

North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

March 2020

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

www.nfarl.org



President's Corner / John Norris, N4IHV

March 2020 NFARL President's Message

Who are the Amateur Radio enthusiasts? I have met salesmen, doctors, electricians, lawyers, electrical engineers, mechanics, mechanical engineers, construction workers, programmers, dentists, housewives, college students, high school students, middle school students, chemical engineers, teachers, politicians, and the list goes on. You get the message. It attracts all types of people of all backgrounds. It still has a mystique about it that creates magnetism to those exposed to it. Some like to operate, some like to build and some like both. Amateur Radio is both a hobby and continuing education. These are some of the reasons I believe it is not dying and will always attract a certain number of people. We just need to make the introduction. The energy I experience in NFARL through all of the members is a direct indication of the life of Amateur Radio.

Most see lots of white hair and older people. I see lots of enthusiasm and experience guiding youth into a new adventure. The percentage of youth to adults is about the same as it was when I was 13. Things don't really change, just our perspective. We have very exceptional youth involved in NFARL. It is inspiring to see them interact in the club. That tells me Hams are here to stay.

John Norris

NFARL

President

100% on-line NFARL meeting on March 17, 2020

We are changing the venue of the March meeting given what we currently know about the corona virus known as COVID-19. The meeting will be held at the regularly scheduled time by way of an **online video conference**.

Will not have a physical presence at the [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#) that evening. The reason we are going with an on-line venue is to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 to our membership.

The intent is to follow our standard format while using the on-line meeting. John Norris, N4IHV, will kick off the meeting, and turn it over to the various chairs so they may report on their particular topics. And, as customary, we will turn it over to the presenter in this case, Greg Abernathy, AI4UD, whose topic is **Grounding and Bonding**.

You can download the desktop app any time before the meeting by going to www.freeconferencecall.com and clicking Get Desktop App at the bottom of the page.

Participant instructions can be found here:
<https://www.freeconferencecall.com/participant-instructions>

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6329
Access code: 784006#
Online meeting ID: james52310

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/james52310>

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text Help to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.

Given the present COVID-19 situation, we believe likelihood of the April 2020 meeting being held online is very high. Please check back to the NFARL website and look for future emails providing information on the April meeting.

PLEASE attempt to join the March meeting online by 7:15 PM to ensure your connection is working properly.

Thanks in advance for your support!

73,

Jim

NFARL
Vice President

Georgia QSO Party / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

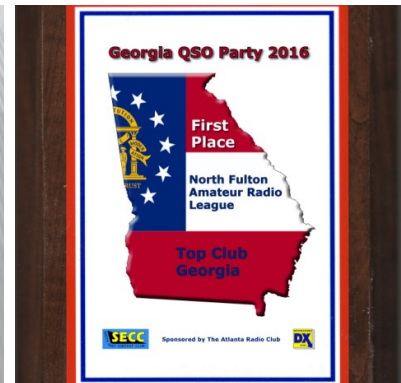
The Georgia QSO Party - "NFARL Challenge" - April 11th & 12th

Spring is almost upon us and we all know what that means; sunshine, Easter celebrations, the Masters tournament and the Georgia QSO party. It appears all of these fine events will occur on the same weekend in April, 11-12 (of course hoping for the sunshine).

All NFARL members and friends are encouraged to participate in the Georgia QSO Party. This is your chance to "be the DX." It is a real opportunity to practice "running," calling CQ and letting other stations come to you. It is also a chance to test your station's effectiveness under contest conditions and help to improve your abilities as an operator.



We would like to ask all NFARL members and friends, who will be operating in the Georgia QSO Party, to please submit your name and call sign to note your participation. This way we can track and listen for the familiar calls in the contest, and also for the "NFARL Challenge" awards program.



The "NFARL Challenge" encourages member participation in the GQP and members can earn the coveted "Challenge" certificates in many categories; power, mode, band, counties, rookie, rover, etc.

Also, there will be 10 special event callsign stations on the air during the event (operated by NFARL members):

The stations will be

N4N - N4F - N4A - N4R - N4L

K4N - K4F - K4A - K4R - K4L

Work 5 of these 10 in any combinations to spell NFARL

Ns or Ks, SSB and/or CW, any band combo

Special "Spell NFARL" Certificate will be awarded

To be added to the NFARL QSO Party list, please email me with your name and call sign to n4tol@arri.net.

Updates to the NFARL Challenge list will be posted weekly to the reflector. Please sign up and help encourage others to join the fun, and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Also, please check out the link on the NFARL webpage under "Georgia QSO Party" - for the "GQP Basics" PDF file that provides more detail on the GQP.

Thank you - John N4TOL

For information and details about the GQP, please visit the webpage <http://www.georgiasqso party.org/>

NFARLjr Tunes the BC Band at February Meeting / Jim Stafford, W4QO

BUT FIRST: The March meeting of NFARLjr at the normal meeting location is CANCELLED!



At the February NFARLjr meeting members were able to use an AM radio to tune around the band, finding strong and weak stations. They learned that the orientation of the radio with its built-in loop stick antenna made a difference, comparing signal strength. Then they place their small portable radio tuned to a weak station inside W4QO's Magic Ear loop antenna and were amazed at the difference!

My loop antenna is quite simple and is a copy of Richard Fisher's BOX ANTENNA from the December 2018 issue of The Spectrum Monitor. Don't know about this online magazine? Go to: <https://www.thespectrummonitor.com/> It is \$2 per issue if subscribed by the year and is well worth it in my opinion. If you would like to



have a sample copy of the magazine or a copy of the loop antenna article, just email me w4qo@nfarl.org Here is a picture of the one from the article. I made mine from simple materials and brought it to NFARLjr along with several Broadcast Band AM radios. I think the "juniors" enjoyed playing with AM radios which is almost a lost art these days.

Martha, W4MSA, and I (along with a host of other club members) try to have some interesting topics at each NFARLjr meeting, right before the BIG meeting but **remember NO meeting in MARCH**. Would you like to help or be in charge of one of the upcoming NFARLjr meetings? Just have a topic that will be "hands on" for our juniors and then let me know. w4qo@nfarl.org





On Monday, February 24, NFARL members helped the students at the Kittredge Magnet School talk with astronaut Dr. Drew Morgan as he soared over the school aboard the International Space Station as part of the joint program involving the ARRL, AMSAT, and NASA call an ARISS Radio Contact. ARISS stands for **A**mateur **R**adio on the **I**nternational **S**pace **S**tation. Kittredge is a DeKalb County school and is located just inside the 285 Perimeter, near Perimeter Mall. This brief but exciting event was the culmination of nearly a year's efforts towards this goal.

Daryl K4RGK was in command of the technical aspects of this event. He spent many hours working on the equipment necessary for this direct contact. The '14 hours' that the Kittredge principal cited in her opening remarks as the amount of time Daryl spent on the equipment making sure that a reliable connection would be made with the ISS might represent 10 percent of the actual time he spent on this project. Daryl was assisted in set-up, testing, and operating of the equipment by Nathan K4NHW, Lori K4UPI, and Chuck AE4CW. Bob Koepke AA6TB, the official Technical Mentor for this ARISS, worked with Daryl and took many great photos of the event. He drove in from North Carolina for this.



Chuck AE4CW, Lori K4UPI, Daryl K4RGK, and Nathan K4NHW set up the 'wireless' technology.

Kittredge ARISS Radio Contact (continued)

John K4SQC, AMSAT Coordinator for the ARISS Technical Mentors, spoke as part of the program, perfectly timing his remarks to end just before contact was made with the ISS. Martha W4MSA was the ARISS Educational Mentor for this event and went in to the school a couple of days to work with the students to help prepare them to talk on the radio with Dr. Morgan. She also shared advice and resources with Kittredge teacher Charamie Dunlap.



John K4SQC speaks as he watches the time. Nathan K4NHW watches from the wings.

Charamie Dunlap was the teacher point of contact for this ARISS. With NFARL's help and loaner program, she has set up a radio station in her classroom and is working to help some Kittredge students earn a Technician class license.

Unfortunately contact time with Dr. Morgan ran out before the final five students were able to ask their questions. None the less, a few days afterwards, when Martha went by the school to pick up one more piece of equipment that had been left there, she ran into three of the students involved in the ARISS program. Each of them beamed as they shared how much they enjoyed that experience.

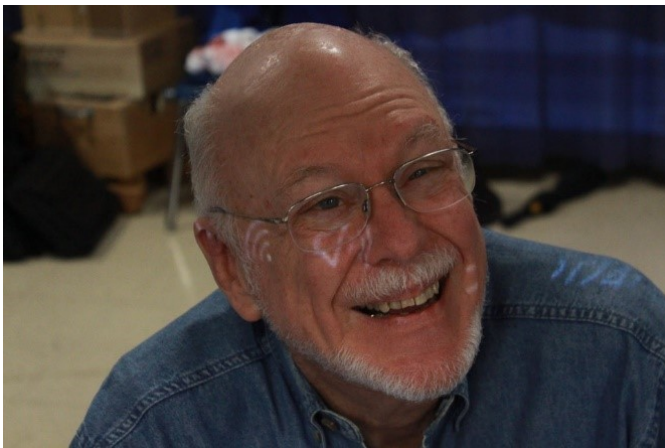
Kittredge shared its ARISS as a live feed on Facebook. Over 6000 folks watched this either live or afterward. It is still available at this site: <https://www.facebook.com/kittredgemagnet/videos/845713255892438/> Bill K4YJJ has posted Bob's and Martha's photos of the event in the NFARL photo album.

Kittredge ARISS Radio Contact (continued)

Once again, NFARL mesmerized a cafeteria full of students, faculty members, and visitors with this sweet mixture of science, technology, and Amateur Radio. This is an event that will not be forgotten easily.



Daryl and Lori look out on a room full of attendees.



Bob captured these great close ups of Chuck and Daryl.

Kittredge ARISS Radio Contact (continued)

Before the start of the chat with astronaut Dr. Morgan, some KMS students wanted to thank NFARL. Six students took turns at the microphone with the following statements.

* __Hello! My name is Kirsten. The North Fulton Amateur Radio League has been working with our school this year. You might think that you hams simply volunteered your time to establish our school's new ham radio station and to make today's ARISS contact possible. But you have done much more. We want to share some of the impact you have had on our school community.

* __My name is Harrison. I am a member of Boy Scout troop #764. Two of us worked on the Radio Merit Badge. Because of the radio station your club donated to our classroom, we had resources to earn our badge. I never thought I would get to learn about and use a radio station like that! Michael, please stand up with me and be recognized. From both of us, thank you.

* __My name is Kaitlin. I am a member of Girl Scout troop #21443. This year our entire troop worked after school on the Girl Scout Amateur Radio patch. It was work and a lot of fun. We sent messages to each other in Morse code and learned about emergency work your club does. Would all students who earned the Girl Scout Amateur Radio Patch please stand up and be recognized? From all of us, thank you.

* __My name is Ayush. And I'm Will. Having a ham station in our classroom certainly makes 6th grade interesting! All 6th graders used the radio during Social Studies class and on our ham club days. We talked to hams all over—from as close as Georgia Tech to as far away as Finland! They shared many interesting stories with us. We learned that one radio club in Tampa, Fla works with a hospital during hurricanes and that hams in American and Canadian navies work together in the Great Lakes region. Radio operators do fun things, we learned about one who took his radio to the top of a lighthouse in Maine to see how many contacts he could make! In October, the whole school took part in School Club Roundup. We contacted hams in 15 states and 11 countries. We each can remember our favorite contact including a middle school ham radio club in Texas. Would all students who had a chance to talk on the radio please stand? From all of us, thank you.

* __My name is Cora. Some 6th graders wanted to learn a lot more about ham radio, so we formed a radio class that meets during lunch. We have been working towards earning a license and learned some really interesting things! We learned how to read schematic diagrams, how radio propagation works in the atmosphere, about etiquette on the radio. We really enjoyed the day we went outside to climb around bushes and trees to study the wire antenna and learn how each part works! Next month, some of us will take the Technician exam. Hopefully, the next time you hear me on the radio I will have my own call sign! Would all students working toward a ham license please stand? From all of us, thank you.

* __As you can see, your volunteer efforts impacted the whole school in many ways and opened doors to amazing new opportunities and adventures! We wanted to do a very special thank you. So the entire 6th grade worked together to design an artistic mosaic of your club logo that you can display when you volunteer in the community. That way we can say – from all of us, to all of you... Thank you!

Help Wanted: Elmers and Mentors / Martha Muir, W4MSA

Do you have an area of interest that you'd like to share with others? Do you want to help folks possibly interested in what you enjoy doing in the vast array of Amateur Radio topics? Please consider becoming an Elmer, aka a Mentor.

Elmers, aka Mentors in other hobbies, are folks who volunteer to teach others about a particular topic they enjoy. NFARL has had a list of Elmers on its webpage for a number of years now but that list appears to be out of date. We're starting over. All of the names that were listed as Elmers in the various topics have been erased. Those blanks now await volunteers. These volunteers could be the same people who were listed before if those folks want to continue in the role as Mentor for that topic. Or those blanks could contain the name(s) of new folks who want to help in that topic. Or it can become a mixture of the previously listed Elmers with the new ones for that topic.

Please look over this list of potential Elmering topics. Which one or ones would you like to help with? Please send an email to **Martha W4MSA** at mamuir@mindspring.com. Your name will be placed on the new and improved list of NFARL Elmers.

By the way, would you like to be the coordinator of the NFARL Elmers?

| Topic | Elmer for this topic. Your Name Here? | Topic | Elmer for this topic. Your Name Here? |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 10M / 6M operating | | Logging Questions | |
| Antenna Help | | Maritime Mobile and U. S Islands Activation | |
| Antennas, Wire | | Mobile Rigs / Installation | |
| Antique Radio Repair | | Name Badges | |
| ARES | | QRP | |
| Contesting | | Radio Merit Badge (Boy Scouts) | |
| CW | | Repeaters | |
| Digital Communications | | Satellites | |
| DMR | | SDR Radios | |
| D Star | | Setting Up Your First Station - inexpensive radio alternatives | |
| DXing | | Simple Wire Antennas | |
| Field Day | | Tech Net | |
| FT 8 | | Training Classes / HamCrams | |
| Ham Ethics | | WAS and VUCC Awards | |
| Hamfest / Service Projects | | Website | |
| HF Operations | | Youth | |
| Home Brewing / Construction | | NFARL Elmer Coordinator | |
| License Testing | | Other? | |

Extra Extra! / From the Extra Class Question Pool

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



E9D06

What happens to the bandwidth of an antenna as it is shortened through the use of loading coils?

- A.) It is decreased*
- B.) It is increased*
- C.) It becomes flat*
- D.) No change occurs*

See answer on the last page!

Studying for your Amateur Extra-class license?
The [current question pool](#) is effective through June 30, 2020.

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) [website](#).

Ian NV4C and his team hold license test sessions on the second Saturday of each month. For more information including upcoming test dates, [click here](#).

Contest Corner

- **Wisconsin QSO Party** March 15 –16, 2020 <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>
- **Virginia QSO Party** March 16 & 17, 2020 https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2020_VQP/2020_VQP_Main.html
- **FOC QSO Party** (CW) March 28, 2020 <http://g4foc.org/qsoparty/>
- **Florida State Parks on the Air** April 4th & 5th, 2020 <http://flspota.org/rules/>

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
*Given these changing times & concerns about COVID-19, we recommend calling Slope's before you travel to see if they are open or limited to take-out (770)518-7000
- **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!**
*Given these changing times & concerns about COVID-19, we recommend calling Reveille before you travel to see if they are open or limited to take-out (770) 971-6800
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - April 14, 2020, 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** - **TENTATIVELY** April 11, 2020, 10:00 AM
Location: The City of Alpharetta has closed the Adult Activity Center due to COVID-19 emergency measures. Confirmation of April event time and location will be made when information is available. 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 - March 17, 2020, 7:30 PM**
On-Line Meeting Only — NO NFARL Jr. Youth Meeting in March 2020
Get On Line and Check by 7:15-7:30 PM
Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6329
Access code: 784006#
Online meeting ID: james52310
Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/james52310>
You need to log into the NFARL Mart, go to Member Only Documents and find this information needed to join the conference. Do this ahead of time and have it handy for Tuesday night.
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - March 24, 2020, 7:00 PM
Location: TBA
Meetings are open to all NFARL members. Space is available on a first arrival basis. Please contact the President to ensure available space.



Contact Us

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| President | John Norris N4IHV | President@nfarl.org |
| Vice President | Jim Kauffman W4IU | VicePresident@nfarl.org |
| Secretary | Martha Muir W4MSA | Secretary@nfarl.org |
| Treasurer | John Tramontanis N4TOL | Treasurer@nfarl.org |
| Activities Chair | Mike Riley KN4OAK | Activities@nfarl.org |
| Membership Chair | Wes Lamboley W3WL | Membership@nfarl.org |
| Past President | Daryl Young K4RGK | PastPresident@nfarl.org |
| Mentors / Elmers | Chuck Catledge AE4CW | Elmers@nfarl.org |
| Field Day Chair | Mike Riley KN4OAK | FieldDay@nfarl.org |
| Scout Coordinator | Jon Wittlin K4WIT | k4wit@nfarl.org |
| ARES Liaison and Community Relations | Jim Paine N4SEC | n4sec@nfarl.org |
| Repeater Operations | Mike Roden W5JR | Repeaters@nfarl.org |
| WebMaster | Bill Cobb K4YJJ | Webmaster@nfarl.org |
| eNews Team | Help Wanted!! | enews@nfarl.org |

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

P.O. Box 1741
Roswell, GA 30077

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: A (question E9D06)

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