

# eNEWS February 2008

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



eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton!** Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Always be on the lookout for a way **YOU** can help on these activities/events. For news outside our area, read [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org) or [eHAM.net](http://eHAM.net)! Here's your **North Fulton ARL eNEWS for February.**



## Summary of upcoming events and dates

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:45 AM - Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday** - NF **ARES** net - 8:30PM - **145.47 Mhz**
- **FEB. 23** - 10AM - **VE Testing Session** - Regular meeting location. Upgrade now! Thanks to Verne, W8BLA@arrl.net, the club will again start testing for ham licenses. Share the info.
- **MAR. 15** - **Kennehoochee Hamfest** – Miller Park, Marietta (again).
- **MAR. 18** - Regular Club Meeting - Topic: **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

## Regular Club Meeting – Feb. 19 -7:30 PM

**Repeaters** - Our speakers – **Fred Moore, N4CLA**, on our club's analog FM repeaters – what's installed, how they work, what's in store, followed by **Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC**, what's new in Digital Repeaters – namely Dstar. Don't miss this one if you want to know more about the fine points of repeaters. **Don't forget to bring your camp chair, please.**



## ARES Meeting - Feb. 19 - 6:30PM

All ARES members (and others who might be interested) are in for a retreat at the February meeting. Two special guests will speak at this one. David, N1IB, will bring his "go box" to the meeting and explain what's included and how it works. Then, William Smith, Operations Officer for the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency, will present a program on the emergency preparedness plans and activities for Fulton County. Tom Koch, W4UOC, has done a great job in building the NF ARES; let's all support him at this important meeting. To join the reflector: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nfares/> Website: [www.nfares.org](http://www.nfares.org)

**Meeting Location: EOC** – Located behind the Alpharetta Fire Station #1 at 2970 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, GA. Where? Go to this map: <http://tinyurl.com/yhd25e>

**Door prizes- Toys for Techies** - If everyone **brings one** good, clean item/book to give away as door prizes, then everyone will win one!! + **World Radio** magazine subscription, + **Gift Certificate from HRO**

**Mid-Month Madness – March 1 –Build-a-thon** – At our next event, we will be building a sound card interface. This will let you connect your HF rig to your computer to use such modes as PSK-31, RTTY, and SSTV, to name a few. There will also be a more advanced kit – the FCC-1 frequency counter from NorCal. If you are interested, contact [WB4MAK@nfarl.org](mailto:WB4MAK@nfarl.org)

**Shack Visit Report (Feb. 2)** – 36 people attended the shack tour at WB4MAK's and were treated to a tour of his station. Many were visitors who are not club members and who are showing interest in NFARL. Thanks to Mack for hosting this event. Lots of fun!

**Repeater News** - We currently have the radio in hand that will be used as the replacement for the 145.47 repeater. Crystals and controller have been received. Work is in progress. There are still bigger plans in the works for all the NFARL repeaters.

**Club Auction** – In case you haven't heard, NFARL is going to have a silent auction. If you have any equipment that you would like to donate to the club for our silent auction, please drop Steve Mays, [KS4KJ@nfarl.net](mailto:KS4KJ@nfarl.net) a note to list your items. Proceeds will help with our repeater replacements and to pay ongoing expenses. Bidding will begin after the next meeting and winners will be announced about 3 weeks later, prior to the March meeting. Stay tuned.

**Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch each Wednesday @11:45** - Members are congregating at the **Slope's BBQ on Crossville Road** each Wednesday. Bring a friend. Slope's is just EAST of Crabapple Road on Crossville in Roswell. **One note: when you go through the line, be sure to ask them to print a receipt and include it in the Radio Club stack. The club fund gets 10% back!!**

**Membership** –We'd like to thank everyone for joining the club and helping us "Hit a Hundred" by year end. We are now into **February** and are currently at **122!** Our goal is for 2008? **150!!**--There has always been some question regarding when **dues are due**. The way the club dues / renewals are currently set up is they are due every 12 months from the date you joined NFARL. So if you joined May 22, your renewal would be due on the next May. This basically does two things for the club. First it keeps a more constant cash flow for the club receivables, and second it makes it easier on you. If you find that you need to change your annual renewal date to fit your budget, just say so. It is just a click away on the computer. Lastly, we are currently working to make it possible for you to make an online payment, thereby reducing the effort of writing a check, placing it in an envelope, then finding a stamp and getting it to the post office. Hopefully the way we plan to have it work is when you receive your electronic invoice, there will be a hot link in the email that will take you directly to the Pay Now icon.

**ARRL Membership** - Currently 72% of NFARL are members of the ARRL. Our goal here is not to coerce you to become a member of the ARRL, however, if you currently are not a member, and if you do have plans to renew or become a New member of ARRL, PLEASE use NFARL as your conduit for your ARRL affiliation. When you use NFARL to process your ARRL membership, NFARL stands to make a few \$ for every membership that that we process. You have nothing to loose, you still pay the same, and NFARL has everything to gain. ARRL is you government voice, so consider supporting them.

**Joining our Yahoo reflector** – This is yet another mechanism of communication that you can join, for FREE, and helping you to keep in touch. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nfarl/> and go to the JOIN button and become part of the NFARL mailing list, or send a message with

your name and callsign in the body to: [nfarl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nfarl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Check out the new club photo at the reflector home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nfarl/>

### ***VE Exams –***

If you or anyone you know is interested in starting into the hobby, or upgrading, and feel they are ready to be tested, PLEASE pass this information along to them. The testing is local and easy to get to.

Begin or Upgrade now!

**February. 23, 2008**

**10AM**

**VE Testing Session**

Regular meeting location <http://tinyurl.com/yhd25e>.

Thanks to Verne, [W8BLA@arrl.net](mailto:W8BLA@arrl.net)

### **GENERAL EXAM INFORMATION**

The administrative procedures of most exam sessions are very similar to each other. The following information should be applicable to all exam sessions in this listing. However, it is advisable to check with the session coordinator to be sure you have everything you need BEFORE you show up.

All the sessions are walk-in, i.e., there is no pre-registration required.

- ❖ **Starting December 3, 2001, all current amateur radio license holders must provide a FRN number when applying for a license upgrade or change of address.**
- ❖ **Please bring identification that includes a picture of the applicant on the ID** - drivers licenses are quite satisfactory. Parents should provide some form of identification for non-driving minors. Other forms of acceptable ID include passports, picture library cards, etc. Note: **Some VEC's require two (2) forms of identification.**
- ❖ **Bring both originals and copies of any current amateur license and any certificates showing credit from a previous exam** that you need to have counted toward a possible new license or upgrade.
- ❖ **Calculators are allowed**, but you must be able to show the examiner team that the memories of any programmable calculators have been cleared before the exam starts.
- ❖ **All needed forms will be supplied by the exam teams** - it will not be necessary to bring an FCC form 605. Pencils and scratch paper are provided at several of the sessions, but **you should probably have one pen or pencil of your own.**
- ❖ **An examination fee will be charged at each session.** This fee is for the entire session and not an individual element. **2007 testing fee is \$14 depending on VEC.**
- ❖ **You should arrive at the exam site at least 15 minutes before the exam is scheduled** to start to begin paperwork processing. No one will be admitted while a code exam is being given and a code exam, once given, will usually not be repeated that day, even if you are late.
- ❖ Please keep in mind that the **exam team members are all volunteers and are donating their time to help you obtain your license.** They make every effort to be professional and efficient in the exam process, but they ARE volunteers. We are blessed with more frequent test sessions here in Atlanta than probably anywhere else in the country, so a lot of folks are putting in their time. We enjoy doing it or we'd simply quit, but an occasional "thanks" makes it that much more enjoyable.

### ***AM Broadcast Band Listening Contest –***

Don't forget the BC listening contest going on right now thru the night of the Feb. 19th meeting. Send in proof (or bring it to the meeting) that you heard a distant BC station. This could be a recording of a segment identifying the station or some other "words you copied" that prove in your mind that the station was at a certain location. For example, if you believe you are listening to a Denver, CO station and the news is all about Denver, IF you write down some details of what the

news was all about, well, that's probably also good enough. For a list of BC band stations and their locations, check out these links:

<http://www.radio-locator.com/> or <http://www.amlogbook.com/freq.htm>

There are 3 categories for prizes:

1. **NOVICE** - Ham less than 1 year and non-hams
2. **SHARPIE** - Ham between 1 year and 10 years
3. **ACE** - Ham more than 10 years.

Prizes will be awarded to a winner in each category for the person who heard a station the greatest distance away. Prizes include but are not limited to: A 2M transceiver, a scanner, and a soldering station.

You may send your proof to [wk4u@comcast.com](mailto:wk4u@comcast.com) or bring to the meeting.

**Contact us:**

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**Club Repeater's**

<b>145.470</b>	No Tone (yet)	Sweat Mtn
<b>147.060</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Roswell WaterTower
<b>443.150</b>	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower (MATPARC/NFARL)
<b>444.475</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mtn

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



**ARRL Club Affiliate**



**NFARL  
Club Supporter**



**SERA Supporter**