

North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

June 2020

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

www.nfarl.org



President's Corner / John Norris, N4IHV

My guess is you figured we would be meeting in person by now. I thought the same thing and wonder just when we will get back to our previous normal. Maybe a new definition of normal is in our future. We will make the best of what we have just as hams have always done.

We are getting ready for a new and different adventure for Field Day 2020. It brings forth new ideas and challenges that we will meet successfully. Our camaraderie will have to be transferred through the radio and not group antenna installations. We can save that energy for our 2021 Field Day. The 2020 event will give the opportunity for a greater number of participants and a completely different kind of fun.

Be sure and read the Email from Mike Riley, KN4OAK, which will spell out the complete details about 2020 Field Day Operations.

Plan to participate in the Zoom club meeting on line June 16, 2020 at 7:30 pm. Jim Kauffman, W4IU, will be sending out connection information prior to the meeting. It would be a good idea to start around 7 pm just in case you have problems connecting. We will be discussing the operating procedures for Field Day and you can ask any question you may have.

We are looking forward to our continued fun and success and thanks for being our loyal members.

Yours truly,

John Norris

N4IHV

NFARL President

Can we interest you in a box of chocolates with a variety of flavors, shapes, and sizes?



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/74/cb/f5/74cbf588078ee7ce5951d43337b6802c.jpg>

Of course, I am referring to the tasty variety of offerings from a NFARL membership. To paraphrase the great philosopher Forrest Gump, "NFARL membership is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get." However, we do know what we get from our NFARL membership, and there is so much.

Following is a list of some of the many club offerings that your paid active membership in NFARL supports:

Highly attended meetings with first class programs. A great opportunity to meet and share knowledge (and tell stories) with fellow hams, as well as experience presentations by renown amateur and/or technical experts. For example, our meeting last month, held on Zoom, featured Bob Heil as our guest presenter, founder and president of Heilsound.

The club currently maintains and provides access to four repeaters in the north Fulton area. These repeaters are open to club members and the local ham population, as well as providing EchoLink accessibility for hams everywhere. These repeaters host weekly nets, such as the highly popular "Tech Talk" and the "YL Net" which has worldwide participation.

The club offers monthly VEC sessions for individuals to test for new amateur licenses or upgrades from their current license class.



Various special interest groups or (SIGS) provide ways for members to participate in various activities such as antenna design, CW learning and skill enhancement, kit building, fox hunting, contesting and more.

Each year NFARL hosts one of the most highly attended Field Days in the country, and also has consistently been one of the top scoring clubs in its Field Day class.

The club coordinates many amateur related activities such as U.S. Islands with a summer picnic, the Thirteen Colonies annual special event, and a Georgia QSO Party initiative. Also, we certainly cannot forget the weekly "Hungry Hams" lunch social.

NFARL vigorously promotes youth activity in technology and amateur radio by establishing partnerships with various local

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Treasurer's Report / Continued from previous

schools and participation in community STEM events. The club and its members have been instrumental in facilitating school amateur radio contacts with astronauts on the International Space Station.

NFARL has an active affiliated ARES group that practices emergency communication preparedness and also has a focus on public service by providing the local community with communication services for numerous special events when needed.

The club is a primary sponsor of "HamJam", an annual activity that draws hundreds of amateurs to the north Fulton area to see presentations by elite amateur radio experts and celebrities.

The club has an awesome state of the art webpage that provides access to a plethora of information, much more than listed above. Additionally there is a club YouTube channel that archives past club meetings and events.

So what does all this have to do with a box of chocolates? Well, for the \$30 price of your annual NFARL membership, you are supporting all of these benefits for yourself and the local amateur radio community. Put another way, for \$2.50 per month, or the price of one of Forrest Gump's boxes of chocolates, you can be a part of making it all happen.

So to our active members, we thank you. To those who are past due on their active membership status or perhaps unaware that they are not current in the database, please check the "Member" tab on the website to see if your name appears. We encourage you to renew.

To those who have yet to join and want to be a part of supporting all of the clubs endeavors, just go to our website, nfarl.org, and access our "Mart" by clicking on the related tab on the left column of the screen and follow the steps to join.

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League is one of the premier amateur radio clubs in the United States. NFARL has also been recognized as a Dayton Hamvention "Club of the Year". We welcome and encourage you to be a part of it and we appreciate your support.



<https://www.facebook.com/303680186402222/photos/a.303682209735353/364338673669706/?type=1&theater>

STRAY/ (May 1965 QST)

The Stray on page 25 in the April (1965) QST reported the problem that K9BRI was having with bugs congregating on the tuning dial of his receiver. Several solutions have been sent in by readers. Howard Pyle, W7OE, suggested painting the dial light yellow or using an amber jewel pilot light. His solution is based on the fact that insects are not *attracted to yellow light*. WA6FPB suggests that K9BRI can cure his problem by refraining from eating while tuning his receiver! Dick Smith, W1FTX, thinks he could help K9BRI if he knew whether the bugs were trying to get *in or out!*

Name This Ham

How well do you know your fellow members of NFARL?

Name this ham.

You might recognize this former president of NFARL by his back. At club meetings and other activities, he is often seen from behind as he is up front taking care of the audio and visual needs of the activity. Or you might recognize him when he speaks with an accent that reflects his Mississippian roots.

This man got into ham radio while in high school with some now life-long buddies of his. He says that their interest in ham radio led them all into electronics careers. He, himself, spent his professional career with IBM, moving to several states during that time.

This NFARL ham passed up the opportunity to attend GA Tech to go instead to Mississippi State, where he earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. While serving as a graduate assistant, he taught K5FLU, another ham whose voice reflects his Mississippian roots.

This NFARL friend of ours is a Porsche aficionado. His interests in ham radio include antennas, working DX, and building 'interesting' projects. During contests, you can hear him working other stations with a smile in his voice as he makes contact after contact.

Who is this great member of NFARL? Confirm your answer on page 10 of this newsletter.

Amateur Radio Week Proclamation / Mike Riley, KN4OAK

On Monday, June 8, 2020, the City of Roswell held a City Council Meeting. NFARL members will be pleased to note one of the meeting agenda items, "Reading of a Proclamation for Amateur Radio Week". This item was part of the Mayor's Report. Mayor Lori Henry graciously presented the Proclamation. Amateur Radio Week in Roswell has become a tradition, being proclaimed during June each year for the week preceding ARRL Field Day.

If you haven't had the opportunity to view the presentation yet, you can use this hyperlink to access the YouTube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GapVmkMpnQ>. The City of Roswell presently live streams its meetings on Facebook and YouTube. The presentation begins at about 6:19 minutes into the video. Here's a Facebook link, <https://www.facebook.com/CityofRoswellGA/videos/vb.53764033732/602638933689284/?type=2&theater> that will also connect you to the video.

Please take a few minutes to watch the video. After viewing, I hope you're willing to drop a quick message to the Mayor and City Council expressing gratitude to them for continuing the City's support of NFARL and Amateur Radio.

STRAY/ (May 1966 QST)

Did you notice unusually poor conditions during the second phone weekend of the ARRL International DX Competition? The March 16, 1966 *CRPL bulletin* reviewed the conditions as follows: "Storm No. 102 began about 1900UT March 13 and persisted approximately 24 hours. The storm A-index was 40. This is the most severe geomagnetic disturbance since June 1965 and it had greater effect on radio propagation conditions than any disturbance since April 1964. Although the disturbance has not been identified with specific solar events, its severity and short duration are characteristic of a storm associated with event type activity."

(editor's note— probably only a few members might recall this event)

**Report to NFARL on the American Red Cross –
North Fulton ARES Drill of May 30, 2020**

Submitted by Joe Schippert, AJ2Y, NFARES Member

On the last Saturday of this past May, seventeen amateur radio operators representing North Fulton ARES completed a challenging simulated emergency exercise coordinated with the American Red Cross and ARES organizations across the nation.

ARES - the Amateur Radio Emergency Service – is a program of the American Radio Relay League dedicated to community public service and disaster communications. ARES is intended to mesh with FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and their organizational plans for effectively dealing with emergency events. North Fulton ARES is an vigorous element of both ARES and NFARL, and consists of club members who have applied for membership, training, and participation with the group, under the leadership of our local Emergency Coordinator.

The May 30 Drill was proposed by our colleague Wayne, K4WK. Wayne is a Senior Volunteer with the American Red Cross (ARC) in Atlanta. A number of NFARES members previously worked with Wayne to stage a very successful drill in November, 2019 (see the December 2019 edition of the NFARL eNEWS, https://nfarl.org/enews/eNEWS_2019-12.pdf). Wayne took the initiative through his ARC contacts, simultaneously with national ARES contacts, to set the framework for a nationwide demonstration of the relevance of Amateur Radio communications to the mission of the Red Cross.

Background: the American Red Cross Message Utility

The Red Cross has a long history of providing humanitarian aid to individuals in emergency situations all over the world. A recent example of this is the development, by the ARC Community, of a series of message forms designed for transmission by radio, when commercial phone and internet service are not available. The message editing software, the message forms themselves, and the process for use constitutes what is known as the ARC Message Utility.

The ARC chose the popular FLDIGI / FLMSG suite of open source software applications as the foundation to support this mission. The ARC Message Utility allows Red Cross volunteers to use a simplified interface to generate and manage all the forms needed to activate and replenish a Red Cross shelter under emergency conditions. By then handing the messages to an Amateur Radio operator– think conceptually of having the simplified FLMSG Utility software AND the messages on a USB stick – the messages can be exchanged over an amateur radio digital link. Furthermore, the system employs an element of real brilliance in that the message files can be transmitted as attachments over either FLDIGI OR over WinLink, thus allowing easy transition into the email system, where available.

NFARES Exercise Planning and Features

Early in the year, in fact at the NFARES January Meeting, one of the members asked, “When are we going to have our next exercise?” The positive experience of last November’s drill, and the potential for more collaboration with the Red Cross, motivated an early commitment to participate. We began talking about our goals and designing the exercise.

Use the ARC Message Utility, FLDIGI and Winlink Digital Messaging

Team discussions rapidly led to recognizing the value of proficiency with the ARC Message Utility. Team members therefore downloaded the software, and engaged in focused training on its use. This included Zoom training sessions, and multiple hands-on practice sessions with both FLDIGI and WinLink. The ultimate payoff was in the ability acquired to rapidly send and receive multiple digital Red Cross messages using the ARC Message Utility.

Several other goals emerged in talking through the design of our exercise. We first asked ourselves, what skills and capabilities were worth developing?

Continued on next page

VHF Simplex Communications

We again decided to try to communicate while minimizing usage of our wonderful repeaters. Why? Although some of the repeaters have standby power availability, repeaters would be in heavy demand by the general amateur community in the event of an actual emergency. We therefore planned to practice the ins and outs of wide-area simplex communications, and to strengthen our simplex skills.

Directed Nets, and activating a "Temporary" EOC

We would again establish a hierarchical communications structure, using net control stations and directed nets to gather messages from the shelters and forward them on to their ultimate destination. Our normal EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in Sandy Springs, which was the centerpiece of our November drill, was not available because of concerns regarding the potential spread of COVID 19. Therefore, our Net Control team established a provisional EOC at a temporary site on Preston Ridge, in northern Fulton County.

Operations from Home

COVID 19 concerns also suggested we plan on operating from our home stations. This seems valid, considering their close proximity to the many potential shelter locations - schools and churches - throughout our neighborhoods. Additionally, most stations would operate "off the grid" under emergency power or with temporary antennas.

Activating Local Area Simplex Subnets

We have long divided the overall North Fulton County areas into several neighborhood sub-areas, due to our area's challenging topography. This grouping facilitates effective simplex communications within the sub-areas. Nevertheless, we had not tested this concept in several years. For this exercise, we determined we would pass some of our traffic directly to Preston Ridge, but the majority of it via additional designated "hub" stations on preassigned VHF frequencies in the sub-areas. Therefore, subnets were established in the Alpharetta/Milton area, and the Roswell/Sandy Springs area. We executed several QSY evolutions in shifting from one simplex net, to another simplex subnet, then returning back to the main group.

Relaying our Final Results via HF

Portable VHF stations have been developed by many of our members, and these make great sense for setup and service at potential shelters in our area. Nevertheless, it is likely that our team will also need the capability to relay messages in and out of the local area. HF, notably on 80 meters, is the strong ARES contestant in this area. We therefore passed communications summaries of all our local messages to a designated NFARES Relay Station for transfer to Georgia State ARES officials

Documenting our Plan on Standard ICS Forms

A complex exercise of this scope requires a detailed plan and thorough communications to all participants. As mentioned, our plan challenged 17 experienced amateurs with voice and digital communications on multiple nets, on different frequencies, with several QSYs. For this exercise, we decided to document our plans on standard FEMA forms that comply with the ICS (Incident Command System).

Carrying Out the Exercise

The exercise began at 0900 on Saturday morning, May 30, when the NCO announced the start of activities. Stuart, AK4EX, Net Control Operator, first established FM voice connectivity with all exercise participants on the NFARL repeater on 145.47 MHz. This was followed by a QSY to the designated Net Control simplex frequency. A first round of digital messages were transmitted from seven shelter stations to the Preston Ridge Net Control Operation. The seven simulated shelters were operated by Fred W4FRA, Jim W4IU, Joe AJ2Y, Steve KW4HQ, Tammy KK4USM, Scott KM4JXE, and John KC4UCT.

Continued on next page

NFARES ARC DRILL *(continued from previous page)* / **Joe Schippert, AJ2Y**

This was followed by QSY of three stations to the Roswell/Sandy Springs subnet, called by Hub Net Control W4IU, and four stations to the Alpharetta/Milton subnet called by Hub Net Control AJ2Y. Several additional ARC messages were transmitted by each shelter. Following this, the Hub Net Controls organized another QSY to the primary simplex frequency, then passed a communications summary (also a standard ICS form!) of everything that passed through their Subnets to Net Control AK4EX.

Were there some challenges? Absolutely! For example, Alternate Net Control Bill KN4DLE was successful in getting some of the shelters with equipment problems communicating on the correct simplex frequencies. Nevertheless, something like two dozen digital messages were passed on simplex, including all QSYs, in less than two hours.

The drill concluded when our EC, Grant, KK4PCR, composed his own set of communications summary forms and forwarded them on to our designated Relay Station, Mike AD4MC, who successfully passed the required messages on HF to the Georgia ARES targets.

Many hands make the work light. We had good help on Preston Ridge with setup, logging, monitoring, and tear down from Sam KO4BCO, Wayne KE4WYU, Matt KO4BEW, Bill W2ASL, and John AE4JH.

Finally, Bret, N4BTA, operated his RMS Gateways on VHF (packet) and HF (multimode), and handled national traffic throughout the exercise.

Conclusion

We learned a lot. Many of us again took the opportunity to improve our stations, so we could be more effective in our role as emergency communicators. We did a lot of planning, we did a lot of practicing, and we had a ball carrying out this exercise with the American Red Cross!



Stuart, AK4EX (far right) directs operation as Net Control Operator at the NFARES setup on Preston Ridge. He is assisted by (l to r) Sam KO4BCO, Brian K4BBL, Wayne KE4WYU, and EC Grant KK4PCR.

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Bill KN4DLE, using his home brew Go Box at the Alternate Net Control position.



EC Grant KK4PCR, reviewing an ICS-309 Communications Summary before forwarding it on to our HF Relay Station operated by Mike AD4MC.

Extra Extra! / From the Extra Class Question Pool

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



E1E12 — What must the VE team do with the application form if the examinee does not pass the exam?

- A.) Send the application form to the FCC and inform the FCC of the grade
- B.) Return the application document to the examinee
- C.) Maintain the application form with the VEC's records
- D.) Destroy the application form

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

From the ARRL Contest Calendar June 2020

13-15 [June VHF*](#)
20 [Kids Day*](#)
27-28 [Field Day*](#)

*Log On to ARRL required

Selected From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar June 2020

20-21 [West Virginia QSO Party](#)
23 [SKCC Sprint](#) (note these SKCC Sprints are 2 hours long)

Coming in July 2020

1-7 [12th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event](#)

From the Membership Chairman / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

You may notice that the NFARL membership is down a bit, according to the numbers we have been used to seeing at "live and in person" meetings. I remember numbers in the 330 range; now the number posted on our web site is more like 305. There is a reason; there were some duplicates in the listing and once those were removed the number fell a bit.

Also, it turns out that in these times of spam and advertising not all emails reminding us to renew are being read (I sometimes give up on the reading job myself, then do not get back to it like I thought I would). Several of the pillars of the Club have not renewed and were shocked to find their memberships had lapsed. They, of course, immediately renewed.

I have taken up the cause to give folks a call just in case they have missed their membership renewal notice. I will also encourage them to renew or face further calls from me telling them "Dad" jokes until they do renew. Which reminds me - have you heard the one about the priest, the rabbit, and the minister who went into a bar?

73, and stay safe out there,

Wes - W3WL

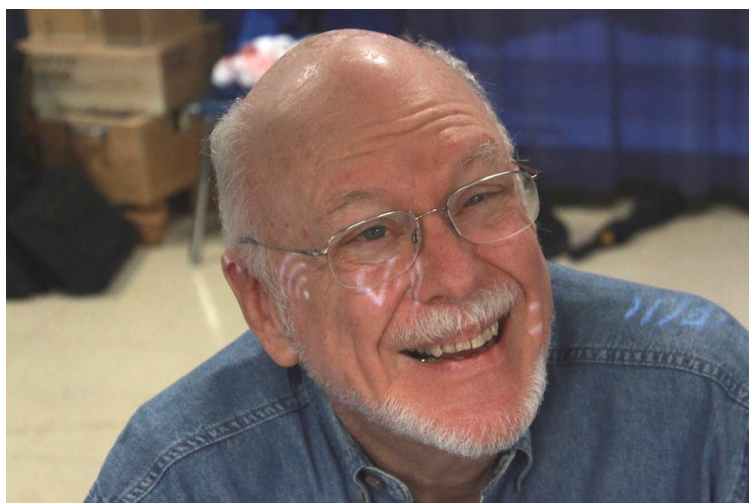
NFARL Membership Chairman



Name This Ham / From page 4 above



Chuck
AE4CW



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](https://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 (Discord) but Internet is not required to join the net. Check [NFARL Nets](https://nfarl.org) for more information and "how to". Here's the link to the NFARL server on Discord web app <https://discord.gg/spr2a9D>
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM
Location: Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell, GA 30075
(770) 518-7000 *Call to verify operations*
Dining Room now OPEN with COVID-19 Restrictions.
- **Every Thursday — YL OP Net** — 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
Check NFARL Nets [website](https://nfarl.org) 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
(770) 971-6800 *Call to verify operations*
Dining Room now OPEN with COVID-19 Restrictions.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - July 14, 2020 ***Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted.*** Check [NFARES.org](https://nfares.org) for more information.
- **Second Saturday — VE Testing - NFARL July 2020 session: *COVID-19 Restrictions in place. By reservation only.*** Slopes BBQ 9-11AM.
Contact Ian at nv4c.ian@gmail.com for reservations.
- **Spalding Amateur Radio Club Video Supervised Virtual VE Exam-** Go Here and Review Info <https://k4cxs-scarc.wixsite.com/k4cxs>
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - June 16, 2020, 7:30 PM
Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted
— June 2020 Topic: How is Field Day Going to Work This Year?
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - June 30, 2020, 7:00 PM
Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted
— monitor website and NFARL GroupsIO reflector for updates.
- **June 27-28, 2020 – Field Day!**



A scene from the Big Tent during Field Day 2019. Field Day 2020 will look very different!

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 Call signs: NF4GA and K4JJ

Extra Extra answer: B (question E1E12)

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