



# *North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS*

*February 2017*

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



## ***President's Letter***

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NFARL had a great turnout for the January meeting. Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC's presentation on "dB, Coax Loss and Earth Moon Earth (EME)" was fun, informative and thought provoking. Imagine using the moon to reflect a radio signal (approximately 480,000 miles) and overcoming a 250dB signal loss to make a contact! If you missed John's presentation, I encourage you to visit NFARL Videos on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/NFARLVideos/feed> to view this and many of the club's past presentations.

Our activity chairs John N4TOL and Jim W4QO kicked off Mid-Month Madness at the January meeting. Mid-Month Madness events are NFARL sponsored activities that occur in between our regularly scheduled club meetings. The first event was a Fox Hunt on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Tim Lemmon, WK4U did a great job of coordinating the event. More than fifteen radio enthusiasts set out on a rainy Saturday morning to find two foxes that had been very well placed by Jim Sorenson, KA4IIA. Most teams found both foxes though it did take several hours! See Tim's recap in this month's eNews.



**Mark - KK4FOF  
NFARL President**

Upcoming Mid-Month Madness activities include installing RF connectors and Anderson Power Poles, a kit build and the always fun Georgia QSO party.

NFARL is also sponsoring a year long club activity for US Islands Awards Program chaired by Terry Joyner, W4YBV. You can participate as an activator or as an island chaser. Team NFARL will be using the club call sign NF4GA to activate new islands and make a minimum of 25 contacts including at least 2 DXCC entities for the activation to qualify. We will be keeping track of the number of island's activated and the number of NF4GA activations worked. Terry will provide more information at February meeting and you can learn more about US Islands Awards Program at <http://usislands.org>.

Our speaker for the February meeting is Scott Straw, KB4KBS who will be presenting JT65 on HF. JT65 is an extremely efficient weak signal mode making it possible to decode signals you cannot hear and can barely see on a waterfall display. Prior to Scott's presentation Terry Joyner

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

will present awards for last year's club effort on National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) and provide details on this year's club activity - the US Islands Award Program.

Don't forget the Dalton HamFest is February 25<sup>th</sup>. Dalton is one of the first ARRL sanctioned HamFests in Georgia. Dalton always has a good turnout and bone yard.

Mark your calendars for ARRL Field Day 2017 on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Ian Kahn, KM4IK our 2017 Field Day chairman is hard at work on the preparations. Ian confirmed at the January Executive meeting that the club will compete in class 3A again in 2017! Ian will provide an update on our preparations at an upcoming meeting.

Also do not forget - March 1<sup>st</sup> is the cut-off for the next NFARL Apparel order. Show your club pride by ordering a polo, button down shirt or jacket before the cutoff. I look forward to seeing everyone at February meeting!

73's

*Mark*

Mark Schumann, KK4FOF  
President  
North Fulton Amateur Radio League

## ***Field Day Look Ahead / Ian Kahn, KM4IK***

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Plans are well under way for NFARL's Field Day 2017 activities. Once again, we will operate in the 3A category, from our usual location, the old Waller Park Extension. Please note, the City of Roswell recently renamed the park. It is now called Groveway Community Park, and this is how we'll refer to it for the rest of this year.

As previously mentioned, we'll operate Class 3A again this year. We'll have a CW station, a phone station, and a swing station. The swing station, as last year, can be operated either CW or phone, at the operator's choosing. Just be cautious you're not interfering with one of the other two stations. We'll also have our traditional **Get On The Air (GOTA)** station, a satellite station, a 6m station, and NFARES with one of our served agency's mobile command centers. This year's station captains, as identified at publication time, are:

CW – Pavel Anni, AC4PA  
Phone – Nathan Wood, K4NHW  
Swing Station – TBA  
6m – TBA  
Satellites – Daryl, K4RGK, and Lori, K4UPI, Young  
GOTA – Mark Schumann, KK4FOF  
Computers/Technology – Joe Camilli, N7QPP  
Safety – Tim Romashko – K4RA  
Food – Lynn Kahn, N4MSK  
ARES Liaison – Jim Paine, N4SEC

I'll be soliciting help with the 6m station and the swing station. If you are interested in helping

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

with either of these stations, please get in touch with me at [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

As per usual, we will also have our annual club picnic. This year, we celebrate NFARL's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. In conjunction with that milestone, look for a special addition to our picnic. Stay tuned for more information, closer to Field Day, from Lynn, N4MSK.

We're still working out the details for this year's activities. Stay tuned to eNews, the Yahoo! reflector, the club web site, and announcements during NFARL meetings for more details.

**Ian Kahn, KM4IK**  
**NFARL 2017 Field Day Chair**

## ***NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates***

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- **Every Sunday — NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100  
*All licensed Hams are welcome, you do not need to be an ARES member!*
- **Every Monday — Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100  
NFARL's flagship technical based "non check-in" net. The net is always better when using the web based chat room but Internet is not required to join the net. 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."  
OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in to this YL net.  
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 - 9:00 PM  
Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell.  
Check [NFARES.net](http://NFARES.net) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - **February 21st, 2017**, 7:30 PM.  
Pre-meeting activities begin at 7:00PM.  
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
**Program: Scott Straw, KB4KBS presents "JT65 on the HF Bands"**
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting**  
February 28th, 2017, 7:00 PM  
Location: [Arbor Terrace at Crabapple](#)

# ***US Islands NFARL Contest / Terry Joyner, W4YBV***

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We have devised a US Island contest for the club that will last all year long!

Members can win awards and US Island patches by taking part in the fun. This will be similar to the 2016 NPOTA program.

I hereby announce the

## ***NFARL 40th year anniversary celebration contest - US Island awards program!***

This is a year long event like the 2016 NPOTA program was. It is open to all club members, our club goal is to activate 40 US Islands using our club call, NF4GA, for our 40th year anniversary!

The goal is to contact as many US Islands as we can and accumulate points.



US Islands  
Awards Program Patch

Club members with the most points can win awards and US Islands patches.

1. You can be an island chaser during the year: contact as many US islands as you can by logging the island name and US Islands number. Each contact counts (2) points.
2. You can be an island activator: Activate a US island using our club call NF4GA that has already been activated and has a US Island number. You must make (10) contacts, each island counts (10) points.
3. You can be a new island qualifier by qualifying a new island

for the first time. You must use the US Island rules for this, (25 contacts with 2 DXCC) using our club call. Each island counts for (25 points).

Your logs must be available at the end of the year to the club if needed and at least one photo of your outing must be sent to our webmaster for posting on our new US Islands web page.

When you are activating an island using our club call you must state that you are celebrating our 40th anniversary by activating the island!

Awards will be presented at our 2018 February club meeting. Good luck to all!

Need more information? Contact me at 770-993-8502 or by email at [w4ybv@yahoo.com](mailto:w4ybv@yahoo.com)

***Terry***



Terry, W4YBV

## ***Georgia QSO Party - GOTA - "Get On the Air"***

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The 56th running of the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) will take place on April 8-9 this year. This event has always been a cornerstone activity for the members of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League.

Our goals for this year are:

- 1) To have FUN
- 2) Increase member participation
- 3) Exercise the capabilities of our stations
- 4) Represent the state of Georgia well to the amateur community

As we are experiencing a bit of a diminished activity from a lull in the sunspot cycle, the GQP will provide a chance to feed your hunger for active bands by putting Georgia on the air. This is a great opportunity to "tune up" your station, antenna(s), and software and allow you to "be the DX." You can practice "running," calling CQ and letting other stations come to you. You may not experience the same bedlam of a pileup of calling stations as an Antarctic Island expedition, but you will have your moments to sort through a flurry of calls when you are the new station on the air.

This event allows our club members to represent the Hams in the state of Georgia favorably to the amateur radio community throughout the U.S. and the DX world.

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.

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.

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



## ***Fox Hunt Recap / Tim Lemmon, W4KU***

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A few weeks ago, people from multiple clubs around Atlanta had fun with a radio direction fox hunt. Our theme this time was malicious interference on the repeater, or a stuck microphone. Have you ever heard either on the repeater? Ohhh does heavy rain stop people from fox hunting? Obviously not from the turnout! HARD rain started almost the same time we did. It also ended about the same time we did. What luck?

Everyone started in the same parking lot, but couldn't hear the fox signal directly. Our repeater could. So we knew when the fox was transmitting. We broke the teams up in different directions from the parking lot and all coordinated on our 440 repeater. We were listening on both the 2M repeater input frequency and the 2M output frequency. Turns out after three hours of hunting, we still hadn't acquired the weak fox signal. After asking for a hint, the teams moved in fairly quickly and found the fox. I had Max, N5ZZ riding with me, and our Doppler system pointed directly to the fox once we pulled into Terrell Mill park - where it ultimately was located. We had a pretty good bearing on it once we were a few miles away. The fox was not close to any roads, so we got out in the pouring rain with hand helds and yagi antennas to find the fox transmitter itself. This is when you're REALLY glad to be using water proof radio gear! The fox was inside a small olive green ammo can chained to the bottom of a tree in the woods, with a standard 2M mobile antenna sitting in a branch of the same tree about head level. All very hard to see. Turns out the fox was transmitting with much lower power than desired. It was probably in the area of 1/3 watt. At one point, its signal into the repeater was so weak, the repeater could barely hear it.

There was a second fox on a different 2M frequency. That frequency was found on the ammo can housing the first fox. We could hear the signal at this point, but it was weak. Long story short, the second fox was in the woods next to a parking lot in Sandy Plains park. Not far from the repeater. This fox was much the same as the first. Housed in an olive green ammo can chained to a tree with an external antenna. Most of those that hunted the second fox ended up eating a BBQ lunch together at the end. A few takeaways:

1. I had a co-pilot with me. It's so important in many ways to have a friend with you in the car! The most important is safety. At one point, I was pulling out of a neighborhood and failed to see a car turning into the neighborhood. Max yelled STOP and I did. Saved us from a nasty non life threatening accident. Whew! Second, two heads are always better than one. Besides, the person driving can't do all the work. Especially in heavy rain. Much better to have another person working the radios and other technology like cell phones and laptops

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

displaying Google Maps. And who's to say you can't have three or four people in the car? Well, unless you're in a Miata perhaps.

2. Hunters with Doppler systems almost always get to the fox first, but it isn't the only tool you need. If the signal is very weak, the Doppler won't help you much, but a good yagi antenna and hand held radio with an S-meter will. Again these tools will be used when you have to get out on foot near the fox. An offset oscillator or attenuator are a MUST at this point. All tools needed to enjoy the fun of finding any fox transmitter out there.

3. Some people had trouble because they didn't know how to manually program or set their radios. You can't rely on having every frequency used in memory already. And what about changing parameters like step rate? Can you manipulate these in your radios, or do you need a laptop to do it? If you can't manually operate your radio, best to learn how, or ask another ham buddy for help. This allows you to have more fun, and not have silly troubles when you need your radio to work for you the



Tim, WK4U

most. There are people in the club (like me) that are always glad to help you with new gear so you'll be ready for the next hunt.

Now go find that sly fox and smile :)

*Tim, WK4U*



Typical Fox

**Members!** Do you know that you, yes this means you, can change your own, email address, passwords, userid, callsign, expiration date, license class, street address, phone numbers, et cetera?

### **Below are some step by step instructions**

#### **Change my NFARL email address of record**

To change the email address used for club correspondence:

- Sign into your Mart account.
- Click on "My Account" in the menu at the left.
- When your account page is displayed, click on "edit" at the top of the page.
- When the next page is displayed, you will be able to change your email address. If you do not see your email address, make sure the "Account Settings" tab is selected. It should be selected by default, but if it is not, select it and try again.

#### **Change my personal information**

To change your personal information:

- Sign into your Mart account.
- Click on "My Account" in the menu at the left.
- When your account page is displayed, click on "edit" at the top of the page.
- When the next page is displayed, click on the link representing the type of information you wish to change. Choices (shown in tabs shown below the edit button at the top of the page) will include:
  1. personal info
  2. license info
  3. NFARL info
  4. ARRL info
- Change the information
- Optionally, click the "preview" button to preview your revised information before posting the change.
- Click the "submit" button at the bottom left of the page to change the information in the database.

Changing information in each section is a separate operation. For example, if you desire to change both your personal info and your ARRL info, go to the personal info page, make the changes, and submit the changes. Then go to the ARRL info page, make your changes, and submit those changes.

#### **Find out when my NFARL membership expires**

To see when your NFARL membership expires:

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

- Log into the Mart
- Click on "My account"
- When your account page appears, scroll down the page until you can see the "Memberships" heading. Beneath it you will see something akin to the following, adjusted to fit your membership type and expiration date:

**Paid NFARL Full Member**

**This membership will expire on 12/02/2017 - 12:10am**

Your membership will automatically expire at the specified time unless you renew beforehand. You can renew at any time before it expires; the renewal membership time will be added to the expiration date.

If you purchase a renewal membership after your current membership expires, your membership will start at the date and time it is purchased.

Families with multiple members: be sure that you are logged into the proper account when you purchase a membership. If you purchase multiple memberships under one account, they will all be awarded to the account under which you are logged in.

## **Purchase or renew NFARL or ARRL memberships**

To purchase or renew a NFARL membership:

- Log into a Mart account.
- Make sure you are logged into your account and you are trying to purchase for
- Each account requires a unique email address
- Select the type of membership you wish to purchase or renew
- Add the selected membership(s) to your cart.
- You may purchase a NFARL membership and ARRL membership in the same order.
- Complete the purchase by checking out.
- During the checkout process you have the option of paying for the membership(s) via PayPal or by sending our Treasurer a check.

After we receive your payment (which will be instantaneous if you pay via PayPal), the Mart will update your account record with the membership(s). Memberships will automatically be set to expire:

- "x" years from the date we receive your payment (if you purchase a new membership),  
or
- "x" years from the expiration of your existing membership (if you renew an existing membership early).
- "x" is the number of years of membership you purchase.
- You may confirm that your membership has been added or extended by clicking on "My Account" in the menu bar to the left and scrolling down to the bottom of your Account page where membership information is shown.

## Contact Us

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## Club Repeaters

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Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 56086 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES Repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with MATPARC	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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