduce your Rx noise level



Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO, youngest participant in the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship in Germany and the 2018 Bill Pasternak WA6ITF Memorial Amateur Radio Newslines Young Ham of the Year.



Many thanks to our speakers and sponsors for supporting HamJam and our Youth programs! More information about our speakers, our many sponsors and the event is available at www.hamjam.info.

We look forward to seeing you next November at **HamJam 2020!**

2019 Holiday Party!

Our 2019 Holiday Party will take place on **Saturday, December 7th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM**. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Advance reservations are needed.

Our holiday party is non denominational holiday gathering of club members to enjoy each other's company, meet family members and reflect upon the year past. The event will be held at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, site of our monthly club meetings. The Center is located in Alpharetta North Park at 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta GA.

Dress is holiday casual.

Dinner reservations will be on sale [here](#) until 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 1st or until all seats are sold, whichever comes sooner. Reservations will not be available at the door. Seating is limited to 70 people. Cost is \$20 per person for adults and \$10 per person for youth (younger than age 12).



Dinner Menu

Roast Beef with Carrots & Mushroom Gravy	Collard Greens
Roasted and Cajun Fried Turkey	Zucchini / Squash / Onion Medley
Smoked Salmon	Tossed Salad (Balsamic & Ranch Dressing)
Macaroni & Cheese	Rolls and Corn Muffins
White Rice	Tea / Lemonade / Water
Pasta Salad	Banana Pudding / Pound Cake (Variety)



Children's
Healthcare of Atlanta

If you wish you may bring a gift for a youngster who is spending the holidays at Children's Hospital. Gifts must be unwrapped so they can be identified, but a ribbon and or bow is acceptable. A club volunteer will deliver the gifts to a central donation point at the Children's hospital.

Around the QST Bookcase / Jim Stafford, W4QO

I enjoy scanning through various old issues, mostly in the 50s and 60s when I got my first license. But every now and then, I look at even older issues. I've taken to looking at issues from the WW2 years. You may know that ham radio was suspended during the war years so the war issues can be rather less weighty and have fewer articles on building transmitters and even receivers. But every now and then, an article catches my eye. I was actually shocked to see an article on the VTVM (Vacuum Tube Volt Meter) by a chap named McMurdo Silver.



You may not be familiar with that name but during the hay days of radio in the 20s and 30s, a McMurdo Silver radio was the crème de la crème of radios! I first saw one when my friend, Larry Flegle, N4TMW, who now lives in Blairsville was collecting old broadcast radios (before he became a ham). The idea of a McMurdo Silver always stuck in my mind because often all the observable parts are CHROME plated! In fact, they were so beautiful that the radio sat on top of the speaker cabinet while almost all early radios were totally INSIDE the cabinet. His company went bankrupt (not uncommon) in 1938.

You may read the VTVM article if you do a periodical search of QST with this link: [http://](http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/27235)

p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/27235 To read a history of McMurdo Silver as a company: [https://](https://www.newmexicoradiocollectorsclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/7-16-NL.pdf)
www.newmexicoradiocollectorsclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/7-16-NL.pdf

Do any of you have a McMurdo Silver radio receiver? They are rather rare. Google the name!

I find all kinds of interesting (to me) articles. For example, there is an article on page 22 of January 1961 entitled "Not Just a Novelty" that is about Mobile CW. Many of you may not know that I also do mobile CW and in the article, he says you spend half your time explaining "How in the world do you key CW and drive, too?" I do not find it difficult as I try to keep it simple and my eyes always on the road. I'm comfortable at about 20 wpm copying in the head. Of course, logging would be a problem if it were required as it once was. Still I like to keep a record of the call signs of those I "speak" with so I do try to remember the calls and write them down or refer them to my XYL, K4ZOL who is usually with me, reading a book while I drive. If you'd like to look at that article online, go to: http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/45962

This brings up a point.... There is a CWSIG on the [nfarl groups.io site](http://nfarl.groups.io). Look for subgroups, and join. It's for everyone who might have even a slight interest in CW.

You can't find everything from old QSTs online – no ads are accessible from those years. For example, there is an ad on page 125 of that issue which features the EICO 760... a CB radio kit with the transmitter sealed per FCC requirements! Yes, a CB radio kit for \$69.95. I never thought I'd see that in a QST but there it is! This may not seem like much but if you look at our club website in the Featured Articles section to the article called.. "Ham Radio is a Real Value" that EICO radio KIT would be \$593.79 today!

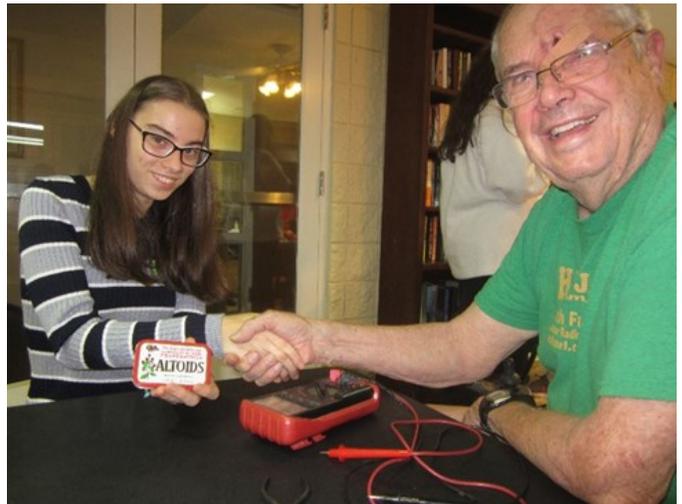
So come on by the shack one day and we'll look at some old QSTs, take a couple home on "check out" and let's all enjoy the good ol' days.

W4QO is the custodian for NFARL's bound QST collection from 1920 through the mid-70s.
They are always available for check out.

NFARL Jr Builds a CPO / Martha Muir, W4MSA

During the September NFARL Jr meeting, students worked with Jim Stafford, W4QO, to begin to learn CW. The secret to learn CW, of course, is to practice practice practice. To help students to have the ready opportunity to practice, in the October meeting Jim led an assembly line team of NFARL mentors helping students solder the components of a pocket sized code practice oscillator (CPO) that Jim and Warren Merkel, KD4Z, designed and put together.

Students started the build with Tammy Waggoner, KK4USM. Next up was Dana Simmons, KN4BEV, followed by General Fred Ackley, KK4JYO, then Garry Brass, AK4NA, and Tim Lemmon, WK4U. Jim was the last stop of the assembly line – quality control. Every student left the NFARL Jr meeting with a functioning CPO tucked safely in a minty fresh Altoid tin.



Since there is no NFARL club meeting in November or December (except for HamJam and the Holiday Party), there will not be another NFARL Jr meeting until **January 21, 2020**.



C3PO says...



The Hidden Gem of ARRL Membership / Ian Kahn, NV4C

What gear is in your shack today? A new, state-of-the-art transceiver? How about good, old, reliable boat anchor gear? Do you like to build and design, so you have test equipment, soldering stations, etc? How about your antennas? Are they wires or big beams? Supported by ropes? Or on 100' of Rohn 55? I bet you have rotor controllers, controller wires, feed lines, etc. Are you mobile, and have gear and antennas on/in your car? Are you involved in ARES/RACES/CERT and have go-kits/portable set-ups?



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The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO®

Now, think about how much all this gear costs. Whether your investment is a few hundred dollars or several tens of thousands of dollars, how would you replace this gear if any of it was lost? Loss can be by fire, flood, theft, lightning strike, or any of dozens of other occurrences. Would you have to pay out-of-pocket? Do you have separate riders on your homeowner's policy? Other insurance?

Most of us could not afford to pay out-of-pocket for a loss to our gear. We have spent years, or even decades, building our shacks and have a lot of time, love, and money invested in them. Homeowner's insurers do not like to cover this kind of specialized, high-end gear. Homeowner's underwriters typically require a separate, expensive, rider for our amateur radio gear. These riders typically have strict limitations on them (for example, none of your mobile gear is covered, or your gear is only covered while inside your home). In addition to the riders being expensive, if you file a claim, your general premium is likely to go up.

Enter one of the hidden gems of ARRL membership – **ARRL Equipment Insurance**. This member benefit is underwritten by a third-party insurer, Risk Strategies Company. Premiums are \$1.40 per \$100 of equipment covered, or 1.4% of the declared value of all your gear, annually. The deductible, if you file a claim, is only \$50. Imagine replacing a lost Yaesu FTDX-101MP, or Flex 6700, or Elecraft K3S (all expensive, high-end rigs) for \$50! The best part of this benefit is that it covers 100% of the gear and equipment you use in the hobby. This includes the obvious – transceivers, antennas, etc. However, it also covers the not-so-obvious – rotors/controllers, rotor controller cabling, computers, monitors, feed lines, test equipment, soldering irons, anything that is part of your shack and that is used for the hobby. This even includes your mobile installation and your portable gear/go-kit. All the gear mounted in/on your car, or in that Pelican case that goes to ARES deployments, that is used for the hobby, is covered.

So, you may be asking, "How do I sign up?" First, let me be clear – this is an ARRL member benefit. So, you must be a member of the League in good standing to qualify. My opinion, this benefit alone makes the League dues worthwhile.

You can purchase an ARRL membership on NFARL's Mart: <https://nfarl.org/mart/>

Then, visit the ARRL Insurance web site at <https://arrlinsurance.com>. There, you will find links and information to get you going and get you enrolled with insurance coverage.

Article continues on next page

The Hidden Gem of ARRL Membership (continued)

Basically, the process is as follows:

1. Take a thorough inventory of all your gear, equipment, feed lines, etc., that you use for the hobby. Note makes, models, serial numbers (where applicable). For cabling, get as accurate a measure of its length as you can. If you have receipts for gear/equipment purchases, get them together. You also want to research current replacement costs of gear, where applicable.
2. On the ARRL Insurance web site, you will complete an application that includes a schedule of everything you want to insure. You will be asked to provide a basic description, make/model, serial number (where applicable), purchase price, and replacement cost. Be as accurate as you can with replacement cost, because that is what your premium is based on.
3. Submit your application. Within a few days, Risk Strategies Company will get back to you with your premium. If you are still interested, submit payment. Voila! Your gear is now covered!

Once you are covered, you can access your policy on-line to review it or print a copy for your records. It is important to keep the schedule up-to-date if you acquire new gear or sell off old gear. This schedule is what your annual premium is based on, and that premium can change based on your acquisitions or sell-offs.

Remember, this insurance covers every item in your shack, car, or go-kit that you use for the hobby. I covered all my transceivers (HF, V/UHF, HTs, etc.) a couple of computers, an antenna switch, my monitors, an external sound card, my cables, antennas, everything I use for the hobby. This insurance also covers against almost any imaginable loss.

So, the next question is, how do I file a claim? Over the years, I suffered a couple of antenna losses for which I filed claims. Full disclosure, a different company provided the coverage at the time. However, the claims process was quite simple.

For one claim, one of the trees I hung a dipole from fell down, taking the dipole, feed line, and a balun with it. I simply recovered what I could of the damaged antenna and took some pictures to substantiate the loss. For the other claim, my Little Tar Heel II was stolen off the back of my car while I was at a meeting near Perimeter Mall. For that claim, I needed the police report, which I obtained from the Dunwoody PD. Then, I contacted the insurance provider to start the process. I provided the appropriate evidence, via the appropriate on-line forms.

Within about 24 hours, in each case, I received word that a check for the value of my loss, less the \$50 deductible, was on its way to me. In both cases, I had my check within 2-3 business days. It couldn't have been simpler, and the claims professionals were just that – professional, friendly, courteous, and efficient. The best part about this is that your premium doesn't go up if you file a claim.

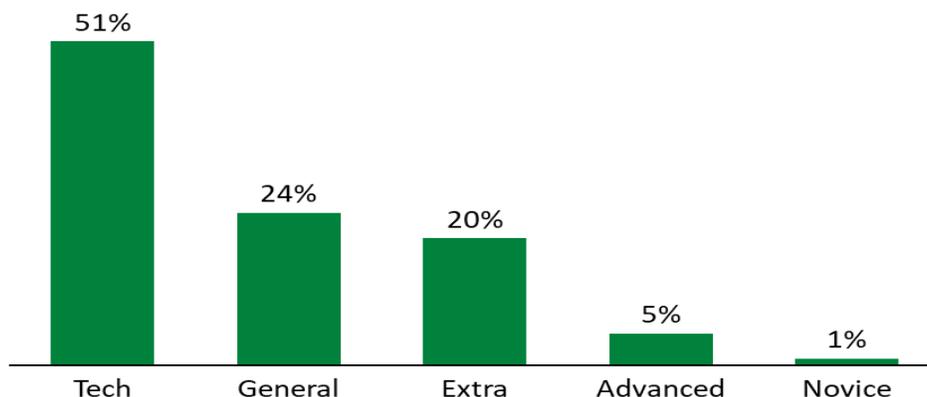
Bottom line, if you are an ARRL member and do not have ARRL equipment insurance on every piece of gear you use for the hobby, I strongly suggest looking into it. It is a small price to pay up front for peace of mind if the worst should happen.

Contest Corner

- 11/23/19 — 11/24/19 [CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW](#)
- 12/06/19—12/08/19 [ARRL 160-Meter Contest](#)
- 12/14/19—12/15/19 [ARRL 10-Meter Contest](#)

U.S. Amateur Radio License Types / FCC through 11/14/19

Of the 762,345 amateur radio licensees in the U.S., about half are Technician class.



Extra Extra! / From the Extra Class Question Pool

New info for Technicians and Generals and a refresher for Extra Class Licensees!



E4E07 — How can you determine if line noise interference is being generated within your home?

- A) By checking the power line voltage with a time domain reflectometer
- B) By observing the AC power line waveform with an oscilloscope
- C) By turning off the AC power line main circuit breaker and listening on a battery operated radio
- D) By observing the AC power line voltage with a spectrum analyzer

See answer on the last page!

Sub-Groups for Our Groups.io Reflector / Jim Stafford, W4QO

There is a new subgroup at our nfarl group.io reflector. The **Antenna Special Interest Group (ANTSIG)** comes together periodically to put on training sessions on antennas, design antennas for Field Day, for example. A sub group is formed to enlist those with a special interest and where email to those folks might not be of interest to the entire reflector. Why now? Well, one reason is that a number of club members have recently bought the NANOVNA, a very small "antenna analyzer". It does more than that but we thought perhaps those with this VNA might like to exchange Q&A or even plan to get together to discuss. This VNA is available through Amazon, AliExpress, and even eBay for between \$30 and \$75.

Also, we recently introduced the **educom** subgroup. This is for you if you have an interest in what club members are doing at local schools, using money for scholarships, funding activities at local Maker Faires, etc. If you would "maybe" be interested in helping with ham radio classes, mentoring those who have gotten a license, then consider signing up for educom sub-group.

We've also had a **CWSIG** sub-group for about a year. If you like CW, then this sub-group might be for you. And while you're at one of these subgroups, post your questions and seek some help!

To sign up for a sub-group, you must first be a member of the MAIN group. Click on the subgroup button from the groups.io site for the club: groups.io/g/nfarl Not a member of the MAIN group? Simply click on JOIN from the page you reach from groups.io/g/nfarl.

Remember NFARL During Your Holiday Shopping!



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. You can go to the list of charitable organizations and select **North Fulton Amateur Radio League** as the recipient of your donations.

Save the Date!

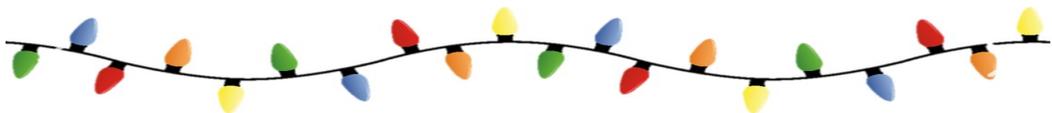
Field Day is always held on the 4th full weekend in June.

Mark your calendars for June 27-28, 2020!



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!
Check NFARES.org for more information.
- **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".
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM
Location: Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell, GA 30075
Meet with your fellow club members every Wednesday!
- **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.
- **Every Saturday — Royal Order of the Olde Geezers Breakfast** - 9 AM
Location: Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta, GA 30066 You don't need to be old or a geezer to join this breakfast get-together, everyone is welcome!
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - December 10, 2019, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell, GA 30075
Check NFARES.org for more information.
- **Second Saturday — VE Testing** - December 14, 2019, 10:00 AM
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 NFARL provides amateur (ham) radio test sessions! All exam modules are offered at all sessions. Walk-ins are welcome, no appointment is necessary. For more information please see our [website](#).
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting - No meeting in December. See you on January 21, 2020!**
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - November 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.
- **Saturday December 7, 2019 — NFARL Holiday Party!** from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Dinner reservations are required and will be on sale on the mart until 6:00 PM Sunday, December 1 or until all seats are sold (seating is limited to 70 people).
Tickets are \$20. Youth under age 12 are \$10. Reservations will not be available at the door, so buy your tickets now!



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

Club Callsigns: NF4GA and K4JJ

Extra Extra answer: C (question E4E07)

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