



eNEWS

November 2011

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton!** Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org or eHAM.net for the national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS.**



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:00 AM - Slopes BBQ Roswell
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Check website for "how to"
- **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** - 5:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Join Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** - 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club meeting** - 7:30 PM – November 15 - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center - Rick Maxwell W8KHK, sharing details of "The Early Days of the Space Program, an Insider's View"
- **VE Testing Session** - November 19 - 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center
- **Holiday Party** - December 17 - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

November Program Update / John Kludt K7SYS

Some of you may remember the days when engineers wore ties to work. And quadrafilar antennas were designed with slide rules. Ever wonder what the 2.4 gigahertz antenna on OSCAR looked like? Have you ever actually seen or held an OSCAR flight-ready antenna? Discover all of this and more as Rick Maxwell W8KHK (right) shares with us his experiences as a teenager working with his father, Walter Maxwell W2DU, on many projects related to the early days of the space program and, more specifically, the antennas associated with those projects. What makes this talk unique are the various antennas and radios that Rick has collected over the years that will be on display. This is a great presentation, most recently featured at the National QCWA Convention, and we are pleased to bring it to NFARL.



Pre-meeting

Don't forget to join us for the pre-meeting dinner from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 13075 Highway 9 N, Alpharetta. No reservations, required! Then, head over to the meeting location for coffee and chats before the program begins.

President's Corner for November

What a dynamic month October was for our club. Highlights included the 2011 NF ARES SET directed by Mike Cohen AD4MC and the October JOTA run by Jon Wittlin K4WIT. Also, the ARRL released 2011 Field Day scores, and again the NFARL effort led by Ian Kahn KM4IK (ex-AK4IK) achieved superlative results. Please see the details of the accomplishments related to all of these wonderful events in the related articles in this newsletter.

The highlight for the month was the 2011 HamJam. This affair was a rousing success in terms of program, attendance, and results. I would like to recognize the focused effort and dedication of Jim Stafford W4QO and Chuck Catledge AE4CW in making our HamJam the premier event of this type in the Southeast (and possibly the whole country!).

Our membership should take pride in all that was accomplished by the club in October and our thanks go out to all members who participated in and contributed to the success of these events.

Our club meeting on November 15 will feature Rick Maxwell W8KHK, sharing details of "The Early Days of the Space Program, an Insider's View". There should be some interesting anecdotes imparted as well as some unusual antennas on display.

We will also be holding elections for our 2012 club officers. In addition to nominations from the floor, the Board of Directors is pleased to present the following slate for your consideration:

President: Wes Lamboley W3WL

Wes is our current vice president, is an accomplished DXer and a well-traveled DXpeditioner. Wes also spearheads the club HamCram program, supports club involvement with the Boy Scouts and many other club youth activities.

.Vice President: Dave Brackett AK4CL

Dave has been serving in the role of activities chairman. He has served as station captain at Field Day, provided A/V support for HamJam, and is coordinator for the club's hamfest activities.

Secretary: Bill Reed K4YJI

Bill continues to do a superlative job as club secretary. He coordinates club public service and volunteer activities, while also serving as managing editor of eNEWS.

Treasurer: Fred Moore N4CLA

Through his contribution as treasurer, Fred has been the backbone of the club's administrative and business functions. We are fortunate that Fred continues to serve us with his dedication and talent.

73 - I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on November 15 and I hope to hear you on the bands!

John N4TOL



HamJam 2011 Reaches New Heights / HamJam Committee

HamJam 2011 was NFARL's third HamJam. It was a tremendous success, and far beyond our expectations. The goal of each HamJam has always been to present some of the best speakers that we can find to the amateur radio community, have a raffle to support the event, at least break even and, if possible, have some money left over that we can put aside for a scholarship fund. The first year we basically broke even.

The second year we advertised and sold the event on the internet, as well as one-on-one promotion, had about 200 in attendance, had two wonderful speakers, Joe Taylor K1JT and Ward Silver N0AX. N4GG Hal Kennedy also demonstrated his homebrew Blue Lightning rotary gap spark transmitter. We then awarded two major prizes, a K3 and a Flex 1500, and made \$1,400, which was ultimately awarded to two young amateurs as scholarships.

This year we had more than 300-350 in attendance, advertised on the internet and sold raffle tickets on the internet with sales as far west as Washington state and as far east as New Hampshire, as well as one-on-one sales. We had three great speakers, Kay Craigie N3KN, ARRL President, Tom Rauch W8JI, speaking on antennas, and Eric Swartz WA6HHQ, president and co-founder of Elecraft. This year we made a profit of \$2,000 which is going into the NFARL/SEDXC scholarship fund. We then awarded the following prizes:

- 1 K7SYS #3452 Kenwood TS-590S transceiver**
- 2 KJ4VQI #4085 Elecraft KX3 transceiver**
- 3 KB7WO #3181 Kenwood TH-D72A HT**
- 4 KC4AA #3659 Begalli magnetic classic key**
- 5 W4AVV #4396 MFJ 259B antenna analyzer**
- 6 WA2EXZ #3481 TenTec R40/20 transceiver**
- 7 AI4VE #3536 Buddipole \$150 gift certificate**
- 8 N4EWT #4126 TenTec DX Pro headset**
- 9 KJ4HTY #3830 ARRL CD**
- 10 KJ4VPK #4817 Repeater Directory**

Thank you to all who attended and to all those who helped to support this event. For more info, go to hamjam.info



ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN presents the club with its DXCC Award, joined onstage at HamJam 2011 by many of the NFARL members who took part in the effort. Photo by Steve Mays KS4KJ

Hams, Scouts Enjoy JOTA / Jon Wittlin K4WIT

We had another successful JOTA event on October 15 and a strong amateur showing. This year we were invited to participate with the Milton District of the Atlanta Area Council at the annual Scout Expo. Several hundred scouts were in attendance.

We had some tough venues competing for everyone's time: zip lines, air rockets, climbing bridges, BB shooting range etc. We did manage to get scouts on the air and had contacts with Iceland, Indonesia, Europe, Canada and several states.

We ran four separate stations as NF4GA and covered a good portion of the HF spectrum plus VHF. The stations were:

- 40M/15M on an AA2HT Vertical Shield Loop @ 70 feet
- 20M on a G5RV @ 35 feet
- 10M on a Mobile Mount Antenna
- 2M on a Mag Mount + digital + EchoLink + misc.



The following operators donated their time, knowledge, equipment and resources and contributed water, gas, coffee and doughnuts, and had some fun:



Roger Anders	AA2HT	Steve Cseh	KC6KNL
Chuck Catledge	AE4CW	Mike Lozano	KF4UPO
Clyde McClain	AK4TL	Chris Balch	KJ4NAX
Jason Dutremble	K1OGR	Brian Mallard	N2EYI
Jon Wittlin	K4WIT	Roger Shaddick	N7BU
Steve Knittel	KC4YBO	Brian McCarthy	NX9O
		Wes Lamboley	W3WL

Our next scouting event is tentatively in February in Johns Creek. We will do the Radio Merit Badge and possibly the Electronics Merit Badge at a merit badge clinic. Anyone interested in becoming a Boy Scout Merit Badge instructor, please send me and email at k4wit@nfarl.org.

NFARL Responds to Emergency Test / Mike Cohen AD4MC

This year, 40 hams at 30 locations made the 2011 NFARES SET a great success. We demonstrated to fire and police departments and hospitals that we could reliably pass messages among the served agencies in all six north metro cities (Roswell, Alpharetta, Milton, Sandy Springs, Johns Creek and Dunwoody).

We aligned our Net Control Stations with the three Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), one each in Alpharetta, Roswell and Sandy Springs. At some of the locations, we also used the the MT-63 digital mode of message handling.

An important part of the SET was to get to know the people at the served agencies. We were able to accomplish this by deploying people into various fire stations, police departments, hospitals and EOCs, using permanently mounted antennas in selected locations.

We are now reviewing our own performance and will use that information to prepare for an improved SET next year.



Among those hams helping out during the October SET were (above, left) Jim Paine N4SEC and Scott Dunbar N4SBD and (above right) Bret Arnold N4BTA.

2011 Field Day Score Update

The 2011 Field Day scores are now available on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/results-database>), and, as expected, NFARL fared very well again this year. Overall, we placed 53rd nationally out of 2,632 Field Day participant stations, placing us in the top 2 percent of all participants. We finished fifth out of 203 stations in the Southeastern Division (again top 2 percent) and first in the Georgia Section out of 63 participants.

In Class 4A, we finished seventh nationally out of 125 (top 5 percent), second in Southeastern Division, behind only the Huntsville ARC (13,792 points), out of nine participants, and first in the Georgia Section.

Finally, we again won the prize for having the highest attendance (269 attendees) of any Field Day activity in the country. The number two and three in attendance each had 220 attendees.

Our final accepted numbers are 10,464 points on 3,177 QSOs by 269 total attendees. Thank you to everyone for making Field Day 2011 another successful event!



DEAD Battery Roundup / Jim Stafford W4QO

I will be picking up dead batteries at the next NFARL meeting and will deliver them to the salvage place with proceeds going to the NFARL treasury! Bring your dead SLAs, particularly, to the meeting and leave them in the bed of my truck – W4QO. If you plan to bring lead-acid batteries, it is important to drain off the acid first! If you can't make the next meeting, then bring them to my house and leave them in front of my shop for taking to salvage. I have a few 12-volt SLAs I can provide you for special needs, just let me know! Questions? Contact me at w4qo@nfarl.org.

Public Service / Dave Brackett AK4CL

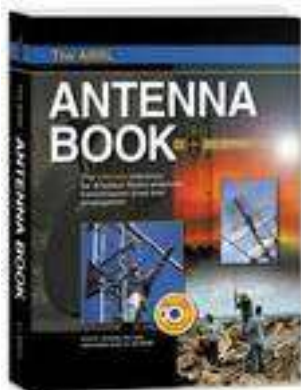
Atlanta Half Marathon – November 24. Volunteers will be needed for health and safety communications. Contact [David Ziskind KE4QLH](mailto:David.Ziskind@KE4QLH) for more information and to volunteer.

More details on volunteer opportunities for all events are on the NFARL website in the [Public Service Section](#).



Antenna Help Is On the Way / Keith Plossl K4KRX

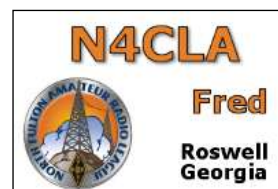
As a follow-up to Tom Rauch W8JI and his presentation at HamJam 2011, the library recommends the ARRL Antenna Book, a compilation of information on various antenna designs and configurations. As Jim Stafford W4QO has been heard saying, “Put a wire in a tree and get on the air, you will reach someone.” Jim is right. Some hams prefer one type of antenna over another. But, as Tom noted, “Every antenna is a compromise.” Which compromise do you want made for your antenna? You decide.



The ARRL antenna book is a good starting point for understanding the various antenna types and their characteristics. There are antennas to fit every budget and even some that may not offend the local homeowners association. Remember to add the cost of an antenna tuner to the cost of an antenna requiring one. Note that there are transmission line power losses in addition to Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) losses that apply to the whole antenna system. The antenna system is everything from the radio to the coax and including the antenna.

Need a Name Badge?

Go to the [NFARL Mart](#) and order one of these magnetic badges!



Did you know? / Fred Moore N4CLA

You do not need to make a new record in the database in order to change your logon ID, your password, your email address, your NEW call sign, license class, expiration date, phone numbers, address etc. Just log in to www.nfarl.org/mart and make your changes. It is just that easy. Be sure that when you make a change to one of the pages, you go to the bottom of that page and select the **<Submit>** button to save the change.

When your NFARL membership is due to expire, you will receive a system generated reminder to the email address on file in your record, 30 days before expiration. Then you will receive one more email on the day your membership expires. You may renew your membership at any time: days, weeks, or months in advance. If you renew before your membership expires, the renewal is just added to your existing expiration date.

If you use an ARRL.NET email address and you are NOT an ARRL Life member, your membership expires at ARRL.NET annually, your ARRL.NET email address just flushes the email sent to it and NOBODY will ever know that their email ever got to you. You will NOT know that anyone ever sent you mail, nor will the sender be notified that the ARRL.NET address does or does not work. ARRL Life members do not need to worry about this, as their email address will work forever.

If you use an email address provided by your Internet Service Provider, and you change Internet Service Providers, then your email address is scrubbed and it will no longer work, meaning you will have to send all of your email friends your new address. Consider using one of the free email addresses such as Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail etc. and never worry about that again. This way, if and when you change ISPs, none of this will ever make any difference.

NFARL Membership

We currently have **239** active members as of the writing of this newsletter. The following members have joined since July.

Call Sign	First Name	Last Name	Member Since	Lic Class
KK4EKH	Thomas	Dodds II	2011-09	Technician
WT4K	Jeffrey	Baer	2011-09	Amateur Extra
K1ZZI	Ralph	Bates	2011-09	Amateur Extra
WA0QMJ	Jonathan	Edman	2011-09	Technician
KK4EFN	Phil	Wolf	2011-09	Technician
WA4NUN	Paul	Chapman	2011-08	Amateur Extra
N4MSS	Mike	Stark	2011-07	Technician
AK4NA	Garrett	Brass	2011-07	Amateur Extra

Please welcome these new members the next time you see them.

Contact Us

President	John Tramontanis N4TOL 770-789-9188	n4tol@nfarl.org
Vice-President & Training and Education Leader	Wes Lamboley W3WL	w3wl@nfarl.org
Secretary & Community Service Projects	Bill Reed K4YJI 770-993-5758	k4yji@nfarl.org
Treasurer & Repeater Trustee	Fred Moore N4CLA 404-434-4499	n4cla@nfarl.org
Past President & Special Events	Chuck Catledge AE4CW 770-641-7729	ae4cw@nfarl.org
Program & Mid-Month-Madness Chairman	John Kludt K7SYS	k7sys@nfarl.org
Field Day Chairman	Scott Straw KB4KBS	kb4kbs@nfarl.org
ARES Liaison & Community Relations	Jim Paine N4SEC	n4sec@nfarl.org
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden W5JR	w5jr@nfarl.org
Web Master	Bill Cobb K4YJJ	k4yjj@nfarl.org

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
927.0125(-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mountain



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