



# *North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS*

*October 2019*

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Service | Friendship | Education | Fun*

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



## ***NFARL Annual Election of Officers / John Kludt, K4SQC, Chair Nominating Committee***

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Every year at the October meeting of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League we elect a new set of officers for the coming year. The new officers assume their duties at the close of the December meeting. The elected positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities and Membership. Following our bylaws current NFARL President Daryl Young, K4RGK, appointed a nominating committee consisting of Wes Lamboley, W3WL, Chair, Steve Mays, KS4KJ, and John Kludt, K4SQC. All are past presidents of NFARL.

As we neared the end of the process, there was no one willing to serve as the Membership Chair. Wes, W3WL, resigned from the Nominating Committee and volunteered to be nominated as Membership Chair. The president named John, K4SQC, as Chair of the Nominating Committee and Wes was replaced on the committee by Mike Cohen, AD4MC.

The Nominating Committee is charged with the task of developing a slate of candidates to fill each of the elected positions. To be eligible to serve each candidate must be a member in good standing, be willing to serve, and have been a member of the organization for at least one year. At the upcoming club meeting the Nominating Committee will present its slate of candidates for the elected positions. At that point there is the option for nominations to be made from the floor.

In the event of a nomination or nominations from the floor we ask that each of the nominees for the contested position be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. Why do you want to serve as (office) for NFARL?
2. What positions of responsibility have you held in the past? Please include voluntary and professional positions you think pertinent to the office in your response.
3. Please describe the strengths you would bring to the office.
4. What are the three things that are working well for NFARL?
5. What are the two things that are in need of improvement?
6. If elected what is the one thing you want to change?

So the election does not consume the entire meeting please be prepared to answer these six questions within a five-minute time frame. If there is a single candidate for a position we will forego asking these questions.

## ***NFARL Annual Election of Officers (continued)***

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The current slate of candidates is:

- President: John Norris, N4IHV
- Vice-President: James Kauffman, W4IU
- Secretary: Martha Muir, W4MSA
- Treasurer: John Tramontanis, N4TOL
- Activities: Mike Riley, KN4OAK
- Membership: Wes Lamboley, W3WL

The election will be determined by a simple majority vote of NFARL members present at the October club meeting.

It has been a pleasure to serve the organization as committee members and the Nominating Committee looks forward to a successful conclusion of the annual election process.



The October club meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15, 2019

at 7:30 PM at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004

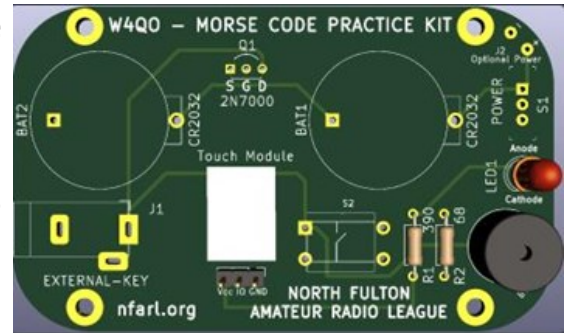
After the annual election of NFARL officers, we will hear a presentation on "Homebrew Mini Satellite Antenna Controller For Under \$150 " by Eddie Thompson, AE4TQ.

Eddie obtained his Class-A license, G4SQZ in the UK in 1982. After immigrating to the USA in 1995, he obtained his Extra class license, AE4TQ, in 1997. He is married to XYL Heather and has four children.

Eddie has have been interested in ham radio, short-wave listening, electronics, aviation, and meteorology since he was 12. He's currently enjoying DXing, ARRL FD, repeaters, satellite operations and is occasionally active on SSTV, RTTY, and FT-8 modes. He likes to experiment making homebrew wire antenna systems suspended in the tall trees of his backyard and building electronic projects which complement the hobby.

## NFARL Jr Heats Up Soldering Irons! / Jim Stafford, W4QO

This month our club juniors will be BETA testers for a new club project being proposed by me with the great assistance of a bunch of NFARL members. Moving from the concept stage to "pre" production is what we are calling the Code Practice Kit. A novel Code Practice Oscillator (CPO) will result which does not require an actual "key". Code keys are quite expensive even for simple ones such as the starter key from MFJ which is almost \$20! Using a touch pad as the switch (key), this CPO will easily cost less than \$10 for the entire kit (final pricing yet to be determined).



As a kit, there is also the thrill of construction many of us old timers got from the Heathkit products we built ourselves. There are only about 20 to 30 solder connections depending on which version is being built so it goes together fast. Also, the solder points are spread apart for each beginner construction. It is a simple circuit which I have used in various forms for years with the modern feature of the touch pad.

Thanks to the great layout work of teammate Warren Merkel, KD4Z, we have the initial batch of circuit boards to wire up. I have secured enough components for the first 15 units which we'll be assembling at the next NFARL Jr meeting on October 15 right before the club meeting. This will be held over in the smaller room where the club Volunteer Examiner (VE) sessions are each month.

We'll be using an assembly line process with 4 or 5 solder stations set up. Already volunteers have been recruited to instruct and help students as they move through the process. You can see from the photo of the board that it is rather simple and Warren has designed the board to fit into an Altoids mint container (after you have eaten the mints!). This should be a great time to introduce our "juniors" to soldering and to giving them a nudge toward learning and playing with Morse code.

So bring your youngsters (age 8-18) to this month's NFARL Jr. meeting and introduce them to the world of soldering a kit and to fun with CW!

### MORSE CODE

A • -	J • - - -	S ...
B - ...	K - - -	T -
C - - -	L • - -	U • • -
D - • •	M - -	V • • • -
E •	N - •	W • - -
F • • •	O - - -	X - - -
G - - •	P • - - •	Y - - - -
H • • • •	Q - - - -	Z - - • •
I • •	R • - •	

We will begin 10 minutes earlier than the usual time, so students should gather in the small room in the Activity Center at 6:50 PM.



## ***Contest Corner***

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- 10/12/19 — 10/13/19 [Nevada QSO Party](#)
- 10/12/19 — 10/13/19 [Arizona QSO Party](#)
- 10/12/19 — 10/13/19 [Pennsylvania QSO Party](#)
- 10/12/19 — 10/13/19 [South Dakota QSO Party](#)
- 10/20/19 — 10/21/19 [Illinois QSO Party](#)
- 10/21/19 — 10/25/19 [ARRL School Club Roundup](#)
- 10/26/19 — 10/27/19 [CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#)
- 11/02/19 — 11/04/19 [ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW](#)
- 11/16/19 — 11/18/19 [ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, Phone](#)



## ***Extra Extra! / From the Extra Class Question Pool***

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New info for Technicians and Generals and a refresher for Extra Class Licensees!



### **E2C01 — Which of the following is true about contest operating?**

- A) Operators are permitted to make contacts even if they do not submit a log
- B) Interference to other amateurs is unavoidable and therefore acceptable
- C) It is mandatory to transmit the call sign of the station being worked as part of every transmission to that station
- D) Every contest requires a signal report in the exchange

*See answer on the last page!*

## ***HamJam is November 9! / Wes Lamboley, W3SL***

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This is the 11th year for NFARL's HamJam. Suffice it to say that we have an eclectic array of speakers again this year and the prizes are starting to pile up as well. Part of the story is that the vendors all have us in their budgets, as HamJam is well established. One of my vendor contacts, when asked if they would donate, said "What – is it that time again?"

Our speakers this year are **Jeff Stuparits, W4DD, Bryant Rascoll, KD4HVD, and Kris Bickell, K1BIC.**

- Jeff is highly recommended by Mack McCormick, W4AX, as he has helped Mack locate various sources of electrical noise sources in Mack's area and Mack was able to drastically lower his noise floor as a result. Jeff's information and approach will be of interest to anyone trying to pull weak signals out of the noise in this downtime for sunspots!
- Bryant is a 16 year old that is in a class by himself. He has been on two Youth DX Adventures and competed in the World Radio Team Championship last year. He copies code at 60 (yes-SIXTY) words per minute, and is also a very engaging speaker and debater.
- Kris is the Lifelong Learning Manager for the ARRL and has been working on the program that will breathe new vitality into ham radio as we know it. The program will be officially rolled out early next year, but Kris has promised to give some details as he can at HamJam.

More detailed information on the speakers can be gained by going to their QRZ.com pages or by visiting <http://hamjam.info>.

As mentioned earlier, prizes are starting to show up. We never know for sure until late October what all the prizes from Icom, Yaesu, and Kenwood will be, but that information will be added to the HamJam web page as soon as we know. I do know we will be getting a Geochron, courtesy of DX Engineering. I suspect there will be over 25 prizes in all, and raffle tickets are now available on the NFARL mart, or from assorted Club members. Buy early and often, as all net proceeds go for Youth Education, Scholarships, and Activities!

Please join us at HamJam!

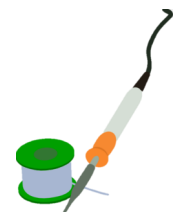
Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 8:15 AM to 1:00 PM

The Metropolitan Club  
5895 Windward Parkway  
Alpharetta GA 30005

# 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!  
Check [NFARES.org](http://NFARES.org) for more information.
- **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](http://website) for more information and "how to".
- **Every Wednesday — Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM  
Location: Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell, GA 30075  
Meet with your fellow club members every Wednesday!
- **Every Thursday — YL OP Net** — 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100  
Check NFARL Nets [website](http://website) for "how to." This is a great opportunity for YL's to get on the radio with other YL's! OM's (guys) are welcome to listen in to this YL net.
- **Every Saturday — Royal Order of the Olde Geezers Breakfast** - 9 AM  
Location: Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta, GA 30066 You don't need to be old or a geezer to join this breakfast get-together, everyone is welcome!
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - October 8, 2019, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Location: Fellowship Bible Church, 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell, GA 30075  
Check [NFARES.org](http://NFARES.org) for more information.
- **Second Saturday — VE Testing** - October 12, 2019, 10:00 AM  
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](http://Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 NFARL provides amateur (ham) radio test sessions! All exam modules are offered at all sessions. Walk-ins are welcome, no appointment is necessary. For more information please see our [website](http://website).
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting - October 15, 2019, 7:30 PM**  
**Topics: NFARL Annual Election of Officers and Homebrew Mini Satellite Antenna Controller** by Eddie Thompson, AE4TQ  
Pre-meeting social begins at 7:00 PM  
**Youth gathering from 6:50 PM—7:29 PM! Topic is Building Morse Code Practice Oscillators**  
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](http://Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park)  
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - October 22, 2019, 7:00 PM  
Location: [Arbor Terrace at Crabapple](http://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](http://President) to ensure available space.
- **Saturday Nov 2 — Sunday Nov 3 — Stone Mountain Hamfest** at the Gwinnett Country Fairgrounds. More information [here](http://here).
- **Saturday Nov 9, 2019 — HamJam 2019** — from 8:15 AM to 1:00 PM  
Location: The Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta GA 30005  
This event is open to all and admission is FREE thanks to your generosity in purchasing raffle tickets which are available at [HamJam.info](http://HamJam.info).



## ***A Nice Multimeter – the Aneng AN8008 / Jim Stafford, W4QO***

I've been a fan of test equipment for a long time, a real long time. I remember modifying my Heathkit V7 VTVM to use in my high school science fair when I built an Inexpensive Automatic Titrator with it as a key component. The one at the right is almost \$3,000. Perhaps I should have gotten a patent!



But I digress. I have several VOMs but was watching a YouTube video (learn electronics series) on the Aneng AN8008 and heard that is currently very popular. Well, I ordered one and at less than \$20, it looked like a good value. I bought mine from Banggood on sale for less than \$16 so be patient until it goes on sale if you care. Go to Banggood.com for a full set of specs. I was pretty cautious about ordering on credit card with Banggood the first time but it has been absolutely a breeze for a couple years.



Let's look at some of the features that you might not expect from a VOM like those you can get for free from Harbor Freight. First, it is a true RMS meter and is a full 4 digit unit. In other words, it can read to 9.999. No 3 1/2 digit as many older ones are. Also, it has a square wave generator to 5 KHz. Nice to inject a signal for tracing in radio or audio equipment. It has a counter which measures to 10 Mhz as well as a pulse width modulation duty cycle measurement. It comes with 2 sets of test leads – one for "high" voltage of say house voltage and one that has interchangeable tips. It is speced to go much higher. Just be careful for those 600 volt circuits!

It will measure AC/DC current up to 10A and down to 0.1  $\mu$ A. It will measure capacitance from 1 pf up to almost 1 Farad. It is an autoranging VOM. It doesn't take too long to find the range except in capacitance which is understandable for larger capacitors which have to charge up. It can be forced into manual ranges if need be. It is not a large unit, rather it is a handheld size. It comes in a variety of colors with a back light and auto OFF feature. It has a back stand (kick stand) which makes it handy for bench use. As it is very light weight, try not to pull it off the bench, however. Oh, it has a 4.999 rating with almost 2,000 reviews!

I have put it through accuracy measurements and it seems to be right on specs which is about 1% for most measurements. Oh, it does not measure transistors. However, it seems to be a general feeling that transistor measurements are put on a meter to impress folks but is of little use. This one does a nice job of measuring diodes. They actually light up and it reads the forward voltage value which is nice. All in all, I've found this unit very handy. I used it quite a bit in "optimizing" the Code Practice Oscillator that the club is considering for use as the kit at TechFest in January. Worked like a charm! So do you need another multimeter? Probably not but for the price and features, it sure is "handy".

## ***Good Turnout at NFARL Jr. Sept. Meeting / Martha Muir, W4MSA***

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Attendance picked up for the second NFARL Jr. meeting last month. Ten students sat elbow to elbow to participate in an introductory lesson on Morse code, particularly the letters found in ESTONIA.

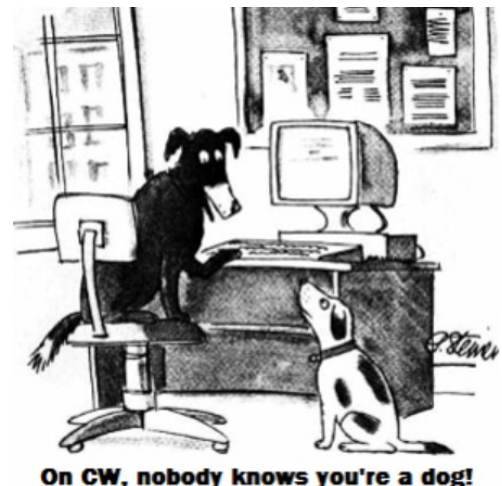
Student participants tapped out each of those letters in unison and then were asked to tap out a 3 or 4 letter word using those letters while the others tried to figure out that word.

Talk about time flying while you're having fun. Too soon the half hour NFARL Jr club meeting time was over. The strong interest and enjoyment displayed by the students let the organizers know that the sending and receiving of CW is a topic we need to develop more at future NFARL Jr meetings.



What do you call an apology  
that's written in dots and dashes?

*Re-morse code!*



**On CW, nobody knows you're a dog!**

## Contact Us

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## North Fulton Amateur Radio League

P.O. Box 1741  
Roswell, GA 30077

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

eNews can be located online at:  
<https://www.nfarl.org/enews/eNewsIndex.html>

## Club Repeaters

Frequency—Description	P.L. Tone	Location
145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Morgan Falls
147.060 (+) Primary ARES Repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
* 224.620 (-) Joint Venture with MATPARC	100 Hz	TBD
443.150 (+)	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
444.475 (+)	100 Hz	Morgan Falls
* 927.0125 (-)	146.2 Hz	TBD

*\* Currently off the air*

**Club Callsigns: NF4GA and K4JJ**

**Extra Extra answer: A** (question E2C01)

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