



NFARL eNEWS

August 2014

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" in North Fulton and surrounding area! Check out each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
- **Every Monday – Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 – Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **Every Wednesday – Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM – Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG), Lodge One** - 9:00 AM – Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). Everybody's welcomed: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Huntsville Hamfest and Regional ARRL Centennial Event** – **August 16**, 9:00 AM CDT to 4:30 PM and **August 17**, 9:00 AM CDT to 3:00 PM -- Von Braun Civic Center, 700 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801. Click on [hamfest](#) website for more information and directions.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** – **August 19**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Topic: The Art of QSLing and LOTW.
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting** – **August 26**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – **September 9**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Talk-in station on 147.06 repeater.
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** – **September 13**, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
- **Simulated Emergency Test, October 4**, 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM – North Fulton ARES team 2014 SET. More information is available on [NFARES website](#). If you are interested in being part of the NFARE SET program, drop an email to [Mike Birmingham](#), K4LJG, EC for North Fulton County.

Program Update / Walt Woron, KJ4HE

Whether you want to earn Worked All States, DXCC, or any of the many other ham radio awards out there, you will probably need to know how to go about collecting QSL cards or Logbook of the World confirmations. What better way to learn the finer points than from a couple of veteran DX chasers, **Bill Barr, N4NX**, and NFARL President **Neil Foster, N4FN**, at our August meeting.

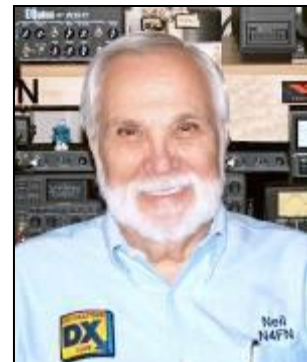
Bill Barr (at left), who is also a NFARL member, has been licensed since 1956. His passion is working DX and he is at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll with 357 countries confirmed. He has nine-band DXCC and is a member of the A1 Operators Club. He has earned many other awards, including five-band Worked All States, seven-band Worked All Zones, and the USA-CA All Counties award.



Bill is an avid traveler, having visited more than 70 countries and has operated from nine of them. Bill is also very active in the Southeastern DX Club. He operates all bands and modes but says his favorite mode is CW. Bill is also an official

ARRL QSL field checker and can answer any questions you might have about the field-checking process.

First licensed in 1960, NFARL President Neil Foster, N4FN, (at right) has been active in the Atlanta ham community for many years having served as president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Atlanta Radio Club (twice), the Southeastern DX Club, as well as having held other offices in those clubs.



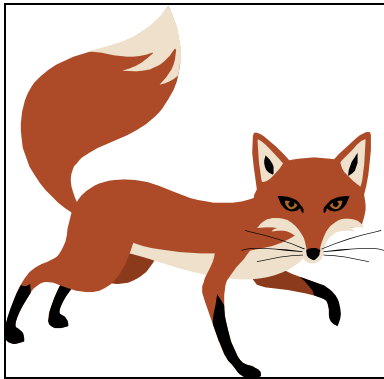
An active DXer, Neil has 344 countries confirmed and nine DXCCs. Of all the ham radio awards he has achieved, he says he is proudest of the Arabian Knights Award (number 568 in the world) and the Royal Jordanian Silver Award (number 191 in the world) from the Arabian Amateur Radio League, issued by and personally signed by **King Hussein of Jordan, JY1**, as well as The Commonwealth DX Award (number 332 in the world) issued by the Radio Society of Great Britain. Neil also holds the British Class A license, call sign G0NBJ (his original call was G5DKW), having taken the British RAE years ago. He has operated from 13 DXCC entities, and he is a member of the DXCC Honor Roll.

Join us at 7:30 PM on August 19 at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center as these two QSL experts share their insights into the art of QSLing and Logbook of the World.

Pre-Meeting T-Hunt / John Kludt, K4SQC, and Mike Roden, W5JR

Last month we hunted for a hidden transmitter during the meeting. We want to keep up the momentum as we work toward our planned “big hunt” on August 23.

This month, the “fox” again will be in hiding on the grounds of the Adult Activity Center – before the August 19 meeting. The frequency again will be 145.565 MHz. Since most of us are beginners, the “fox” will be on for 15 seconds out of every 30 seconds.



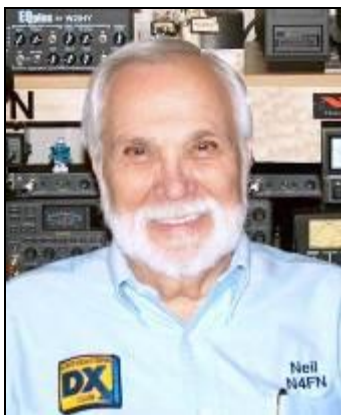
Last go ‘round we learned the importance of avoiding overload. Some kind of attenuation is key, especially for these little hunts. If nothing else, as we learned from **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, some aluminum foil to act as a shield on the rubber duck one can work wonders. And remember, you can use your body as an attenuator as well.

The other trick that we used last time as folks got really close was to listen for the third harmonic of the “fox.” The third harmonic of 145.565 MHz is 436.695 MHz. For those of you with dual-band radios, you might want to program this frequency into memory as well.

The “fox” will be in place by 7:00 PM. We need to be done by 7:30 PM so as not to hold up the meeting. So bring your gear and let’s find that hidden transmitter!

President’s Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN

It looks like we will be involved in many activities during the next few months, and that is indeed a good thing. Later in the newsletter, you will read about our involvement with HR 4969, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. The Executive Committee has discussed this item and determined that the club should support this initiative and asks that each member of NFARL participate. In a nutshell, this will expand PRB-1. The ARRL is asking for participation in this endeavor. Speaking of the ARRL, everyone in the club should belong to the league. While we have a large percentage of members who belong, it would be nice to be able to say we are a 100 percent club!



By the time you read this, the Huntsville Hamfest likely will be over. Although not really a local one, it is well attended and a great one. One of the nice things about Huntsville is that it is all indoors and is air conditioned. It is also the Alabama State Convention for the ARRL. Typically, all the “big guys” are there. Next up will be the Alford Memorial Radio Club Hamfest, November 1-2 (I still call it the Stone Mountain Hamfest and can remember when it was at Stone Mountain Park). This is probably the best-attended local fest. However, weather in

November can be interesting at best. January will bring us Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society's TechFest, and we will attend and participate in this event as well. However, what we will do as a club is still to be decided.

The Girl Scout SuperSTEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Expo will be held on September 13, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross. **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, and **John Tramontanis, N4TOL**, will be shepherding this event.

As many of you know, **Mike Birmingham, K4LJG**, has assumed the helm of the North Fulton ARES group. Mike has indicated a closer relationship with NFARL and ARES. Three of our members, Mike, K4LJG; **Mike Cohen, AD4MC**, and **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, are heavily involved in NFARES as are other members.

Our by-laws require that a Nominating Committee be appointed to report at the October meeting with a slate of officers for 2015. This year has flown by incredibly fast. I have asked **Ron Gill, NV4U**, **Walt Woron, KJ4HE**, and **Jim Smith, W4JDS**, to assume this task. So, if you have suggestions or would like to participate as an officer of the club, contact one of these members.

This last month has been great for me personally since it looks like I am 99 percent on the way to getting my vintage station on the air. As mentioned in a prior newsletter, I finally found a very nice Hammarlund HQ-170A at Dayton. With the aid of a great friend, it is now "on the air." Recently, I was bidding on a companion transmitter, a Hammarlund HX-50 on eBay. I missed it by \$5.00 and 10 seconds. Mentioning it to **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, he replied "I have one." So, it now sits next to the 170A, Hammarlund speaker, a real J-38 key and non-amplified Astatic D-104 microphone ("Lollipop"). They are now ready to get the final wiring to interface the bunch. The last time I was on "Ancient Modulation" (AM) was about 50-some-odd years ago when 6 meters AM would decimate Channel 2. Boy, did some of my neighbors hate me!

HamJam is one of our major events of the year and I am sure **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, will have updated information on this event in November. Following in December is our holiday party and **Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT**, will spearhead this fantastic event (YUM) again. See you all on the 19th at the meeting.

Wanted: A Few Good Guys or Gals Named 'Elmer'



Remember how you got your start in amateur radio? Chances are there was somebody named Joe or Bill or Fred or Marcia. Nowadays, we know them all as Elmer. Join the NFARL Elmers program and help someone get a start in our wonderful hobby, or help a "newbie" grow. If you need an Elmer or want to be one, please start at the [Elmers link](#) or send us an [email](#).

NFARL to Promote Amateur Radio to Girl Scouts

NFARL will be participating as an exhibitor at the [Super STEM Expo](#) on Saturday, September 13, at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross. The STEM Expo promotes Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to girls of all ages.

NFARL will be promoting amateur radio to the Girl Scout community with various hands-on activities, including making “Morse code” bracelets and sending messages on the air.

Everyone is welcomed to participate, especially our female club members, to staff the club booth and interact with the Girl Scouts as they learn about amateur radio.



If you can help, please contact [Martha Muir, W4MSA](#) or [John Tramontanis, N4TOL](#).

Ham Antennas May See Light of Day in HOA Neighborhoods

/ Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, and Jim Paine, N4SEC

A bill recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives opens the door for ham antennas in neighborhoods that currently prohibit them. This bill would extend the exemptions already provided for satellite and off-the-air TV antennas to ham radio antennas. HR 4969, also known as the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, calls for new FCC rules that would prohibit “*application to amateur service communications of any private land use restriction, including a restrictive covenant ... that fails to reasonably accommodate such communications.*”



Imagine not having to hide antennas in your attic, disguise them in the trees or make them look like a flag pole? Or, how about a modest tower or mast to enhance your DX communications or provide a better location for your VHF/UHF antennas? All this will become reality if HR 4969 becomes law.

NFARL encourages all members and friends to support this bill by contacting their congressional representative. The key messages:

- 1) Amateur radio is a vital service to our communities and major public service agencies;
- 2) Amateur radio operators seek the same accommodations already provided for satellite and TV antennas;
- 3) Ask your representation to a) support HR 4969 and b) more importantly, sign on as a co-sponsor of the bill.

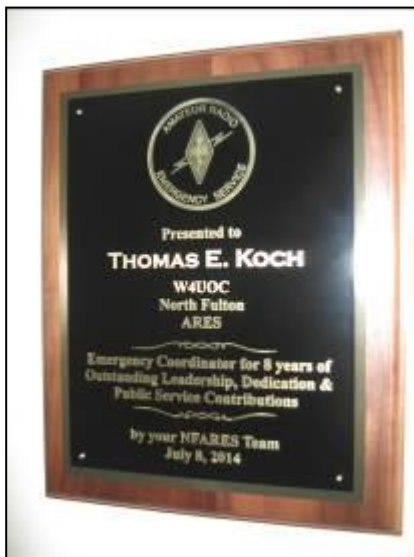
Seventeen representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of the bill, but many more are needed to ensure success. All the information you need to prepare a letter or e-mail to your representative can be found [here](#).

Jim Paine, N4SEC, and Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, will hand-deliver letters to 6th District Congressman Tom Price. **Please bring your letter to the NFARL meeting on August 19!**

NFARES Salutes Tom Koch, W4UOC / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

After eight years as North Fulton ARES Emergency Coordinator, **Tom Koch, W4UOC**, has passed the baton to **Mike Birmingham, K4LJG**. As a sign of our appreciation, NFARES members had a plaque made for Tom. Mike read the inscription to him during our July 8 meeting. Since Tom was out of town and could not receive the plaque in person that night, Mike relayed the inscription to him using a full duplex 1.8 GHz radio repeater system. (Most of you have part of the system in your pocket.)

Thanks again, Tom, for all that you have done and best wishes to Mike as our new EC.



FIELD DAY 2014

My Most Excellent Day / Anthony Phillips, KK4SYE

This year I had the pleasure of participating in the annual NFARL Field Day event. I obtained my Tech license in August 2013 and just missed the 2013 Field Day. But this time around, I was determined to participate in my first Field Day. While there I enjoyed six hours of straight operating between Saturday and Sunday.



During my six-hour shift I operated on the GOTA and 6 Meter phone station. I had the most fun on GOTA due to band openings as 6 meters was closed. Operating the GOTA station, my favorite contact was Brazil. The most interesting contact on 6 meters, which was almost a miracle because 6 meters was not open, was Western Washington. I have been enjoying ham radio every second since I touched my first HT. Amateur radio is an exciting experience, especially with events like Field Day.

I truly enjoyed Field Day with the constant level of action and focus. I can't wait until next year.

Skywarn Spotter Class Being Offered

The DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the National Weather Service will offer a free Skywarn storm spotter class from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on September 23. The class will be held at DeKalb County Fire Rescue Headquarters, 1950 West Exchange Place, Tucker 30084.

Skywarn storm spotters are a valuable part of the first line of defense in the threat of severe weather. Storm spotters are trained to identify and report weather conditions during severe weather. This effort provides on-the-ground data that forecasters can use to issue watches and warnings for local communities.

Amateur radio operators are encouraged to take this class.

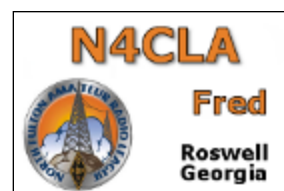
The Skywarn storm spotter training involves training in basics of thunderstorm development; fundamentals of storm structure; identifying potential severe weather features; information to report to the National Weather Service; and basic severe weather safety.

To register, contact Dena Glover at the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency, by [email](#) or phone (770-270-0413).



Need a Name Badge?

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



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Club Repeaters

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

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