

North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

December 2020

Over 40 Years Promoting Service | Friendship | Education | Fun

www.nfarl.org



Bob Beeman, k4bb (SK)



It is with sadness that we report our longtime friend and NFARL member, Bob Beeman, k4bb, succumbed to COVID-19, December 4, 2020. Bob contracted the disease about 3 weeks before and it put him in the hospital a week later. He got progressively worse. His wife, Linda, also got the disease but had a mild case.

Bob was first exposed to ham radio as part of his high school studies in Nashville, TN. He was first licensed as a Novice amateur in 1962, and his call was KN4NZL. But he actually passed the General Class test before his Novice license came in the mail (it could take up to 3 months back then) and his first QSO was via his General call-sign, K4NZL. That was quite a feat as it required 13 wpm Morse code for the General in those days. He upgraded to Extra Class in the late 1970's while living in Houston, Texas. k4bb came along in the

1990's as a vanity call that has his initials. Bob had a long running online blog and preferred lower case for his call sign to "get with the times" in the computer world. See k4bb.com

Most of his succeeding years were not spent comfortably working DX, checking into nets, or attending ham radio club meetings. Like many, many others he was busy raising a family, and pursuing a career. He would always tell people that he would get back into ham radio when he was old. One day when he was in his late forties, he woke up and figured out that it was time. He was active ever since. He had been a member of the North Fulton ARL for many years and served as its president during calendar year 2015, not that long ago. Bob was a regular CW operator at Field Day and always took the graveyard shift from midnight to 4AM. He bought a KX3 a couple years ago and was a casual QRPer.

No service is planned at the present time. Bob was 75 years old.

President's Corner / John Norris, N4IHV

This year time seems like it has passed very quickly. The Year's End is fast approaching. They say the older one gets, the faster time appears to go by. Maybe I need to adjust my thought process. I surely thought COVID would be gone by now and all would return to normal. Not so much!! Sadly, we recently learned Bob Beeman K4BB, passed due to COVID-19. Bob was an integral part of NFARL and a past President. He was very active in our club and such a pleasure to talk with at all of our meetings. We will miss his welcoming and friendly face. We appreciate the way Bob touched many lives in very positive ways.

We will continue every meeting by Zoom into 2021, as I am not sure when we will resume face to face meetings. Please join us on our Zoom Meetings and enjoy the fellowship.

Speaking of Zoom meetings, don't miss the upcoming December meeting. There are prizes to be given away and fun stories to hear. Remember, the social half hour precedes the meeting.

December Club Meeting: Tuesday, December 15. Social half hour: 7 PM. Club meeting: 7:30 PM. Zoom link will be sent out to members. Contact me if you don't receive the link and wish to attend. president@nfarl.org

Christmas is here and I am sure all of you are dreaming of the new toys that you would like Santa to bring. Remember not to be naughty or Santa won't be nice. I know I could use a new Elecraft K4. What about you? When my XYL reads this, I am sure she will send me a fine picture of one.

Let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas. We should all try to do something for someone to brighten their day or lighten their load. This is a natural state that reflects the typical HAM. It is always such a pleasure to hear HAMs talk about "How can I be of help?"

See you at our Zoom Christmas Party! You will find out who The Ham of The Year 2020 is and The Ham Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

Have a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

John, NFARL President

N4IHV

U.S. Islands Update— New Georgia Islands! / Terry Joyner W4YBV

On December 6, I added 2 "new" islands in Georgia to the U.S. Islands Awards Program:

- South Juliette Island (U.S. Islands# GA 069) on Lake Juliette in Monroe County,
- Bass Island (U.S. Island# GA 071) on Lake Seminole in Seminole County.

This brings a total of 70 islands in Georgia. Forty-four islands have been qualified and 26 islands have yet to be qualified. Plenty of opportunities!

If you plan a trip to South Juliette Island you will need a small boat with motor under 15 HP (LAKE RULES). Bass Island is a drive on island.

Please check the island directory for photo of island and location on https://usislands.org/georgia/

Have fun and stay safe on the islands!

Terry- W4YBV

Mirabile Dictu

Insects had antennae long before man dreamed of radio.... The spark gap, remembered only by Old Timers of the Rock Crusher, it is the world's oldest electrical device—it was invented by Nature in the lightning flash... W4CS weighs 275 pounds and is named *Stout*... W3BPW's last name is *Money*... W9LZM's is *Ledin*.... Shades of The Old Man, with eminent English yatchsman Sopwith's initials being T.O.M.... Some hams have streets named for them; others the whole town. Walter-Janvrin, W1BQ, lives on Janvrin Avenue; Phil Gildersleeve, *QST* cartoonist (Gil), lives in Gildersleeve, Conn. Jimmie Mohn, W3CKD, lives in Mohnton, Pa.

Looking Back- Field Day 2020 / Wes Lamboley W3WL

Another Field Day has come and gone, and I hope there will never be another like it! COVID has managed to change every aspect of human existence, but it could not keep NFARL out of the doing its usual great job in encouraging participation. Thanks to our Field Day Chairman, Mike Riley – KN4OAK, the Club placed first in number of people turning their logs and identifying NFARL as their club. We had 35 stations participating; the nearest club to us had 27. Our total score was not bad either, with ours placing about number 17 overall, but who is counting?

Field Day this year saw a greater number of CW contacts; double those of last year and surpassing phone by over 200,000. However, this is both a good number and a bad number. It

indicates CW is alive and well, but not nearly as many newcomers were able to participate using phone, especially in the GOTA arena.

Lets all hope we can have a "normal" Field Day in 2021, where NFARL checks all the boxes as we have in the past, and families and the general public can see ham radio at its best!



Name This Ham!

Amateur Radio is a hobby in which there are many different facets: technical operations, contesting, rag-chewing, DX, equipment construction, operating modes, etc. The list can be expansive. Which areas of focus an individual HAM may tend to prioritize may also be influenced by their geographic location, wealth, spare time, personal interests, background, amongst other things.

This month our "Name This Ham" spotlight focus is on an individual who has been known to collaborate with current Club President, John Norris N4IHV, to develop and test antenna systems. In particular, the recent development of a loaded OCF dipole.

Besides growing up in Florida, this ham's early ventures into Amateur Radio involved 11 meters and cubic antenna design.

There is a rumor that this ham has a shack and workshop setup matching capabilities of industrial, scientific electrical engineering and software development laboratories. A common question posed is "who do you go to for solving a DMR programming issue?"

If you haven't observed yet, this ham tends to focus on the technical aspects of Amateur Radio, but also likes to participate in rag-chewing sessions. This ham has been known to tinker with Arduino and other micro-controllers as can design nicely configured printed circuits boards.

It is a strong bet to make that this ham is involved in the various aspects of software development. This ham may even have some nautical interests outside of the Amateur Radio world. You may catch this ham driving a somewhat vintage red Solstice convertible. If you know this ham's 2x1 vanity call sign, you can easily verify it on QRZ.

See Page 8 for the answer (if you're unable to identify this NFARL member), and to see photographs.

GEORGIA ON MY MIND / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

If you do not already get the newsletter from our ARRL Section Manager, David Benoist - AG4ZR, I highly recommend you subscribe to it. David's email address is noted below. The link to the Georgia Section news is presented in David's newsletter; NFARL is featured on page two!

Many of the Club's activities and past events are noted with links to videos and other information. I especially delighted in seeing the YouTube video from NS3T - Jamie Dupree's presentation at our HamJam in 2015; what a great speaker and corresponding story about his ham radio life and its effect on his career! Our recently departed dear friend Bob Beeman-K4bb was our Club president that year and can be seen presenting the HamJam speaker's plaque to Jamie. You can review the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3lWfifwWyM

Do check out the newsletter and all the links to NFARL stuff; you will be glad you did.

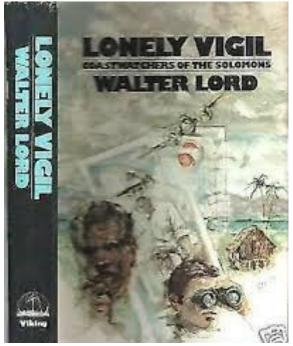
Go here for the December Georgia on My Mind: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IG5By2-S7y8WfoFlo0R5iUD0cPaJWa1H/view?usp=sharing

ARRL Georgia Section Section Manager: David B Benoist, AG4ZR aq4zr@arrl.org



Stocking Stuffer Good Reads/ Sam Proctor KO4BCO

I've always been a fan of historical novels. And, this year, I've really enjoyed picking up on stories where radio played a significant role. Here's a quick review of three I would recommend for your holiday reading list. (Summary synopses below adapted from on-line resources)



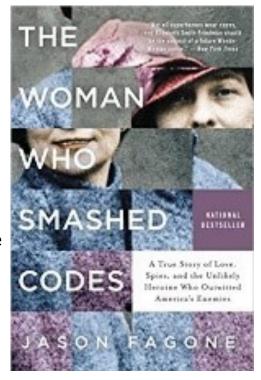
Lonely Vigil: Coastwatchers of the Solomons, by Walter Load

Here's a thought for your next SOTA outing: Pack a "3BZ Teleradio, 300 pounds, not counting batteries, charging engine, and fuel"!

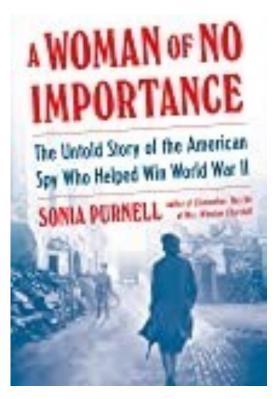
"This a saga of the valiant coastwatchers of the Pacific War. The remarkable band of individualists, operating deep behind Japanese lines in the dark days of 1942-43, lived by their wits alone yet gave the Allies their best intelligence and rescued many a man from downed planes and sinking ships."

The Women Who Smashed Codes: A Ture Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies, by Jason Fagone

As one book reviewer said, "Not all superheroes wear capes. This is the incredible true story of the greatest codebreaking duo that ever lived, an American woman and her husband who invented the modern science of cryptology together and used it to confront the evils of their time, solving puzzles that unmasked Nazi spies and helped win World War II. ...It's been said that "Elizabeth Smith and William Friedman are in many ways the 'Adam and Eve' of the NSA. As World War II raged, Elizabeth fought a highly classified battle of wits against Hitler's Reich, cracking multiple versions of the Enigma machine used by German spies. Meanwhile, inside an Army vault in Washington, William worked furiously to break Purple, the Japanese version of Enigma--and eventually succeeded, at a terrible cost to his personal life."



Continued on page 6-



A Women of No Importance, by Sonia Purnell

Interesting code words in this story for radio equipment and radio operators: Piano and Pianists.

"In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: 'She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her.' The target in their sights was Virginia Hall, ... who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill's 'Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare.' ... Virginia established vast spy networks throughout France, called weapons and explosives down from the skies, and became a linchpin for the Resistance. ...liberating swathes of France from the Nazis after D-Day.

Again, in today's world when the daily news cycles make it hard to determine who the real heroes are, the way these individuals responded in times of need is genuinely inspiring.

FYI: Being budget conscious when book buying, I generally start with "thriftbooks.com" for good deals on used books, or do an internet search for a free download of a book title in "pdf". Your mileage may vary!

Also, don't hesitate to share your historical favorites with me: <u>KO4BCO@gmail.com</u> Happy reading! 73,

Sam KO4BCO

Strays / Paul Kelley, W4KLY

We found this IC-705 Desk Top Stand recently while visiting in North Georgia... North Georgia

QRP (NoGAQRP). Paul W4KLY, tells us it is the latest addition to the NoGa Stand product line from Kelley Custom Woodworks. The stand is designed for use with the Icom IC-705 (shown on stand, radio not included). Reports of initial market feedback indicate the design is a good one, being stable and minimizing operating desktop space. NoGa can provide you one of these stands for \$30.00 US, shipping included. You can provide NoGA with feedback from your user experience to help drive development of options and continuous improvements.

Contact Paul Kelley W4KLY, at <u>w4kly@bellsouth.net</u> for more information and ordering.



Who is Hiram Percy Maxim? / Jim Stafford, W4Q0



Some may know the call sign, W1AW, as it is the call sign associated with the ARRL station in Newington, CT. That station is always a favorite of those visiting the HQ of our national organization. N4TOL, John, our club treasurer, has operated from W1AW and from what he says, it sure draws a pileup when you call CQ from there. But W1AW was the call sign of the ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim. He founded the club in 1914 and started publishing QST in 1915. He was born in 1869 in Brooklyn, NY and entered amateur radio in 1910 through the interest of his son Hiram Hamilton. He was past forty years of age when he learned the code. Their first station, excellent for that day, enjoyed the call SNY. With the coming of the law Mr. Maxim became 1WH and, later, the special-license station IZM. After WW1, he was IAW. There were no prefixes in the early days but after worldwide radio conferences, the USA was assigned the

prefix of W so 1AW became W1AW as it is today.

But back up for a minute. His father was Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim, inventor of the Maxim machine gun, his uncle was Hudson Maxim, inventor of high explosives. He attended Brooklyn schools and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating from the School of Mechanical Arts in 1886, the youngest member of his class. He was a practicing engineer at the age of seventeen!

Mr. Maxim, referred to as HPM, was also know to write under the pseudonym The Old Man in issues of OST up thru the early 30s. While a continuing proponent of amateur radio (the Navy wanted to ban ham radio at one time), HPM was also a highly energetic chap in multiple fields. He was a yachtsman, an automobile designer, a glider pilot, and he held 59 patents, one of which was his most famous the Maxim Silencer - for guns! W3WL and I, along with others, were



surprised at one of the Atlanta MAKER FAIREs when HPM's great granddaughter came by the ham radio booth. Her father, Hiram, is a French professor at Emory University.

Continued on Page 8

Who is Hiram Percy Maxim? / Continued from Page 7

You can read his excellent and very thorough obituary at the nfarl.org club's website under the Highlights button. In conclusion, I am reproducing the obituary for HPM from the Hartford. CT newspaper.

Dr. Maxim, Famous Scientist, Passes Away at Mennonite Hospital.

The noted inventor and scientist, Hiram Percy Maxim of Hartford, Conn., passed away at the Mennonite Hospital at la Junta, Colo., early this week. The scientist became seriously ill on a train while on the way to California and was brought to the Hospital at Lu Junta [sic La Junta] for emergency treatment, but passed away soon afterward.

Dr. Maxim was known internationally for his electrical and automotive inventions, and finally for his invention of firearm attachments and modern war machinery. Yet, strangely enough, he passed away in a Mennonite hospital, founded by a people who take a positive position against war and who also frequently took an active part in healing the wounds war had caused.

The cause of Scientist Maxim's death was a serious throat infection.

Name This Ham / continued from Page 4

Warren Merkel KD4Z, is our featured "Name This Ham" guest in December 2020. Warren (seated in red shirt), works with three generations of Lamboley's and Bill Cobb on a 2017 TechFest project.



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



E7C03 — What advantage does a series-L Pi-Lnetwork have over a series-L Pi-network for impedance matching between the final amplifier of a vacuum-tube transmitter and an antenna?

- A. Greater transformation range
- B. Higher efficiency
- C. Greater harmonic suppression
- D. Does not require a capacitor

See answer on the last page!

Studying for your Amateur Extra-class license?

The Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.

Ian NV4C and his team hold license test sessions on the second Saturday of each month. For more information including upcoming test dates, <u>click here</u>.

WANTED! eNEWS EDITOR! / From Mike Riley, KN4OAK

North Fulton Amateur Radio League is look for someone willing and capable of serving as the Editor / Publisher of **NFARL eNEWS**.

NFARL is looking for someone to volunteer their time to publish the NFARL eNEWS each month. The document is assembled from articles and information submitted by members volunteering to do so. Presently the document is assembled and "published" using Microsoft Publisher 2013. However, the successful candidate can choose their choice of preferred software and operating platform. The Editor relies on volunteer assistance to proof-read the final version before it is released to the Webmaster for posting on the NFARL website and distribution through automated mailing.

Contact Mike Riley at KN4OAK@nfarl.org for info or to volunteer as Editor.

December Licensing Tests 10 for 10!/ Wes Lamboley, W3WL

NFARL's in person VE Test sessions continue to produce results! The most recent session, 12/12/2020, was 10 for 10, with one person getting his tech and general in one sitting. Again, our thanks go to Mr. Bob White and the team at Slope's for providing the facility space for testing.

There were 7 new hams and 3 upgrades. It was interesting to talk with all those taking the test and learning just what it was that got them interested in ham radio. Three "Just wanted to try something new" during COVID! One guy had a novice license back in the 60's and let it lapse and now has time to get going again during retirement. Another guy is already learning Morse Code with W4QO, before getting his license! Yet another is a GA Tech engineer and retired USAF communications officer and wants to get back into radio.

There are many great stories; I just hope we can start meeting in person before too long and start sharing and getting to know one another again. I am sure some of the new hams will be at the next meeting on Zoom this Tuesday, the 15th. They will introduced as best we can then.

December 12, 2020 VE Testing Candidates			
Robert Garrett - N4BBG	David Mitchell		
Hugh Walton	Thomas Tarabicos		
Erek Mimms	Tom McNeil		
Harry Heath - KO4FGK	Steve Antonoff		
Bethany Havas	Michael Smith—KJ4CJR		

Contest Corner

From: https://contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Dec 14
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Dec 15
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 16
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 16
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Dec 17
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 18
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Dec 20 to 0100Z, Dec 21
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Dec 21
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Dec 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Dec 24
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Dec 28
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Dec 29
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Dec 29
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 30
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Dec 31

NFARL Upcoming Events and Dates

- 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 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 (Discord) but Internet is not required to join the net.
 Check NFARL Nets for more information and "how to". Here's the link to the NFARL server on Discord web app https://discord.gg/spr2a9D
- Every Wednesday Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch 11:15 AM
 Location: Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell, GA 30075
 (770) 518-7000 Call to verify operations
 Dining Room now OPEN with COVID-19 Restrictions. Get Take Out if you can't stay!
- **Every Thursday YL OP Net** 8:00 PM 9:30 PM 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 Check NFARL Nets <u>website</u> 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 (770) 971-6800 Call to verify operations
 Dining Room now OPEN with COVID-19 Restrictions.
- Second Tuesday NFARES Meeting January 12, 2021 Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted. Check NFARES.org for more information.
- Second Saturday VE Testing NFARL January 16, 2021 session: COVID-19
 Restrictions in place. By reservation only. See the "Test Sessions" web page and NV4C's message on the NFARL Groups.io reflector for details & registration process.

 Contact Ian at nv4c.ian@qmail.com for questions / concerns / reservations.
- Spalding Amateur Radio Club Video Supervised Virtual VE Exam- Go here and review info https://k4cxs-scarc.wixsite.com/k4cxs
- Third Tuesday NFARL Club Meeting December 15, 2020, 7:30 PM
 Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted
 December 2020 Topic: Holiday Party Celebration
- Fourth Tuesday NFARL Executive Team Meeting December 22, 2020, 7:00 PM
 - Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted
 - monitor website and NFARL Groups.io reflector for updates.

Contact Us

President	John Norris N4IHV	President@nfarl.org
Vice President	Jim Kauffman W4IU	VicePresident@nfarl.org
Secretary	Martha Muir W4MSA	Secretary@nfarl.org
Treasurer	John Tramontanis N4TOL	<u>Treasurer@nfarl.org</u>
Activities Chair	Mike Riley KN4OAK	Activities@nfarl.org
Membership Chair	Wes Lamboley W3WL	Membership@nfarl.org
Past President	Daryl Young K4RGK	PastPresident@nfarl.org
Mentors / Elmers	Chuck Catledge AE4CW	Elmers@nfarl.org
Field Day Chair	Mike Riley KN4OAK	FieldDay@nfarl.org
Scout Coordinator	Jon Wittlin K4WIT	k4wit@nfarl.org
ARES Liaison and Community Relations	Jim Paine N4SEC	n4sec@nfarl.org
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden W5JR	Repeaters@nfarl.org
Webmaster	Bill Cobb K4YJJ	Webmaster@nfarl.org
eNews Team	Help Wanted!!	enews@nfarl.org

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

P.O. Box 1741 Roswell, GA 30077

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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 Call signs: NF4GA and K4JJ

Extra Extra answer: C (question E7C03)

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