



North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

August 2016

www.nfarl.org



FOX HUNT IN NORTH ATLANTA !

Hello everyone! North Fulton Amateur Radio League is sponsoring an Atlanta Area wide Fox hunt!

All Ham radio operators from all clubs are welcome and invited to join in the fun!

For those that may not know a Fox Hunt is a radio direction hunt, a challenge to find a hidden transmitter that may be many miles away!

This time, we'll start **Saturday morning, August 27th at 8:30am.** Starting point is the Publix parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 20 (Cumming Hwy) and Ball Ground road (Hwy 372). This area is known as Free Home, and is exactly between Cumming and Canton.



We picked this location for a few reasons. It's easy to find. There is very little traffic in all directions, and you will be able to barely hear the fox from this parking lot. Already confirmed! We promise this will be a fun, yet challenging set of foxes for you to hunt!



This will be very similar to the format used here in Atlanta a couple months ago. You will start chasing a 2M fox signal. Once you find the 2M fox, you'll see the frequency for a local UHF 440 fox to hunt on foot. The 2M radio will be cross-band repeating the UHF signal – your final fox.

We will use the NFARL repeater **444.475 + (100.0 Hz)** for group logistics.

We really would like to know who will plan to join the fun that morning. We will have drinks and snacks appropriate for that number. Perhaps the group will gather for lunch afterwards to exchange stories!

We will be at the starting point with a modern Doppler system mounted in a vehicle. If you are interested in radio direction finding, but have never experienced it, perhaps you can ride along with an experienced Doppler operator? Sound like fun?

Feel free to contact either of us with any questions. Ride along space is limited, but the event is open to an unlimited number of fox hunters!

We look forward to a ton of fun with everyone on Saturday August 20th !

Tim, WK4U, tim_lemmon@yahoo.com

Shane, KF4TJY, kf4tjy@mindspring.com

NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday — NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
Join us for digital message exchange using FLDIGI and MT63-2KL !
- **Every Monday — Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
Please support this long standing NFARL net in any way you can. We are very proud of our "Tech Talk" Technical Net and we intend to keep making it better & better ! We need your help to accomplish this goal.
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM
Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell. Be There !
- **Every Wednesday — Youth Net** - 7:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
The Youth Net has been on pause for the summer. The Net is now scheduled to return on **August 24th** !
- **Every Thursday — YL Net** — 8:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100
Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
All OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in. Great opportunity to get your YL's on the radio!
- **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). Everyone is welcome: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - 7:00 PM
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.
Check [NFARES.net](#) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - **August 16th**, 7:30 PM.
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Double Header ! Pavel - Intro to CW !
Terry & Jim - NPOTA club activation this month !!
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**
August 23rd, , 7:00 PM
Location: [Arbor Terrace at Crabapple](#)
12200 Crabapple Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Meetings are open to all NFARL members. Space is available on a first arrival basis. Please contact the [President](#) to ensure available space.

Field Day In Review / John Kludt, K4SQC, NFARL Field Day Chair

This issue of NFARL eNews finds another ARRL Field Day in the rear view mirror. The one thing that everyone I talked with remembers about this FD is it was hot. And we are not talking the bands! Temperature indexes north of 100 degrees made for a very challenging work and play environment, indeed. With sunspots hovering around zero and a SFI of 71-72 we could have used a little less heat and humidity and a few more sunspots! But we still had a good time working folks and visiting with our friends and colleagues.

Scott Straw, KB4KBS our very capable Field Day scorer for several years now has produced an interesting year over year comparison.

2016	PH	CW	DIG	TOTAL
80/75M	193	248		441
40M	608	876		1484
20M	519	531		1050
15M	265	282		547
10M	20	55		75
6M	64	3		67
SAT	14			14
GOTA 80M	3			
GOTA 40M	133		52	
GOTA 20M	238		8	
GOTA 15M	3			
GOTA	317		60	377
TOTAL	2000	1995	60	
Mult:	x1	x2	x2	
Points	2000	3990	120	6110
Emergency Power 2x Bonus:				12220
Bonus Points:				2390
Total Claimed Score:				14610

2015	PH	CW	DIG	TOTAL
80/75M	169	174	0	343
40M	808	440	5	1253
20M	841	761	2	1604
15M	0	299	9	308
10M	0	128	0	128
6M	81	40	0	121
SAT	16	0	0	16
GOTA	322	0	100	422
TOTAL	2237	1842	116	
Mult:	x1	x2	x2	
Points	2237	3684	232	6153
Emergency Power 2x Bonus:				12306
Bonus Points:				2230
Total Claimed Score:				14536

A couple of things are worthy of note:

1. Notice the shift to the lower bands. In 2016 40 meters and to a lesser extent 80 meters were very much in play as compared with 2015. This is pretty much as expected given the decrease in solar activity.
2. Looking back over the last several years there has been a decline in phone activity and an increase in CW activity. In the best of all possible worlds it would be great if we could hold or increase our CW activity and reverse the trend on phone and increase the number of phone Q's next Field Day. Thanks go to Gregg Marco, W6IZT, Nathan

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- Wood, K4NHW, and Steve Mays, KS4KJ (not mobile!) for their leadership with the HF stations. It was good to see Jim, W4QO, back on the paddles for Field Day, even if it was just for a couple of hours. Keep getting better Jim – you’re going to do 4 hours for us next year!
3. Digital Q’s have always been a problem for NFARL and this year was no exception. Joe Camilli, N7QPP, noted there was no RTTY activity and some PSK31 activity. PSK31 is probably not the best non-RTTY contesting mode (too slow) but that seems to be the mode most folks use on Field Day. We had said this was the make or break year for digital modes during Field Day at NFARL and assuming we stay at 3A and Exec does not change its mind we will not be using the digital modes during FD next year with the possible exception of the GOTA station.
 4. The satellite rules remain frustrating. Daryl, K4RGK, and Lori, K4UPI, in spite of a visit from Murphy, actually made many more contacts. By the ARRL rules once you have worked a station on *any* satellite you may not work them again using the same mode. Contrast this with AMSAT Field Day rules (runs concurrent with ARRL Field Day) that treats each satellite as a different band and say that you may work a station once per mode *per satellite*, thereby mirroring the ARRL HF FD rules. Several of us will continue to lobby the ARRL for a rules change to encourage more satellite activity and to better reflect current activity in the score.
 5. GOTA remains a strong aspect of the NFARL operation. Hats off to Mark, KK4FOF, and Bill, K4WSW, for a job well done. They have been at it for several years now and have let it be known they really would like to train new GOTA captains for 2017.

Bonus points have always been a NFARL strength and we again did very well. Attendance was down a bit most probably secondary to the heat and a Code Orange alert for those with respiratory problems. Talking with other clubs in the metro area, this was pretty much a universal problem. Thanks to the many folks who contributed to the bonus point effort. The picnic as always was a success thanks to Lynn Kahn, N4MSK, and all her helpers. Mike Cohen, AD4MC, did his usual fine job with messaging and ARES support. Jim Paine, N4SEC, again came through with the dignitaries, the proclamations and the media promotions. We did use Facebook this year and we do need to keep that going. Thanks Bill Cobb, K4YJJ, for that effort. Jon Wittlin, K4WIT, as always put on a great Boy Scout Merit Badge effort. If you did not see it, Pavel Anni, AC4PA, teaching CW under a tree was really an interesting thing to behold.

The problem with thanking folks is someone always gets left out. That is not intentional. It takes many, many players to put together a successful Field Day. It starts many months before Field Day. The “weekend” actually begins on Friday with the placement of antennas and does not end till Sunday when the last vehicle leaves Waller Park Extension. And so to all of you who helped in so many different ways with NFARL FD 2016, hats off and thank you. We hope to see each and every one of you back for NFARL FD 2017.

One last thing: I hope you all like ice cream. This year’s bet with GARS was based on bonus points. And by the thinnest of margins NFARL emerged victorious! It is true pleasure to have a great club like GARS with whom to have this annual most friendly of competition.

VP Program & ARES Updates / Mike Birmingham, K4LJG

We have had a great lineup of programs this year. Here is what's up next.

August

We have two presentations for August. Pavel Anni, AC4PA will be doing a presentation on CW. If you were at the NFARL Field Day event this year maybe you got a chance to learn some CW with Pavel.

Jim Paine, N4SEC and Terry Joiner, W4YBV will be discussing National Parks on the Air. This is a yearlong ARRL even that I suspect everyone has heard about but you'll have an opportunity to learn more about NPOTA and NFARL participation.

September

If you are looking for a complete logging software package, then Ham Radio Deluxe is for you! Our very own Neil Foster, N4FN is a beta tester and an expert on Ham Radio Deluxe. Bill Morton, W4ASE will be joining Neil. He is also a senior beta tester for HRD. This is a great program. If you are already using the program, they will show you many of the features that you might not be using. So whether you are a beginner or an old pro, you need to be there!

October

Barry Kanne, W4TGA, will present "Stone Mountain Holiday Present". "It tells the story of the RF interference caused by the holiday decoration lights on the TV tower. It details how we found out about the problem, how we defined the extent of the problem and the measurements and impact on operations on the mountain."

Flight Safety

On a more personal note for those who have wondered where I have been, I started a new job at Flight Safety International as a flight simulator and ground school instructor. I just came back from three intense weeks of training in Wichita, Kansas. It was a grueling three weeks where we trained to get our type rating in the Learjet 30 series airplane then right into recurrent training on the same aircraft. We have to do all the training required as if we were flying the aircraft. Aviation has been a part of my life for almost fifty years so I couldn't pass up an opportunity to get back into aviation.

NFARES

Our July meeting was done on the repeater due to a conflict with our normal location. It turned out to be a very successful time so much so that we are thinking of doing it periodically. Hey, isn't ham radio about talking on the radio?

On our weekly ARES net we continue to practice and learn more about digital communications. Join us Sunday nights at 8:30 PM on the 147.06 repeater. You don't have to be a member of ARES to participate.

The second Tuesday of the month is the ARES meeting at seven o'clock at the Fellowship Bible Church. It is easy to get to, parking is never an issue and everyone is welcome! Check out our website at www.nfares.org for details.

NPOTA - National Parks On the Air / Jim Stafford, W4QO

Have you contacted any National Parks yet in 2016? Well, it's a lot of fun. We've had articles in eNEWS in the past about this fun activity. A program of the ARRL (another reason to support your national radio club), it runs the entire year of 2016. See <http://www.arrl.org/npota-rules>

Our club is trying to activate as many "national parks" in GA using the club callsign NF4GA as we can. Jim, N4SEC, and Terry, W4YBV, have been leaders in our club to get this done. They have already activated several national parks which includes monuments, recreation areas, etc.

[Tips For Chasers and Activators](#)

Now coming up Saturday, August 20 is what is being referred to as NPOTA DAY. During this day, there will be an effort to activate a huge number of sites. In fact, Jim, Terry and a group of others from NFARL will activate RC-04 – the Chattahoochee Recreation area. Parts of this site lie within the Roswell city limits. They will be operating from Allenbrook historical site about half way down the "hill" going from Roswell toward the Chattahoochee river, on the east side of Hwy. 9.

I (W4QO) am organizing an effort to go to the top of Kennesaw Mountain Civil War NP. I plan to take my QRP GO-KIT to the top of the mountain to operator for a couple hours. I am leaving my QTH about 8AM so we should conclude by noon. We'll be using the NF4GA callsign of course. There is no problem using the callsign in 2 places that day, even on the same band and mode. We will operate both phone and CW. We'll have time for you to make at least one contact using your callsign if you are a General or higher. If you would like to join me, send me an RSVP soon. I can take up to 2 more in my vehicle for this exciting experience.

[More Activator Tips](#)

Don't forget there are Activators and Chasers. You could chase as many sites as you wish during the day of August 20 or any day for that matter. Let's see how many sites you can log and report to the club's YAHOO group (nfarl@yahoogroups.com).

You can find all the activations that day at:

<https://npota.arrl.org/nps-events.php>

To find real time frequencies and times, go to:

http://dxsummit.fi/#/?dx_countries=United%20States

Note in the comments as to who is "on the air" for NPOTA. We'll also be monitoring 146.58 FM simplex (repeater contacts do not count) to give contacts on 2M FM. As activators, we'll be posting our contacts on LOTW.

Let's have fun on Saturday, August 20th !

Youth Net Resumes August 24th / Martha Muir, W4MSA

As the increased morning and afternoon traffic has reminded you, the new school year has begun. The Youth Net took the summer off but now that school is back in session, it's time for the Youth Net to get back in session, too. The Youth Net will resume operation on August 24.

The Youth Net, sponsored by NFARL and coordinated by Martha W4MSA, is held on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 PM on the 145.47 Sweat Mountain repeater. The NFARL Do Drop In chat room is also used for this net. (See NFARL [website](#) for more info) Young hams and young people interested in Amateur Radio are encouraged to join us for our on the air chats.

Commonly, we begin the net with announcements about items of interest to the participants including information about upcoming Amateur Radio events. The Net Control is one of the licensed student hams familiar with the Net. He or she takes check-ins and then poses a question or two designed to encourage all participants to get on the air with their responses. Some questions are serious but some might be considered lightweight or silly by more seasoned hams listening in but, again, we're trying to get more novice hams to get comfortable talking on the radio. (After one net, I heard from a ham who was listening to the net while passing through the Atlanta area. He said he laughed at some of the questions and some of the answers. He continued saying that it was tough for him, but he did resist the strong urge to call in with his responses.) We're also trying to introduce proper operating procedures.

Do you have young folks in your home (or in your neighborhood)? Please encourage (and help) them to get on the air with us. Remember, a licensed ham can serve as the control operator for an unlicensed person. Though most of the folks who participated in the Youth Net last year were from the metro Atlanta area, we did have some participants join us from other states by using EchoLink.

Let's help more young people discover and enjoy the fun of working (playing?) with Amateur Radio.



Mill Springs Students on the Radio

BTW, if you have a topic you'd like to suggest we bounce around on the Youth Net or if you'd like to volunteer as our guest expert on a topic one evening, please let Martha W4MSA know. Remember though, this net is designed to be fun and encouraging to young hams!

Portable Solar Power Update / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Check out the September, 2016 issue of QST, pages 83-85, for a great article on Portable Solar Power by Rick Palm, K1CE.

This adds more info to my NFARL presentation last February. Here is a link to the NFARL video, (Brace yourself. It's 42 minutes long!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuVW7SM2GCs>

You can also view slides from the February presentation at:

[Portable Solar Power AD4MC](#)

After our August NFARES meeting, I got the chance to put a Solar Charge Controller through its paces. This is the one owned by Scott, KM4JXE. Tony, K4AWF and Daryl, K4RGK also have this same controller. Well, it has many more features than the one I have been using. (For those of you who know me at all, you can guess that I bought mine with fewer features because I am cheap!) Well, I liked theirs so much more than mine that I broke down and ordered one today.

[Mike's New Solar Controller](#)

(I have no financial interest in Amazon or this controller)

The BIG differences between this one and my old one:

- Includes meter that easily measures all important parameters. Eliminates the need to hook up separate meters
- Will **NOT** let you connect the solar panel to the load unless a battery is **ALSO** connected (Essentially fool proof!)
- Has two USB charging ports (Only 1A though, so slow charge rate for smart phones)
- Settable Low voltage drop out, Voltage Reconnect value and Overcharge Voltage value

There is so much to learn about portable solar power systems, but the info in Rick Palm's article along with my video and slide set should help to get you started.



K2G QSL Party / Jim Stafford, W4QO

The K2G (Georgia in the 13 Colonies Contest) QSL party happened on 06 August and processed over 500 QSL cards! There will undoubtedly be more QSL requests to come. One of our long reliable members , N4FN, has again agreed to process these as they come in!

Many thanks to everyone that participated in the QSL adventure (not all participants are pictured here) and to everyone that represented Georgia in the 2016 13 Colonies event. On behalf of NFARL and all Georgia Hams we extend a gracious "Thank You".



W4QO Reminder - HamJam 2016 !

Mark November 19 on your calendar. That's the date for HamJam this year. In addition to 3 great speakers, we have thousands of dollars of ham gear to raffle off. Plus all the proceeds go to our Youth Education Science fund to promote science to youth and others!

VHF Contesting & other Activities Above 30 MHz / John Kludt, K4SQC

In 1962 I was licensed as a Novice taking my test in the basement of "Pop" Brown, K7LED, in Seattle Washington at age 14. Assigned the call KN7SYS I began my career as an Amateur Radio Operator. Pop was one of the founders of the Mike and Key Radio Club and one of the things that the club had was a Heathkit Twoer that was available for loan to club members. As a Novice I had phone privileges in the 2 meter band. And, boy, did I love using that Twoer. The rest of the package was a little vertical, you know, the kind made from an SO-259 and 5, nineteen inch pieces of wire. Some nights, in my recollection, always foggy, I could talk all the way to Portland, Oregon, some 150 odd miles distant. Now everyone knows that 2 meters is just a line-of-sight band, and so to me the lowly Novice working into Portland was a really big deal! And I have been hooked on weak signal VHF ever since.

Many of you think of me as the "satellite guy" and indeed that is one way I have been enjoying VHF and UHF. Maybe less known is that currently I am the 6 meter band captain for the FourLanders VHF Contesting Group, call Whisky Four November Hotel. At the request of Daryl, K4RGK, I have volunteered to quarterly write a short column for the NFARL eNews sharing with you some of my experiences and thoughts about contesting in the world above 30 MHz. With so many all mode rigs out there by several manufactures my hope would be that some of you would switch them over to SSB or CW and join us on a contest weekend. In the ARRL contests there are even some entry classes for FM only contesters.

So why contest? There are the usual reasons of technical improvement and enhancement of operating skills. During an emergency, there may well be the need to handle high volumes of traffic. To maintain order, there is a need for order and the ability to cleanly pass along a message. And contesting can teach you all of that. On the bands, 6 meters and above contests tend to bring out lots of operators and that means there are potentially many more amateur radio operators to contact. A major objective in VHF/UHF contesting is the accumulation of Maidenhead grid squares and the contest setting puts lots of "grids" on the air. One last thing, maybe most important, it is a lot of fun!

Because it is timely, I'd like to devote this column to the upcoming ARRL September VHF contest. If you own a multiband/multimode radio or if you own FM gear for there are several categories that you might want to consider entering. You do not have to run 1.5 KW into stacked beams to participate! There are several categories that are limited to 100 watts PEP or less and one that is limited to 10 watts PEP or less. Let's look at those:

- Single Operator Portable:
 - ◊ All bands, 6 meters and above
 - ◊ Ten (10) watts PEP or less
 - ◊ Portable power source
 - ◊ Portable equipment and antennas
- Single Operator, 3 Band (looks like an FT-8x7 to me!)
 - ◊ 50 MHz and 144 MHz 100 watts PEP or less

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- ◇ 432 MHz 50 watts PEP or less
- Single Operator , FM Only
 - ◇ 50, 144,22 and 446 MHz 100 watts or less

For the SSB and CW activity you will want small horizontally polarized beams and vertically polarized beams for the FM only class. A good location helps. These are small antennas so don't hesitate to combine what I know to be a NFARL strength of portable operations with a go at VHF contesting. The exchange is easy; just call sign and 4 letter grid, e.g., "K4SQC EM74." QSO's on 6 meters and 2 meters count for 1 point each while QSO's on 222 and 432 count for 2 points each. Each new grid counts as a multiplier. It really pays to hunt for grids. Spotting is okay (see ARRL website for [details](#)). The contest period is 1800 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday, September 10-12, 2016. One last thing – don't hesitate to call "CQ Test" a lot. When I run the 222 MHz station for FourLanders I call 'CQ" once every 15 seconds and sometimes I am criticized for not calling "CQ" often enough! And if things are slow, don't forget to try JT65A on 6. Frequently 6 is open on JT65A when it seems to be closed to other modes.

I hope to see you on the air for this outing. Even if it is only one band for a few hours, please consider giving it a shot. You might be surprised at what can happen on these bands when there are lots of people looking for contacts.

Next time, more about the FourLanders and why you might want to consider joining a contest club. Hint: much as I love VHF, I don't think the HOA would be too impressed with stacked beams for several bands on a tower in my back yard.



Superregenerative detector with RF amplifier, about 5 watts input, crystal controlled. Also known as a "Benton Harbor Lunchbox."

Emergency Preparedness covers a wide variety of topics that are usually designed around keeping you alive during some sort of natural or man-made disaster. The key concept in that statement is staying alive. Staying alive should apply to our everyday lives as well. Having a Go bag in your home or car just in case is a great idea, but why not plan ahead all the time? This month we will discuss personal safety for everyday life. In the city where you live, there may be areas where you just know bad things happen. Have ever said to yourself "I'm not going there after dark" or "that is a bad part of town and I don't feel comfortable there"? If you have said or thought either of these things, you have started planning ahead. Planning ahead is nothing more than thinking about what might happen and prepare for that event. You need to plan ahead to ensure your safety. If you are the kind of person that happily be-bops down the street without a care in the world, this may be a hard concept for you to grasp.

If you have any doubt about planning ahead for personal safety, consider the movie-goers in Colorado or the school staff in Sandy Hook, New Jersey. These are extreme events where firearms are used to harm a great number of people all at once. Fortunately, these mass causality events are very rare! If you are thinking about personal safety, you should always have a contingency plan. In a commercial airliner, you should identify the exits when you sit down, your life may depend on you finding that exit in the dark with smoke in the cabin. The same goes for sitting down in a restaurant; do you know where ALL of the exits are? If someone comes in bent on causing trouble, can you get out of there? If your answer is "I carry a gun" or "I think I will start carrying a gun", please consider that shooting at someone is a very serious course of action. In your own home it is one thing. In a church or other public place, you are very likely to hit an innocent person. I teach this in my concealed carry class. If you are going to carry a firearm, make sure you have had the proper training and are proficient! Pepper spray is also a popular choice. If you have pepper spray (or any other chemical defense spray) when was the last time you tested the canister to see if it would squirt? The spray containers are marked with a date to help keep the contents fresh. If you carry any sort of chemical spray for defense, you should also be aware of the effects of the spray. You may want to try it and see how it affects you. With someone there to observe and help, spray a drop on your finger and wipe it under your eye on your cheek. You will want to remove any contact lenses first as this will get in the lens and ruin it. Make sure you are near a source of clean water to wash your face. Do not do this to another person or you will be in big trouble. If you try this, be ready for immediate flood of tears, burning eyes and massive nose drainage. The reason we do this is so you will know what it feels like if you spray someone. It is more than likely that you will get some of your own spray back in your face. Be prepared, it's really not fun if you are not expecting even a small amount of these agents in your face. Be ready for the worst to happen or don't carry it.

For the rest of us who are not carrying a firearm, what is your safety plan? When you go to public places are you with someone? A newborn does not count as a safety escort. Most of us live in nice places like Woodstock, Roswell or Alpharetta and do not have any concern about our safety. You should look at the crime reports for your city (and the city where you spend time)

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and see what actually happens there. You may be surprised that crime is all over. We only hear about the most serious cases from the news.

Personal safety is not limited to a crime being committed against you. How about walking your dog at night? Are you wearing reflective clothing? Does the dog have a lit or reflective collar or vest? It can be very hard for drivers to see us walking after dark without some reflective items to help the driver see us. Do you get off the road when a car is coming toward you at night? I have nearly been hit a number of times by cars that may not have seem me. Just because you can see them does not mean they can see you. Look at the driver inattention these days. Yes, there is a law against texting while driving but lots of folks are doing it anyway. Maybe they are reading e-mail or looking for a phone number or at the GPS on their smart phone. Remember drivers are getting older as well. Studies have shown that most people lose about 10% of their night vision every 10 years after age30. For a variety of reasons, the driver may not see you in time to avoid you. Add in drugs and alcohol on the part of the driver and you have quite a variety of distracted or impaired drivers. Each of us also has a share of the responsibility to "see and avoid" trouble.

Be safe, plan ahead and live well.

Islands On the Air - IOTA / Terry Joyner, W4YBV

On Saturday August 27th and Sunday August 28th our club will take part in the 2016 W/VE Islands QSO party expedition.

Our club station, NF4GA, will be on Pine Island on Lake Lanier. The operating hours are from 1200 UTC (0800 EDT) to 0300 UTC (2300 EDT)

Everyone please drop by and give your support to your club. The island entrance/parking fee is \$15.00 and that's it! This one fee get's you on the island and ready to participate with the club.

As of this date we still need at least one more member to help us out. We have a good shot in coming in first!

I came in 4th last year and only worked the contest for 3 1/2 hours!

I will be talking more about the expedition to Pine Island Tuesday night at the meeting.

Terry W4YBV

Why CW ? / Pavel Anni, AC4PA

As we all know, there are more than 100 ways to enjoy Amateur Radio. For me it's all about Magic. Yes, there are interesting technical projects and challenges, there is the joy of acquiring a new toy, there are cool DX adventures and competition spirit... but for me, first is Magic!

When I started with ham radio about 35 years ago it was Magic to talk to another person over the air, especially when he was far away, in another country. It was even more Magic if you consider that all that was happening in the Soviet Union, behind the "Iron Curtain". I was 16 and I was talking to people from Germany, Italy, UK... Several times I was so lucky that I had contacts with somebody with a "W" callsign. That was Real Magic!

It's not magic anymore. I can chat over the air with somebody with a "W" callsign every day, any time! Of course the fact that I have moved to the US, helps a lot. But even chatting with somebody from Germany or Italy is not magic either. It's just a matter of having a good antenna and 1500 watt amplifier--that's it! Well, with Internet and Skype even non-hams can chat with their friends in Europe! Boring!

What still **is** Magic for me - is how I can reach a guy in France or Russia having only 5 watts into a simplest possible end-fed antenna somewhere in the woods of North Georgia. How is it possible? With less power than in your night lamp, how can I reach the other continent? Yes, I know about ionosphere and propagation and all that, but I think the key ingredient to this Magic is CW.

This is my major motivation to learn and use CW...to experience this Magic again and again. It could be in the mountains, it could be from home, it could be on vacation with a wire antenna tossed over a palm tree. Something that definitely shouldn't work, no way, with this band conditions and this antenna... But you connect your key to the radio, you send dits and dahs into the air and... Magic! They hear you, they answer you!

Even better if you are doing this with a rig that you have built yourself. I have to admit: I like working with electronics and soldering things together, but my level is not high enough to build a real side-band radio. Well, I can solder it, but I won't be able to understand it completely. It's much easier with CW rigs. I can build one, I can understand and explain how it works and, best of all--I can use it! I remember building a couple of kits from QRPme (W1REX)--nice round cans that look great on your bench. You have completed it, you have tested it, you can hear your own signal and you can hear others, now what? If you don't know CW, you'll put the cans on the shelf and forget about them. So that was my second motivation to learn and use CW: I wanted to work on the air using rigs that I built myself.

One of the most popular movies of my childhood was a series about a spy. He was a Russian spy working in Germany during WWII, very smart and very successful (of course!). One of the scenes was about his radio contact with Moscow. He and his radio operator went to a forest near Berlin, tossed the wire over the trees and started sending. You could hear the Morse code, you could see the bulb flickering and yes--Moscow had received the message! And I thought then: "What if I was able to do that! What if I was able to send and receive Morse code like they

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were!" I have to tell you: now, after I learned Morse code, I have re-watched the movie again to figure out what they were sending. Apparently, it was complete gibberish: just letters and numbers. It was encrypted, that's why! Anyway, that scene in the movie many years ago got me thinking about learning Morse code and making contacts that way--in the forest, using just a piece of wire and trees.

There are a lot of other reasons to learn CW: training your brain, using CW for satellite contacts, DXing, contesting, SOTA... Even small things like being able to operate quietly in your shack without disturbing the whole family at 2 am--think about it! After all, be honest to yourself: can you consider yourself a REAL ham if you don't know CW? Yes, it's not required anymore... formally. But it's the essential part of our Amateur Radio culture to be preserved and to be proud of, don't you agree?

This was Part 1 of a three-part essay about my personal CW experience. This time we talked about motivation. In the next two parts we will discuss learning CW and operating CW.

73 es CUL!

**** Hot Tip ****

Ever wonder how many things you can do in HAM RADIO? Well, our club website has a list: <http://nfarl.org/HamInfo/100Things.html> of 100+ things you can try!

Note From the Editor

Last Month's plea for content resulted in....and the tally is...ZERO—Zilch— Goose Egg !

We continue on our endless journey in search of new material, interesting stories and pictures! Please email enews@nfarl.org anytime you have something interesting for eNews. We are a vibrant, active club and we love to show that off in eNews! We look forward to hearing from everyone!

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