

North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

January 2021

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Space Weather and Ionospheric Propagation / Jim Kauffman, W4IU

Our Guest Presentation Topic this January

Everyday there are physical events occurring in the Earth's atmosphere which impact behaviors of radio frequency signals. You may not be aware that these physical events occur, but you might notice the effects from them. If you do notice the effects, you might not attribute the space weathers as cause(s) to such events. Understanding just the basics of "Space Weather and Ionospheric Propagation" can provide you with some insight to radio signal transmission behaviors within the Earth atmosphere and how you, as an amateur radio operator, can possibly take advantage of them.

You may ask yourself, "Where can one learn about Space Weather?" Well, North Fulton Amateur Radio League is lucky enough to have a member capable of explaining some basic information and pointing us to some references where we can further explore this topic individually. Join us on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 for the NFARL monthly club meeting where Jim Kauffman W4IU, will give a presentation on "Space Weather and Ionospheric Propagation".



Jim has been involved in amateur radio for over 30 years. He enjoys HF, VHF and UHF SSB, rover and digital mode operations. Jim is an active member of NFARES. Jim retired as a CWO3 from the U.S. Navy Submarine Force where he served as a Nuclear Power School instructor on several boats during various tours of duty. Jim is currently Head of Analytics for AIG's innovation and strategy group. Besides Ham Radio, Jim enjoys several other hobbies, including programming, photography, model making and classical music. One activity we know Jim enjoys is problem solving. So, next time you're in need of some technical assistance, keep

Jim in mind as a resource.

Our club meeting is being held via Zoom and begins at 7:30PM EST with a business overview. Jim should be able to begin his presentation by 8:00PM. If you are a club member, you should receive an email invitation to the meeting. Or you can visit the NFARL Groups.io website and look for the meeting invitation there. If you need the meeting invitation information and didn't receive it, send an email to John N4IHV at president@nfarl.org or Mike KN4OAK at KN4OAK@nfarl.org and we'll get it sent to you as soon as we're able.

President's Corner / John Norris, N4IHV

We have finally made it to 2021. Wow!!! I hope everyone has a very good 2021 with lots of positive experiences. 2020 was a year we won't forget for a long time. If something could occur, I believe it did. We lost some wonderful members in our club, personal friends and family members during 2020. We will miss them, but not forget them.

Now is the time to look forward to a new direction and be continually thankful for the technology that has allowed us to host our meetings virtually. This continues to be a new learning experience. Challenges produce new opportunities.

The participation in ham radio has increased by current license holders. New interest by others not licensed has increased as well. Our monthly testing of new hams has proven that. Many new hams have said they are looking forward to our in-person meetings. They are excited to meet club members in person. I too, am looking forward to having that interaction again.

We have added new products to our Mart. Take a look. Please review our activities about Tech Talk, CW Sig, YL Net, ARES Meetings, Hungry Hams and VE Testing at NFARL.org. The Georgia QSO Party is April 10, 11, 2021 and you don't want to miss it. It is a lot of fun and you won't be sorry you have participated. I am looking forward to Field Day 2021 in June and hopefully Roswell's Groveway Park will be open.

Here's to a great New Year!

Thank you for your continued interest in ham radio and NFARL,

John Norris, NFARL President

N4IHV

Stray— QST, July 1990, p58

We found this 30-year old gem in the QST Archives and though you'd find it interesting.

If you happen to be logged on to the ARRL website someday when you've got a few spare moments, or maybe you just need a break, check out the QST Archives. You can search contextually using the search box tool.

This note was under the "Correspondence" column on page 58 of the July 1990 issue of QST.

Repeaters Regale

One of the great pleasures in ham radio while traveling is hitting all the repeaters on the way. Like many machines across the country, users of the W4BOC repeater in Atlanta welcome visitors with warmth and offer direction to lost souls.

As a schoolteacher, I enjoyed listening to the intelligent conversations. A roundtable representing a little piece of America could be heard at anytime of the day. Radio talk show hosts should listen to Dave, Otis, Larry, Frank, Robert and Adam while visiting Atlanta.

-Ron Preivity, K4EET, Cape Coral, Florida

DX chasing tips from a DX station / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

The other evening I saw V73NS (Marshall Islands) spotted on the DX Spotting Cluster working CW on 20M. I figured I'd tune in to see if I could actually even hear him. I was amazed at how loud he was so throwing on my bravado; I set up my radio on split so as to transmit 1.1 KHz above him and, when he had completed a QSO, and asked for other stations, I sent my call. Almost immediately he sent "KB4" and paused. I sent my whole call again, and this time he sent "KB4KS KN". I sent my call several times and over the next several minutes he struggled to hear my complete call while I struggled to hear him reply to me. His strength had faded and there were several stations that were calling him on his transmit frequency, some even dead-key tuning their rigs right where I was straining to hear a station over 6800 miles away. At one point, a station began sending what sounded like my call sign at 5WPM right on his transmit frequency. I could hear him (intermittently) sending KB4KB KN, and I tried to respond to him, sending my suffix several times, then my whole call. Alas, it finally got to where I could no longer make him out, but there was one point where I thought I heard him send my whole call and I responded with a RRR, 559 (based on my first initial reception before things went downhill). I went ahead and logged the contact.

I looked up the call sign on QRZ.com and sent an email to Neil to apologize for costing him such an inordinate amount of time trying to complete our QSO and to explain what I heard on my end. He responded within hours and was very gracious. He identified the operator who was causing QRM to my signal.

"By chance, I looked up the partial call in my log and assumed it was you...as we worked before. I gave you credit for the QSO. I knew there was a 3rd letter, but you were so far in the weeds and being constantly QRMed."

(Call sign omitted) was the one ENDLESSLY QRming you. Since he caused so much grief and consumed 10 minutes by constantly ignoring KN, he was omitted from the log. Fair is fair in the DX'ing world."

I sent him a thank you for making the extra effort and giving me credit for the QSO. I also asked him for some advice on how to be better the next time I happened upon a DX station. Since we had begun the dialogue I thought that getting a true testimonial from someone in the field would be a great help.

The following is what he sent in reply to my request. He has kindly allowed me to share it with the club:

If DX sends WA1 WA1 WA1 (asking 3 times - no need for question mark), never send WA1XYZ 599 TU. Often I get this and the stations think "he must have got my call, and I sent him a RST, so it's a good QSO... right?" Wrong. Simply repeat your call and when the DX has it he will send it back along with a RST. If the DX copied WA1XYZ, and wants to confirm by sending just WA1XYZ, answering with RR WA1XYZ is ideal. Sending RST before the DX has your call, correct, just wastes time. When DX confirms and send a RST, the reply back is a RST. Also, if DX does send WA1 WA1 WA1, send your call more than once. Modern logging programs won't take incomplete calls, so WA1 winds up in the SRI NIL pile.

Continued on page 4 —

DX chasing tips from a DX station / continued from page 3

Some stations refuse to repeat their call. This is what happens when they refuse to repeat:

DX) WA1 WA1 WA1

WA1) *** (just his suffix)

DX) WA1 WA1 WA1 WA1

WA1) ***

DX) WA1 WA1 WA1 WA1 WA1

WA1) ***

DX) WA1 WA1 WA1 WA1 WA1 WA1

WA1) ***

DX) WA1

WA1) ***

(It Is Not a Game)

DX) CQ CQ DE DX1DX

There are stations who think they can entice me by sending just 599, figuring this is a reward for having a good signal. I don't care they are hearing me 599... What's your @#\$% call???



Other bad contact starter habits are:

* "Hi (name)" - You'll be ignored. Yes, you know who I am because I have been calling CQ for the last 20 minutes, but you are an unknown.

* "...--.." (?) - Proof you're too impatient to listen - You'll be ignored. Every now and then I'll answer back "...--.. 5NN 73 TU" and then QSY or take a bathroom break. That guy with the strange IMI (ditditdahdhitdit) call, how did he get a call with no numbers??



* "WA" - partial call or did he just die at the key? Wish I knew who he was so I can call an ambulance, poor fellow.

* Sending "DE" - Oh! Germany is calling!! (This is) fine in a QSO exchange or CQ, but (when working DX) just answer with your call.

* Tuning on freq -Thanks for the reminder that now is a great time to QSY or QRT.

* Pulse tuning on freq - All that money for a fancy amp and not a cent for skills... pity.

* Sending the DX's call to the DX- I know who I am, who are you? Had one today in fact. DX1DX DE WA1XYZ PSE KN. Sending the DX's call is bad enough... the PSE KN at the end is rich! They need more time listening.

* Ignoring KN, being a bully, calling on top of a QSO, sending your call like a beacon hoping to be answered somehow... but you're always transmitting, so I'm never sure how that is supposed to work.

Continued on page 5 —

DX chasing tips from a DX station / continued from page 4

Those won't get you in the log, but will get you on the "Do Not Work" list posted at the operating position (sort of like the "do not accept checks from" list in the convenience store).

So there you have it, straight from the South Pacific, where a CQ is always guaranteed to create a pile up. I am grateful for Neil taking the time to correspond with me and share some of his wisdom from being on the other side of the pileup chaos. I know I've been guilty of a few of these sins over the years; it makes me shudder to think back to my first years chasing DX. Good luck with your next pursuit of a DX station and hopefully, you'll be successful because you learned some important lessons from a seasoned veteran DX station.

Thank you Neil, for allowing me to share these pointers with the club. If you would like to see an expanded version of these notes with even more commentary, Neil has a web page entitled DX'ing 101 at <https://www.qsl.net/v73ns/DX.html>

Scott KB4KBS, has been a ham for nearly 40 years. Scott resides in Roswell, GA. He is a long-time member of NFARL and has served as Vice President and Field Day Chairman. Need advice on DX operations and contesting? Contact Scott, as we're sure he'll be glad to try to help you.

Name This Ham -

Ham radio is a hobby that can provide a platform to learn many skills. You may not think this so, but stop and think about the hams you know and ask yourself what they've learned as a result of their ham radio experiences. I'll bet you will surprise yourself. Once you come up with the list, contact these friends and acquaintances and ask them what ham radio has enabled them to do in their life. Verifying your guess against the "real" response can prove to be lots of fun.

Our "Name This Ham" spotlight turns to another club member this month. This ham has been licensed since 1961 and has utilized skill sets developed from ham radio to parlay a career in film processing, photography, security and law enforcement. This ham became "hooked" on radio after receiving and building a crystal radio set for Christmas as a 12 year old. To this ham's surprise the set worked once it was completed, and that was it...hooked.

One of this ham's most memorable radio related experiences is operating mobile maritime from a Holland America cruise ship. It fits right in to this ham's preferred operating behavior of operating from unique locations. Including places such as a deer stand.

This ham likes operating on 6-meters, SSB and CW. In doing so this ham has plenty of DX contacts, Japan and New Zealand included. This ham has been known to favor use of a FT-450 as a primary rig.

Advice to new hams from this would include "operate as many modes, bands and situations as you can. It's the only way you'll be able to find out what you like and don't like." If you can identify this ham, verify your answer on QRZ. Or see page for the answer and photographs.

The Impact of an ARISS Radio Contact / Martha Muir, W4MSA

NFARL, led by Daryl K4RGK, conducted a ARISS Radio Contact for the students at Mill Springs Academy on May 3, 2018. Ever wonder what impact such an amazing event has on the students involved? Lydia Bennett, one of the students whose question was selected to be asked during this contact, was recently interviewed about her involvement in this ARISS contact. Among other things, Lydia was inspired to earn an Amateur Radio license. She now has the call sign KO4FGH, which she earned at a NFARL VE session. (BTW, her parents worked with Lydia as she studied to get her license and now they are KO4FGI and KN4VZH.)

Lydia's answers to the interview questions now appear in ISS360 available here:

<https://www.issnationallab.org/blog/ariss-lydia-bennett-saint-francis-high-school/>

Once again, thanks to Daryl and all the other folks at NFARL for providing such a wonderful and positively impactful experience for Lydia and the other students.

THE ARRL IS CHANGING! / Wes Lamboley, W3WL



As a member of the American Radio Relay League I get QST every month and try to always read the "editorial" from one of the League staff. Historically it has been written by the CEO, but as of late there has not been a permanent one, so other staffers have chipped in. Now, however, we have a new CEO; his name is David A. Minster – NA2AA. And – he is heading up a change within the League that is focused on "Changing the culture of ARRL to one of boundless enthusiasm, inclusion, and a renewed focus on the needs and wants of our members with a bias toward saying "YES" and taking action." Amateur radio is about to get even more exciting as this culture change develops in our leadership at the League. David has promised to try to answer every email addressed to him at ceo@arrl.org, so if you have concerns or questions, do let him know. Take a few minutes and read the Second Century feature column, "A Culture of "Yes"", on page 9 of the January 2021 QST edition. You can find it here: [QST \(pagesuite-professional.co.uk\)](https://www.arrl.org/qst-articles/a-culture-of-yes) . Or paste this in your browser- <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=89ab39d3-23fc-46b1-a40a-23fb07fa783b>

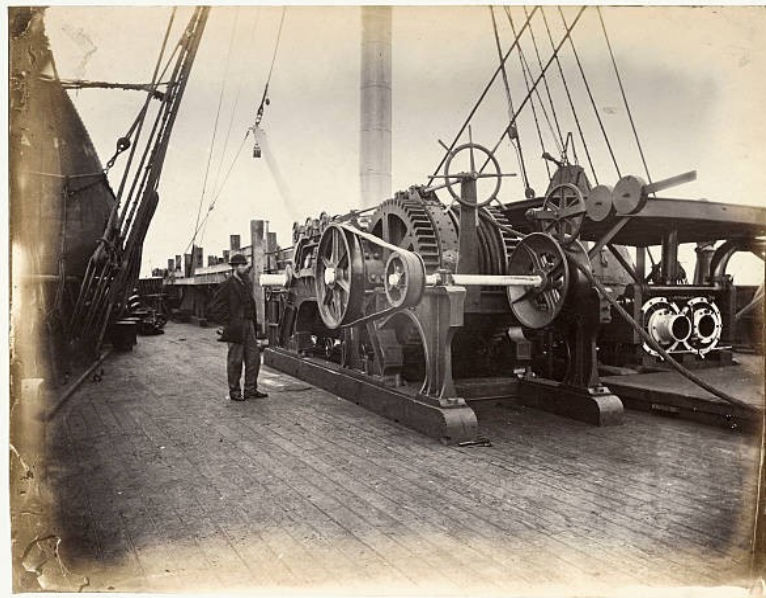
The rest of this article is a shameless pitch to join the ARRL if you do not already belong. The ARRL now provides us amateurs with four publications; QST (the general information journal of the League with all sorts of technical and operating information, along with the latest gear and advertising), ON THE AIR (covers a range of ham radio interests and topics, delivering introductory techniques and stories to help anyone with a beginner-to-intermediate-level of experience), QEX (A platform for exchanging the latest technical ideas for communications experimenters), and NCJ (The best news and information for contesters). All these publications are available for the membership cost of \$49.00 per year, plus a major portion goes to the League staff for furthering and defending our hobby nationally and world-wide. A life membership in the League is also available for \$1,225.00. It was interesting to me to see the names of almost 400 new life members listed in QST this month!

So – do join the League if you are not already a member. You will be glad you did.

The First Trans Atlantic Cable– / Tony Santoro, WA3TRA

Characters at two minutes and five seconds!

This is just an interest story on how far technology has come. After reading several articles, the dates may not be exact but are pretty close. I was amazed how two ships could meet in the middle of the Atlantic ocean. Enjoy..



Cable Laying Equipment Aboard One of the Ships

1857 - unsuccessful attempts were made to lay cable with the aid of British and American naval ships .

July 17, 1858 - a third try successfully laid cable without issues.

July 29, 1858 - starting in the middle of the Atlantic ocean, two ships spliced the two ends of the cable together, dropped it in the water, and then each ship headed to its destination port.

August 4, 1858 - The 2,000 mile cable across the Atlantic at a depth of 2 miles now connected Heart's Content, in Newfoundland, to Telegraph Field on Valentia Island, in Ireland.

August 16, 1858, with the exchange of

messages between Queen Victoria and President Buchanan, the line was officially open. The reception across the cable was terrible, and it took an average of two minutes and five seconds to transmit a single character. The first message took 17 hours and 40 minutes to transmit.

Transmission on the transatlantic cable, weak at best, degraded quickly. Within a few weeks, the line failed entirely. Even though the cable never worked well, a total of 732 messages were sent before it failed. It would be six years before another attempt was made.

References:

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-history/heroic-failures/the-first-transatlantic-telegraph-cable-was-a-bold-beautiful-failure>

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/transatlantic-cables#:~:text=On%20August%2016%2C%201858%2C%20the,and%20good%20will%20toward%20men%22.>

YouTube 5 minute video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV0Wc9Y33so>

Extra Extra! / From the Extra Class Question Pool

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



E9G09 — What third family of circles is often added to a Smith chart during the process of solving problems?

- A.) Standing wave ratio circles
- B.) Antenna-length circles
- C.) Radiation-pattern circles
- D.) Coaxial-length circles

See answer on the last page!

Studying for your Amateur Extra-class license?

The new 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, [click here](#).

Name This Ham / continued from Page 5

Terry Joyner W4YBV, is our January 2021 "Name This Ham" guest.



Jim, N4SEC & Terry, W4YBV
Operating as NF4GA in US Islands Awards Program

VE TESTING SESSION - January 9, 2021

It was a grey and stormy day, with temperature hovering in the 30s and the wind chill making it feel like the 20s. Inside Slope's barbecue an epic crowd of 21 stalwart hams and would be hams were cozy and comfortable among the sweet smells of pulled pork and chicken with fried okra on the side wafting throughout the friendly surrounds. Ian Kahn and his team of volunteer examiners comprised of Martha Muir, Lane Watts, John Reynolds, Steve Mays, Mike Parrott, Manny Puerta, and Steve Randall handed out testing materials and sharpened 2H pencils and instructions were given and the session began. All the candidates passed their chosen tests, with 8 obtaining the coveted Extra Class, 3 getting their General Class, and the rest taking their first steps in hamdom as Technicians.

It was my privilege as Membership Chairman of NFARL to talk with each of the candidates after they completed their testing and invite them to join NFARL. I swell with pride (and some COVID-induced weight gain) when I describe what a great Club we have and all the interesting activities available, as seen on the NFARL.org website. Several were already members and believers; the rest will most probably join as well. We will be welcoming some interesting folks and I am excited to get this COVID thing over so we can meet in person again; you will enjoy meeting them as well. Until then we will ZOOM along with the rest of the world and be happy to do it.


Three of the people testing were Tech grads, which always fairs well with Bob White, owner of Slope's, who bleeds Yellow and Blue, and doesn't care much for Red and White, unless it is in the American flag. One guy, who got his Extra, asked if we do Field Day and do we need any CW ops. After I stopped stuttering I explained a little about the BEST FIELD DAY in the country and how he would be more than welcome to join us. He used to be a radio operator in the Navy and does 30 WPM without breathing hard. Several others in the "new ham" category wanted to get involved just to do something different during COVID times, while others wanted to prepare for and help out in emergencies, and learned that ham radio was a good way to be part of the solution. One of those getting General was 15 year old Colby Pete. I am always amazed with how many people tell me that they heard about ham radio when they were much younger and were always interested in it and now have some time to do something about it. Probably about half the folks I talked with were in this category.

All the people taking the tests will get an invitation to join us in the up-coming Zoom meeting, so do tune in Tuesday at 7 PM and say "HI" to our new members!

NFARL
January 2021 VE Test Session
Candidates and Results

Name	Call	Test Level Passed
Donnie Weston	KO4DQM	Extra
Dave Mitchell	KO4KFV	Extra
Jason Mitchell	Pending	Technician
David Gallmeier	KO4CUO	Extra
Steve Antonoff	KO4KFT	Extra
Randy Stearns	Pending	Technician
Chris Spangler	KO4CGR	General
Preston Bennett	Pending	Technician
Herbert Bromhall	Pending	Technician
Rich Glickstein	WH6NU	Extra
Shaun St. John	Pending	Technician
Jim Harrington	KK4DBJ	Extra
Robert LaBerge	KC4BI	Extra
Rebecca Key	Pending	Technician
Amanda McCook	Pending	Technician
James Cribbs	KN4NEH	General
Colby Pete	KN4KSE	General
David Sexton	Pending	Technician
Benjamin Greve	Pending	Technician
Tom Powers	KJ4AJX	Extra
John Dominkewicz	Pending	Technician

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](https://www.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 [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
(770) 971-6800 *Call to verify operations*
Dining Room now OPEN with COVID-19 Restrictions.
 - **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - February 9, 2021 ***Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted.*** Check [NFARES.org](https://www.nfares.org) for more information.
 - **Second Saturday – VE Testing - NFARL February 13, 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@gmail.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** - January 19, 2021, 7:30 PM
Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted
— January 2021 Topic: Space Weather and Ionospheric Propagation / Jim Kauffman, W4IU
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - January 26, 2020, 7:00 PM
Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted
— monitor website and NFARL Groups.io reflector for updates.
 - **Winter Field Day 2021**— January 30-31, 2021. **Winter Field Association** holds the event annually. This year NFARL is planning to participate. See Fred Ackley's, W4FRA, message on the NFARL Groups.io reflector for details. We look forward participating with you! <https://www.winterfieldday.com>

Contact Us

President	John Norris N4IHV	President@nfarl.org
Vice President	Mike Riley KN4OAK	VicePresident@nfarl.org
Secretary	Martha Muir W4MSA	Secretary@nfarl.org
Treasurer	John Tramontanis N4TOL	Treasurer@nfarl.org
Activities Chair	Fred Ackley W4FRA	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	TBD	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	Mike Riley KN4OAK	enews@nfarl.org

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

P.O. Box 1741
Roswell, GA 30077

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 Call signs: NF4GA and K4JJ

Extra Extra answer: A (question E9G09)

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