



NFARL eNEWS

March 2015

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**.



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
- **Every Monday – Tech Net** - 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 Thursday – YL Net** – 8:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 - Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG) Lodge No. 1** - 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.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – March 17**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Pre-meeting activity starts at around 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 [map](#)
Talk-in: 145.47+ (PL 100)

Meeting Topic: **Electrical and Power Line Safety Presented by Rick Downs of Georgia Power**

- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – March 24** 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.

Coming Events

- **April 2015**

- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – April 21**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.

APRIL 11 – 12 2015 marks the **54th consecutive (nearly) year** that the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) has been challenging amateurs all over the world with the best award/plaque program in the US. IN 2014, 272 amateurs submitted logs vying for the thirty-nine award plaques that were earned.

The GQP is held in a pair of ten-hour sessions on the second full weekend in April; this year that will be **April 11-12, 2015**. Hopefully all 159 Georgia counties will be on the air.

The Georgia QSO Party



President's Corner / Bob Beeman k4bb



One of the policies of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League is that business is rarely discussed at the monthly meetings. Executive meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and are open to all members. This way we can have entertaining monthly membership meetings without talking about stultifying business details.

All our activities take people. Right now, we need people to help in the Ham Cram program where we teach classes to help others get their ham tickets. We need people to help out with our education outreach programs. We need people to help with our Mid-Month Madness program, and we need more people to help out with Field Day

Dr John Kludt, K4SQC, is our Field Day Chairman. The character of our Field Day will accent operating and competing with clubs nationwide. John and his committee are also working on a solution for those who just want to get on the air and make a few contacts. We are long past the days where everybody gets to bring their own radio and casually operate under the picnic veranda.

Field Day is not only a big deal; it is the biggest deal of the year. Our goal is to make it a good experience for everybody.

For our new members and new hams, it is helpful to understand that the NFARL does not have a big list of rules for repeater use. For guidance, I have prepared a list of common sense repeater procedures.

- ID'ing every transmission is not necessary. You only need to ID every ten minutes, and at the start and end of your QSO. Also, saying "this is "my call" for ID" is redundant. We all know you are giving your ID.
- You don't need to call CQ. Just throw you call out there. We all know what you want.
- When talking, remember there is a time-out-timer that will cut you off after two minutes. The idea is for people to limit their transmissions to less than two minutes. If you find yourself saying, "let me recycle the repeater", maybe you need to let someone else talk.
- Do you prefer a round table, or a casual chat? In a QSO of more than two people, there is no requirement to have a round table. Sometimes it is fun to just jump in and make a statement, occasionally. If you double with someone it is not a big deal. The chat mode is OK.
- You may talk about pretty much anything you want. Common sense should tell you to stay away from religion, politics, and profanity.

We belong to a great club, and there are opportunities for everyone to have fun. That's what it is all about.

73

Bob Beeman
k4bb

***Show Your Support for HR 4969,
the Radio Amateur Parity Act of 2014!***

Contact Your U.S. Representative!

Learn More [Here](#)



Mill Springs Academy In The School Round Up **Martha Muir W4MSA**

NFARL Mentors Help Students at Mill Springs Academy in the Spring ARRL School Club Roundup



Several NFARL members served as control operators for the Mill Springs Amateur Radio Club students as they participated in the ARRL Spring School Club Roundup during the second week of February. Chuck AE4CW and Jim W4QO coordinated veteran mentors to come in to assist the students making contacts throughout the week. Mike AD4MC, Pavel AC4PA, Neil N4FN, Mike K4LJB, Garry AK4NA, Roger N7BU, John N4TOL, along with Chuck and Jim spent at least half of a school day helping the students make contacts with others primarily

using PSK-31.

The student hams at Mill Springs had their best showing ever in the School Club Roundup. They entered a claimed score of over 44,000 points, nearly five times as many as their previous best score, and made contacts in 31 states and 9 DX countries and two provinces in Canada. The students really got excited about the DX contacts and actively sought to make more of those. Thanks to the training by Mike Cohen and Jim Stafford, the students were able to confidently demonstrate their skills making and logging their digital contacts.

Members of the Mill Springs Amateur Radio Club would like to thank all the NFARL members who helped us participate in this contest.



NFARL EduTeam Wows the Crowds at the Sandy Springs Super STEM Event

Under the direction of Mike, AD4MC, Wes, W3WL, and Chuck, AE4CW, members of the NFARL EduTeam hosted a booth on amateur radio at the Sandy Springs Education Force's Super STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Event held at the North Springs Charter High School on March 5. The theme of this year's STEM Event was Communications Technology so we were a perfect fit.

Waves of the North Springs students flooded our booth from the morning until early afternoon. Then it was time for students from the local middle schools to flood the exhibits. In the evening, it was time to host officials from the Sandy Springs Education Force as well as adults and other members of the community. Our booth was busy all day tantalizing and educating our visitors with various aspects of amateur radio, especially about how fun it is and how easily it fits into STEM classrooms.

Mike and Wes installed an antenna at the school so that our visitors could make voice contacts on the 20 m and 10 m bands. Chuck, along with Sam, KK4NVJ, Megan, KM4HFY, and Eli, KM4HFZ, all students at Mill Springs helped our guests with voice contacts. Among the DX locations, contacts were made with Croatia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Montserrat, and we were able to have our guests listen to an Australian talking, but alas, we could not make the contact. Thanks to Tom, W4UOC, and Fred, KK4JYO, for patiently being available all day (from 11 AM to 8 PM) to respond to our guests' digital radio transmissions on 2 m.

John, K4SQC, had his MAREA (Mars lander Amateur radio Robotics Exploration Activity) robot there use radio signals to simulate how NASA scientists use radio signals to control the movement of the rovers on Mars. John's MAREA clearly stood out with the students and other visitors to our booth. John also had the video going that showed the [ARRIS \(Amateur Radio on the International Space Station\)](#) contact at Mill Springs Academy. Visitors were pleasantly surprised to recognize several of the faces in that video as hams in our booth!

Wes and Chuck helped students to explore the relationship between electricity and magnetism in general as well as answered some physics students' questions about Lenz' Law. Wes also had students investigate more electrical concepts with his Tesla coil. They were drawing lightning bolts off the top with a pin, shocking themselves sometimes by simply drawing the bolt to themselves, and inducing a fluorescent bulb to glow. This was all mesmerizing for these students and helped affirm the relationship between amateur radio and STEM for the teachers.

Jim, W4QO, enthralled young and older visitors with his Morse code keyer connected to a laser which was connected to a sound amplifier. One young lady was especially happy to know that she was di di di di dah da dah di dah da dit dah di di di dit di dah.

Mike and Martha, W4MSA, helped guide our guests to all the components of our booth, answered their questions, and helped the other hams with their tasks. Ralph, KJ4CNC, who is the Education Coordinator at GARS, came by to see what kinds of things NFARL offers at such events. He stayed a lot longer than he had planned and got involved in our operations. (Thanks, Ralph.)

We received raving compliments from the students, parents, teachers and administrators who visited our booth. Several students from both the high school and middle school expressed interest in starting amateur radio programs at their schools. Julie Bernath, director of the Sandy Springs Education Force, let us know she had been hearing similar things about our program as well. She will share the formal feedback that they receive later. We are expecting that the positive feedback will help us enlist teachers and schools to form ham radio clubs and enable their students to be licensed amateur radio operators.

The perfect path — Ron Gill NV4U & Pavel Anni AC4PA



When I saw Pavel Anni (AC4PA)'s E-mail, I thought this guy is on the perfect path. I've seen and heard about some of his activities and accomplishments and he seems to always be going onward and upward. He's exploring he's learning and he's having fun.

I have heard him ask for advice and I've seen him listen to some of the true Gurus in the club and guess what. He seems to follow the advice.

Read about what Pavel has accomplished by following his path.

Hello,

I'm writing this not to brag about my results (they are less than modest) but rather to share my experience and encourage those of you who haven't decided yet if they want to participate in contests. It was my second "real" contest (first was ARRL 10m contest last year) and I can tell you I wasn't sure till the very beginning if I want to participate. I thought it's for "big guns" and "speed devils". Turns out even mere mortals like me, with

just a couple of years of ham experience can participate and even earn some points and countries.

1. Time. Don't think that you have to dedicate the whole two days, 48 hours to the contest. It's OK to be on and off, nobody is watching you. I didn't want to scare my family and turn them into opposition to my hobby, so I didn't disappear completely. Part here, part there and I still was having fun while keeping the family happy.

2. Rig and antenna. Don't think you have to have a big rig with full legal limit and sophisticated controls, logging programs, huge beam antenna etc. I worked with 5 watts (on KX3) and a simple 40m dipole (or rather doublet--with balanced line and auto-tuner) up 30 ft. Yes, sometimes I called people and didn't get the answer, but who cares--turn the knob and jump to another CQ, there are plenty of them. Yes, sometimes it took me more than 3 calls to get through the pileup (like with VP5 Turks and Caaicos Islands). Sometimes I would take a note of the frequency and return back 20 minutes after (like I did with KH2 Guam). But it worked and worked most of the times.

3. Know your contest rules. I spent most of Saturday on 10m and it was pretty good and I started thinking that I'd better report as "Single Band + QRP". I tried to stay on 10m even when condx became less than optimal--because I thought I'll be reporting as "single band". Later that day I decided to re-read the rules and discovered that for "Single Band" there are no power categories, so no QRP. OK, better late than never, and I switched to 15m.

4. QSOs or Multipliers. Being QRP, I used "search and pounce" technique. I was trying to get as many multipliers as possible and was chasing new countries (also earning them for my future DXCC). I don't know if it is the right strategy here, so I'll appreciate your elmer's advice. What I noticed though is that if you switch bands just once (like I did) then the game begins from scratch and all those countries you just worked, become multipliers again--cool! I guess if you switch often it's harder to keep track of whom you worked already on this band. But may be it's just me, I don't know.

5. Know your prefixes. I almost missed Bonaire (PJ4) and Sint Maarten (PJ7) thinking it's Brazil that I have worked already. Guam (KH2) was easy to guess that it's DX, but I almost missed Guantanamo Bay (KG4) which is apparently DX too!

6. Speed. I had just a couple QSOs in the beginning with a paddle, but then I decided to use more advanced technique :-). I programmed one button with just my call sign and the other with "TU 5NN GA". I turned speed to 25 wpm (which I never use normally, of course) and then it was just a matter of recognizing your own call sign. When somebody is calling CQ, you have plenty of time to copy his call letter by letter, even on very high speeds. Then press button 1 once, listen to you call sign and then press button 2. Again, please tell me if I am doing something wrong and how I can improve it.

7. Results. Of course, compared to "big guns", my results are down in the bottom of the table. But personally for me, it was a big step. I worked 124 QSOs, 81 Mutipliers, 30,132 points total. Most importantly, I have added 24 new countries to my DXCC stats and now

my count is 74. What I like about contests is that a lot of people upload their logs to LoTW right away and you get confirmations pretty quickly. So I have 46 confirmed now :-)

I hope this report will help beginners like me to make a first step in contesting. I hesitated, too, but it turns out it's not that scary and it's fun! Just make sure your family is happy. Don't be like that guy: [Man Emerges From Shack After Contest Season to Find Wife Left in 1996 - Ham Hijinks](#)



Man Emerges From Shack After Contest Season to Fi...

Yes, Marty loves ham radio, but more than anything, he loves ham radio contests. That became apparent to his wife, Janelle, a long time ago.

View on [hamhijinks.com](#)

Preview
by
Yahoo

Good luck and 73!

Pavel AC4PA

Activities - Georgia QSO Party - John Tramontanis - N4TOL



The 54th running of the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) will take place on April 11-12 this year. The members of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League have always been key participants in this event and won the club competition for the state of Georgia last year.

The club's goal this year is to make the contest a success by having a high level of members participate in the contest, as well as representing the hams in the state of Georgia favorably to the amateur radio community throughout the U.S. and the DX world. Additionally, the club is also focused on repeating as club champion for Georgia in 2015.

However, the most important goal for the weekend is to have **FUN** and operate in the contest at your station, or operate with others at a shared station. This is your chance to "be the DX." It is a real opportunity to practice "running," calling CQ and letting them come to you.

Last year, certificates were awarded to all club members for participation in the contest and special certificates awarded for key accomplishments in select categories. So be sure to play a part in this year's GQP and earn a NFARL award.

More information will be posted on the club reflector as the contest approaches. For contest details, please use the link below.

<http://georgiaqsoparty.org/>

73 John Tramontanis N4TOL

CW SIG 2015 Another successful year

— Jim Stafford, W4QO



On January 22, a dozen or so prospective CW neophytes stopped by my shack for an evening of tips/tricks/ideas/software to learn Morse Code. Six of them also borrowed practice sets from me and were on their way to the wonderful world of CW! Subsequently, a couple others have tagged along and with the help of a new website cwsig.com set up and sponsored by Bob, k4bb, we have seen some real progress by many folks aiming at passing the 5 wpm CW test.

We've had code practice on the 145.47 repeater for last 8 weeks on M-W-F nights. This has taken the form of rebroadcasting the W1AW 5 wpm practice sessions via Echolink. This CW practice runs from 7:08PM to about 7:22 each of those evenings. Here's a tip: If you want to listen to W1AW code practice, you can do it either by tuning into many frequencies and in this area 7.0475 or 14.0475 MHz are the best. Don't have an HF receiver but you have EchoLink on your computer, connect to *w1awbdct* and you too can listen to the practice. W1AW also sends "slow code" practice at other times during the week so check the arrrl.org website for details and schedules.

After the W1AW broadcast, we transmit practice files for about a half hour. Starting the first week in March, we started transmitting CW tests at 5 wpm. To this point, we have had 3 folks pass the test and I'm sure many others are close to passing. Matt, KK4NLK, Jim, KB2LJR, and Jim, W2OKQ are now "certified brass pounders" and will receive their certificates at the March meeting.

You can do it too! Just take a test which consists of a typical CW QSO. Copy perfectly 25 letters in a row and you pass! This is the original method of passing a CW test. Of course, this is all honor system with the participants copying and grading their own work. So why

not join in to take the test. We can/will also transmit 13 and 20 wpm tests if there is a demand. Drop me a line: cw@w4wo.com

So here is the way to pass the test – practice, practice, practice! Spend 30 minutes per day using CW PLAYER and sending with a key and you'll be at 5 wpm in no time. Full details on how to learn CW is on the club website – nfarl.org under the CW SIG button. If you are learning (or have already learned) CW, be sure to sign up for your Straight Key Century Club number at skccgroup.com I'd like to work you and exchange numbers.

Don't forget – NFARL sponsors the prestigious CODE 10 award for making 10 CW contacts! This is for folks who have just learned CW or relearned it after years of inactivity. Now that you know the code, set yourself a goal of making 1 CW contact per day!

Good luck and happy brass pounding!

We Are a Special Service Club – Fred Moore N4CLA



What is a Special Service Club?

This is a club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio, this is what defines a **Special Service Club (SSC)**.

These SSC's are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

NFARL is a **Special Service Club** and in order for us to maintain our **SSC** status, one of the requirements is that we maintain a minimum of 51% of our NFARL organization membership as ARRL Members.

ARRL is the only national organization representing Amateur Radio in the US. And as an ARRL member you support the ranks of thousands of other ham radio enthusiasts that are shaping the Amateur Radio service today. If you consider yourself an active ham...you need ARRL now. If you are not presently an active ham...let ARRL help you.

As a member of the ARRL, some of the benefits that you will enjoy for as little as \$39.00 per year are listed below:

- *QST* Magazine – your monthly membership journal
- Online Services –
 - *QST* online monthly digital edition
 - *QST* Archive and Periodical Search
 - Product Review Archive
 - Email forwarding
 - E-Newsletters – delivered to your inbox
- A voice in the affairs of ARRL and ham radio through locally appointed volunteers
- Publication Specials and on-line course discounts
- Emergency Communication Services
- Technical and Regulatory Information Services
- Operating Awards
- Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan Available
- Outgoing Foreign QSL Service
- Plus [much more!](#)

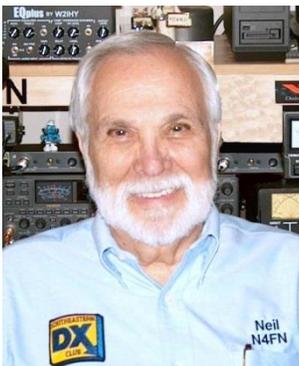
Take the next step and become an active participant in the future of ham radio and join the ARRL today as well as helping NFARL to maintain our membership requirements for our **Special Service Club**.

You can join ARRL through the NFARL MART today by going to www.nfarl.org/mart and selecting the ARRL LOGO

Ham Radio Advertisements

What That Verbiage Really Means - Rick Hiller, W5RH

Contributed by Neil Foster N4FN



We've all read through the marketing hype in those glossy ham radio ads in the monthly magazines or on the Web site of our favorite ham radio equipment vendor.

But what do those buzz words really mean? A few samples follow...

Foolproof Operation: There are no provisions for any adjustments.

Advanced Design: The advertising agency doesn't understand it at all.

Field Tested: The manufacturer has no test equipment.

Redesigned: The flaws have been fixed—we hope.

Years Of Development: They finally got one to work correctly.

High Reliability: They made it work long enough to ship it out.

Stealth: You can't see it. (You can't hear it either.)

Untuned Feeders: The losses are high.

Tuned Feeders: The losses are really high.

SWR: Only one S'wers.

Return Loss: Misplaced incident power.

Remote Tuning: Using an automatic matching network that has only a slight chance of getting it right.

Center Loaded: A Ham with a big gut.

Feedpoint: The mouth of a Ham with a big gut.

L Match: A tuner that doesn't know what the L it's doing.

Pi Network: Yahoo Group for bakers.

RIT/XIT: VFOs for your VFOs.

Mixer: A venue for dancing waves of different frequencies.

Software Defined Radio: A description of a transceiver, written in Word.

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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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