

North Fulton Amateur Radio League NFARL eNEWS

May 2021

*Over 40 Years Promoting
Service | Friendship | Education | Fun*

www.nfarl.org



Our Live, In-Person, FACE to FACE May 2021 Meeting/ Mike Riley KN4OAK

May 2021 NFARL Club Meeting- Presenting Your Club Members!

May 2021 marks a point of change in our club meeting process! As the Covid-19 pandemic progresses and restrictions ease, NFARL has a new club meeting opportunity. Given the City of Alpharetta opened a new community center adjacent to the Ed Isakson YMCA at Preston Ridge, and ceased leasing space at the North Park Senior Center, **we are holding our first 2021 "in-person" club meeting at a new location. The Preston Ridge Community Center**, adjacent to the Ed Isakson YMCA, just off North Point Parkway, is a newly remodeled facility that provides us with a larger space, and is easy to access. We've provided a map and directions below.

We hoped to incorporate a "Zoom" like capability into our post pandemic meetings, but we're not capable of meeting this challenge yet. So while there may be club members and potential interested attendees who might still be hesitant about large gatherings, too far away to travel, or for any other circumstance, we will continue the practice of recording the meeting and placing the video on our YouTube channel. The recording should be available within a few days following the meeting. Someday in the future we might be able to simultaneously meet live and electronically (i.e., Zoom), but not for this meeting. **We apologize for no Zoom at our May meeting.**

Enough about the facility, what about the program? An event like this occasion needs a program focused on people and celebrating an in-person gathering. So we're going to center the agenda on welcoming new members and visiting with those who we might not have seen in person since early 2020. We're going to run through a quick club business update, including asking for a motion to vote on the revised club by-laws. We'll also greet folks, go through a look at our under development ARRL Field Day plan, and listen to **our guest Hal Kennedy N4GG**, tell us about his newly released book "Ham Radio Tips & Tales", including what he learned taking it through publishing. Afterwards, we'll take time to socialize and answer questions for new hams and members. We'll close the meeting with our traditional raffles, then stacking chairs. BTW- no more wonky racks, the new chairs are made to stack!

Here's the meeting location address:

Preston Ridge Community Center

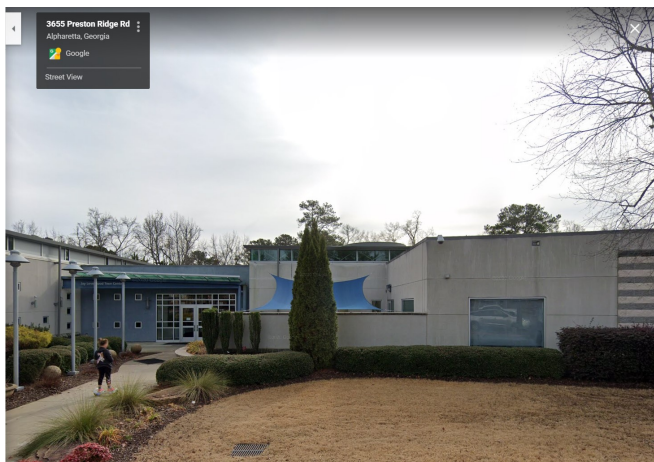
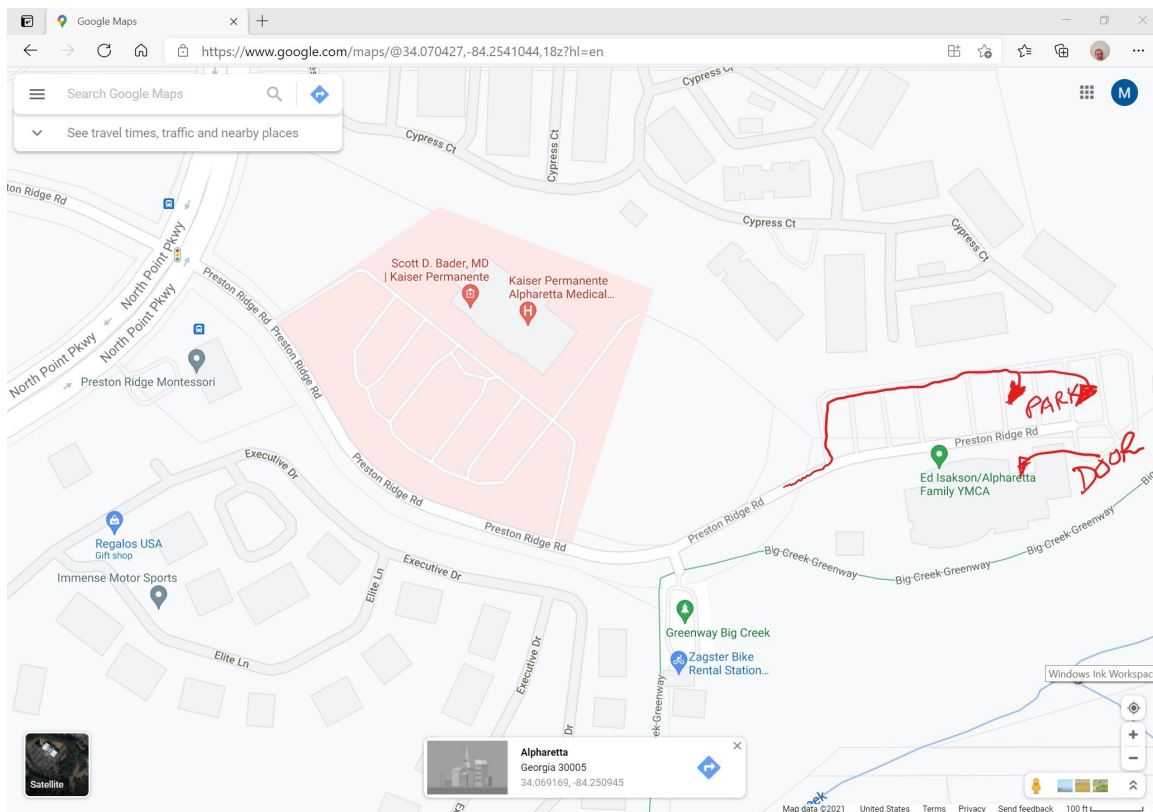
3655 Preston Ridge Road Suite 100

Alpharetta, GA 30005

(Continued on page 2)

May Club Meeting- (continued)

Find the Community Center using Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/3655+Preston+Ridge+Rd+%23100,+Alpharetta,+GA+30005/@34.0686083,-84.2607463,15.81z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x88f59e366168b3d1:0x711de3f8b3c5449!8m2!3d34.0702151!4d-84.2516683?hl=en>



As you come into the parking lot, turn to the left and follow the signs to lead you around the edge of the lot to the far side. There's plenty of parking and the Community Center is at the left end of the building. Go in the front entrance.

The doors will open at 7PM. Our meeting will begin at 7:30PM and concludes by 9PM.

Since the CDC has issued new guidance on masks, we recommend you wear one if you're comfortable doing so, and certainly if you haven't been vaccinated.

We look forward to this meeting, knowing it is a transition into something new. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the club officers with any questions, concerns, thoughts, or comments about the meeting you may have. Emails are best, but phone conversations, in-person discussion, and other communication forms are welcome.

We hope to see you May 18, 2021.

President's Corner / John Norris, N4IHV

Finally, after over one year of Covid-19 restrictions we are now able to meet in person. This event may be like a school reunion where we may not recognize each other. It is definitely not soon enough for me. I have really missed seeing everyone and I am looking forward to all of the lively discussions I know will take place. There are many new members that we have not yet been able to see in person. I feel good knowing we will be able to put names and faces together.

The U.S. Islands 1 Day Get Away event at West Bank Park, Lake Lanier this past weekend was a lot of fun for all. Everyone participating said it was excellent to see people face to face. We got to see some very interesting QRP Rigs with the associated antennas. I discovered the RG 174 coax is amazingly small and will allow 100 watts. The rigs were like cigarette packs in size. Be sure and attend these events and not miss the fun, which included great hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone.

One of the benefits of meeting in person is members typically bring interesting projects for each of us to see and hear about. Sometimes there are things being sold and things being given away. You never know what you may see or miss. When we have presentations at live events, they are always very informative. And besides, the in-person discussions are so much richer than those on a video service like Zoom.

We will spend as much time as needed at our May 18th meeting to greet each other after such a long time away. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting. Don't miss it.

73,

John, NFARL President

N4IHV

Welcome new Featured Columnist Hal Kennedy N4GG / Mike Riley, KN4OAK

May 2021 is turning out to be a notable period of time in the NFARL annals. Not only did we get to begin meeting on a live, face-to-face basis, we also have the opportunity to welcome Hal Kennedy N4GG, as a new member of the featured columnists contributing to the NFARL eNEWS each month. Hal joins folks like Tony Santoro, John Norris, Wes Lamboley and others, who provide original and personalized articles on topics related to ham radio and associated technical interests. Check out Hal's Column "*Around The Shack*" found on page 11 of this NFARL eNEWS edition. Hal provides his articles to various ham radio clubs for use in their newsletters. We're glad he's decided to let us add his work to our newsletter.

After you're done reading this edition, check out Hal's new book "**Ham Radio Tips & Tales**". You can find it on Amazon at [Ham Radio Tips & Tales: Amateur Radio Hints, Tips, Techniques, Insights, Opinions, Bemusement: Kennedy N4GG, Harold \(Hal\): 9798734767788: Amazon.com: Books](#). Better yet, if you're able to attend the May 2021 NFARL club meeting you might find a copy there.

Drop us a note with some feedback on any of the eNEWS articles. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the content, style and length of the various works that these volunteers submit. In fact, consider submitting an article you author. It's easy! Don't consider yourself much of a writer? Don't worry, we've got plenty of assets available to help you out. We even have access to one editor who can make my articles presentable....

Use this link to send your questions, articles, feedback, etc., to NFARL eNEWS; enews@nfarl.org

After 49 years, I'm on the HF bands .../ Tony Santoro, WA3TRA

First: thanks go out to the Elmers W4QO, N4TOL and all those who talked to me on 2 meters, I wouldn't have gotten this far without all of their support.

After 49 years I finally got on the air

This is how I did it: I joined NFARL, and then joined ARRL. I purchased the ARRL Handbook and Extra Class license manual, Twelfth Edition (I have a General License) and I'm studying.

Equipment Obtained:

I obtained the following equipment;

- MFJ-2010 OCFD dipole antenna,
- Coax – courtesy of W4QO Jim Stafford,
- Ten-Tech Jupiter model 538 – used,
- Powerwerx SS-30DV 9 power supply (also used for my mobile unit) and
- MFJ Antenna Analyzer – borrowed from the club.

This is the plan I followed;

1. **Joined NFARL** so I could network. I always networked with people. I helped with resumes and other things through the church, so this is a good fit. Plus I needed a starting point to see if I really want to try this.
2. **Joined the ARRL** – I used to belong years ago so I wanted to research things further
3. **Obtained ARRL Handbook and Extra Class license manual** - Since I have a General License from 'back in the day', going through the study manual has been a great experience. I picked up on things such as Operating Standards, SDR, International frequencies and digital modes.
4. **Set up the rig**

Equipment Rationale:

Now came the technical part. This is logic I used to select the rig;

1. Selected **MFJ-2010 OCFD** antenna. It's multiband (40, 20, 10, & 6 meter). QST, March 2021 - page 51, Jim (W4QO) and Dave Casler (KE0Og) all gave positive feedback on this antenna, so I felt \$66 was a good investment for a starter.
2. **Ten-Tech Jupiter model 538**- I acquired this rig through the club. My sights were really set on the Yaesu 991a, but they are back-ordered, and I was tired of waiting. Plus, I think they have a steep learning curve. I may have shelved the whole thing due to frustration, so the used gear was the way to go.
3. **Coax RG-59u** – courtesy of W4QO Jim Stafford. It works, you'll have to read next month's article for more on that one
4. **MFJ Antenna Analyzer** – borrowed from the club. After using this tool, I find it indispensable if you like to tinker with antennas, cables, etc. I'll be purchasing one of these for sure.

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After 49 years, I'm on the HF bands .../ (continued from page 4)

Site setup:

I live in a subdivision and the backyard is limited to about a 40' X 60' space with many trees. I did have one 71 foot diagonal shot with no trees, but the boss shut me down. Since the dipole is 44' X 22' I did manage to locate it using an angle (90+ degrees). Here are shots of the proposed installation and what I ended up with as an installation.



The proposed Installation



Installed Antenna



Pulley System

Also, I set up a pulley system so I could easily service the antenna.



Coax distance measurement

Coax installation

I used the MFJ analyzer to test the antenna and coax for continuity and cable length. The cable length turned out to be 92 feet.

I finally got on the air on May 1st contacting someone in Lakeland, FL. I started at 5W but increased to 20W for clarity. Bands opened for me in FL, PR, CO and LA. This stuff is really addicting!

I'll report on the SWR findings next month. **73's**

Silent Keys / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

Back in the day, my High School Teacher, Mister Gilbert Wilson, who was also the license holder for our radio club W9GHA at Central High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana, gave me a really nice McElroy "bug". Ted McElroy was the world champ at CW back then, having copied Morse at 75 words-per-minute, and I was proud to have a key with his name on it and did my best to learn to use it properly.



It was pretty noisy when I got up to speed, and I wondered if there was anything I could do to operate more quietly or a way to make the McElroy not so noisy.

I was a member of the ARRL, and in reading QST I noticed, in the index, an article called "Silent Keys". I figured this may be my answer to making my bug less noisy, so I turned to the page and was shocked! The "Silent Key" page was devoted to amateurs that had recently passed.

I did some more looking into the Silent Key background and found that telegraphers and most hams would send SK (diddlydahdidah or dot dot dot dash dot dash) when they were really done with all they had to say for the time being, in other words "End of Transmission for now". The letters SK sent all together - no break between the letters, was all you were going to hear from a particular station.

So - the key from that station/operator was going silent. And - for those hams that passed, their keys were silent as well. Thus - the origin of "Silent Keys" and the history of the meaning.

SK for now-

Wes - W3WL

The Georgia QSO Party



Georgia QSO Party for 2021

NFARL Reaches All-Time High Score for the Event!!!

The 2021 Georgia QSO Party is now in the books. Although the official scores from the GQP administrators have not yet been released, the NFARL "Challenge" totals have been tallied.

Each year, the club sets the goal of having "FUN" as our key objective and by all accounts that was easily achieved this year.

Another goal is to attempt to improve upon the club's prior year score - of which 2020 was a record mark.

The good news is that, in 2021, the "Challenge" team exceeded the record mark from last year by 4.3% and also, again, exceeded the million point threshold.

The NFARL team had an impressive count of 30 participants, and although a bit under last year's number, this core group was focused on improving versus last year's performance. And indeed they did!!

Additionally, we had some impressive rookie entries, and a first time entry in the new portable category that contributed healthy score to the effort.

Following are some impressive notes of participation:

This year 30 stations participated in the "Challenge" on the air - our second highest level to date - only exceeded by last year's Covid "lockdown" figure.

- 29 - the number of total stations in the GQP earning the "Spell NFARL" certificate - a new record !!
- 26 - the number of non-GA stations earning the "Spell NFARL" certificate - a new record !!
- 4 - the number of non-GA stations completing a "Clean Sweep" contacting all ten NFARL 1x1 stations - including 1 DX station
- 3 - the number of NFARL members earning the "Spell NFARL" certificate - matching last year!!!
- 1 - NFARL member completing a "Clean Sweep" contacting all ten NFARL 1x1 stations
Achieved by Steve Mays, KS4KJ
- 2 - the number of "Rookie" participants in the "NFARL Challenge" !!!

The club would like to recognize **Daryl Young, KARGK** for managing the QRZ pages for the special 1x1 calls, facilitating the "Spell NFARL" award program, as well as providing QSL info for stations wishing to receive the special 1x1 QSL card.

Kudos go to **Bill Cobb, K4YJ** for maintaining the info on the NFARL website related to the GQP and his most timely responsiveness to our requests. Every year (especially these past two) this has been a dynamic process as the GQP was constantly adjusting their parameters and rules to deal with the changing landscape of Covid. Through it all Bill helped to keep our data current.

NFARL would also like to thank all those who participated in the Georgia QSO Party and for their efforts in enhancing the fun for all in the contest.

Also, for those who participated in the "NFARL Challenge", scores are being reviewed and compiled for certificate awards to be presented at a future meeting, or perhaps at a virtual time and place.

73 John N4TOL

Balloon Launch in Grovetown / Martha Muir, W4MSA

On Cinco de Mayo, Wes W3WL, his lovely wife, Bev, and Martha drove over to Grovetown, GA, a suburb of Augusta. Along the way, we picked up Section Manager David AG4ZR. We were heading to the Savannah River Academy.

The Savannah River Academy (SRA) was selected for an ARISS Radio Contact which will occur next fall. The Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County (ARCCC), under the dynamic leadership of Rachel KO4HLC, has been working with the students at SRA getting them ready for their ARISS contact with lessons on ham radio and other STEM rich topics. The kids are eating up what they are presenting.

Among the activities and topics they have done with the students are CW, having the students make CW bead bracelets based on their names, making QSL cards, practicing procedures when you speak to someone on the radio by using walkie talkies, actually talking to hams using the local repeater, learning about the layers of the atmosphere, and more. The latest activity Rachel organized for SRA is the launching of some sensor laden balloons.

Martha has been working with Rachel since she began filling out the application proposal for the ARISS contact. They had talked on the phone, exchanged emails, and even had Zoom chats but this was the first time they'd met face to face. Rachel excitedly invited us all over for this great event.

Wes, Bev, David, and Martha drove the most boring highway in the US to the eastern edge of Georgia. Wes brought his Tesla coil and a collection of Jim W4QO's CW devices to 'edutain' the students. But why? What's the NFARL connection?



Wes and Bev talking with the lead science teacher at SRA.

YESA has supplied funds and some CPO kits to the ARCCC to help with their activities.

Daryl K4RGK will be serving as the technical mentor on site, setting up and operating the equipment for the ARISS. He has been advising members of ARCCC, too. Martha is the ARISS Educational Ambassador assigned to this ARISS.

NFARL member Tom W4SDR served as a resource for Rachel and answered many of her questions about balloon launches.

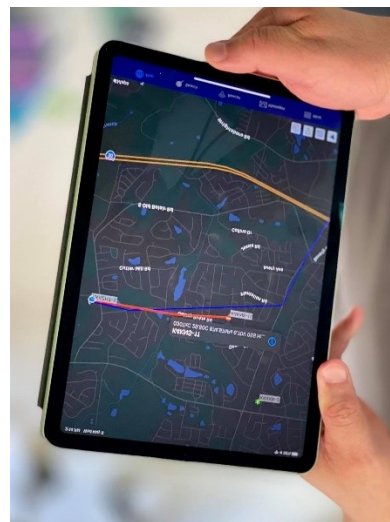
(Continued on page 9)

Balloon Launch in Grovetown / (continued from page 8)

The local media were present for the balloon launch and items about it appeared on the local TV news and in area newspapers. Here is a link to one of the news blurbs. <https://www.wfxg.com/story/43828852/students-at-savannah-river-academy=participate-in-weather-balloon-launch>



The balloon designed to circumnavigate the globe was lost early after launching. The other one, designed to pop at 70,000 feet, was followed over 150 miles to the eastern side of South Carolina. It landed in and was retrieved from a swampy area by a member of the Civil Air Patrol in Augusta. Rachel and others will examine and process the data collected during the flight. Here is one of the photos it took on its journey, a photo of it being found, and a photo of the track of the flight.



This project has been a great experience for everyone at the school – the students, their parents, and the faculty. This is just the beginning and the NFARL connection will continue.

Photographs courtesy from Martha Muir W4MSA, David Benoist AG4ZR, and ARCCC

Thank You COVID? / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

As I have mentioned before, it has been my privileged to talk with the test-takers at Slope's BBQ after they take their amateur radio license exams. I like chatting with them and discovering why or what inspired them to get involved with ham radio. About 35% tell me that "They were interested in ham radio but never had the time and with COVID, and staying at home, they just DID IT!" So, maybe there was a a bit of a silver lining in COVID for ham radio, but I am sure glad it is winding down.

This month's exam candidates have a profile similar to those previously testing in recent times. Two couples took the test, as they wanted to be able to communicate with each other on hikes and camping. One guy had been in the Coast Guard Communications branch and is now retired and wanted to get back in to commo! He had his Tech for some time and wants to start using his Icom 7300 on HF for more than just listening. Yet another guy had broken his leg and while recuperating he decided to use his time to pursue a boyhood dream and get a license. Still another is an EE and loves to experiment and has figured out that ham radio will offer him that capability.

I am soooo looking forward to our "In Person" meeting coming up in May, as it will give all of you a chance to meet and get to know the new hams associated with NFARL! I hope to see you all there.

de 73,

Wes

Candidate Name	Test	Call (If Any)
Andrew Saul	Technician and General	
Bradley Davis	Technician	
Edward Warren	Technician	
Katherine Finlay	Technician	
William Bishop, Jr	Technician	
Thomas Keister	Technician	
Mohammad Wasiuddin	Technician	
Robert Achtenberg	Technician	
Taylor Hoynes	General	K4TEH
James Davis, Jr	General	KO4PYE
Rebecca Norman	Technician	
Mariann Norman	Technician	

My Squirrely BOG

This month we will drop in on the tangled web of a Beverage antenna, a squirrel and a high power amplifier. What could go wrong?

If you are into low band DXing you probably have a separate receiving antenna. Even if you don't however, you may know about Beverage antennas. Invented by Harold H. "Bev" Beverage in 1921, the Beverage has been a mainstay low-noise high-performance receiving antenna for 100 years – at both amateur and commercial stations. Wikipedia and the ARRL Antenna Book have good descriptions of a Beverage's design, theory and performance. It's a great antenna which is why it has stood the test of time.

Beverages have a drawback however – they are big. Beverages are typically one wavelength long, which for 160 meters is 545 feet. Very few QTHs have room for a full-sized 160 meter Beverage. Unless your backyard adjoins deep woods or you live on a farm, you probably won't own a full size 160 Beverage. You might be able to squeeze in a Beverage for 80 meters however. It would be around 260 feet long. Fortunately, not having the room for a Beverage is not the handicap it once was. Phased short verticals (on the order or 10 to 20 feet tall) now provide performance equal to a Beverage without the necessary acreage. Several companies sell phased vertical receiving systems and it's not difficult to make your own.

In addition to length, Beverages have a few other less-than-ideal characteristics. They work best strung about 6 feet above the ground. That makes them easy to work on, which is a good thing because deer, falling limbs, etc. will necessitate occasional repairs. Also, they only receive in two directions. To cover four directions requires two Beverages at right angles to each other. From here on the East Coast the "solution" is often to put up one Beverage pointed at Europe and settle for that. The vertical arrays are nice in that the good ones can be switched through eight directions.

In the past 30 years there has been interest in placing Beverage wires on the ground. Hence the name: BOG (Beverage on the ground). BOGs have two advantages over traditional Beverages. First, at ground level they have low maintenance and a low profile and second, they are half the length of a traditional Beverage. For 160 meters, 260 feet is a good length for a BOG and something shorter will work. An 80 meter BOG would be about 130 feet long.

Why are BOGs shorter? It's due to the velocity factor (Vf) of wire on the ground being around 0.5. This varies widely based on soil type and conductivity. The earth is part of a Beverage antenna, whether it's full sized or a BOG. I have heard stories of ardent DXers and contesters going out with a hose and watering the ground under a Beverage or BOG the day before the big DX shows up or the big contest starts. Is this true or folklore? I have personally used a ground return wire under a Beverage. This was on Bonaire (PJ4) at the suggestion of W4OC (sk). The "earth" on Bonaire is mostly coral and non-conductive. The underlying ground wire worked well.

When in Maryland, N4GG was on a small lot with acres of commons-property woods behind it and, of course, deed restrictions. I was able to get some dipoles and Lazy-Hs up in the woods, but a Beverage was out of the question. I didn't have 525 linear feet and neighbors routinely roamed the woods. A six foot high wire wasn't possible. So, what about a BOG? Being an experimenter at heart I figured it was worth a try. I strung 250 of wire on the ground in the woods, pointing toward Europe. I installed the appropriate terminating resistor at the far end and connected it to a ground rod. Ask me sometime about laying wire in the woods at night and stealthily driving ground rods. It took about 100 feet of RG8/X to get from the shack to the BOG feed point.

(Continued on page 12)

Performance of my BOG became a mystery for two years. It seemed to work great the first night I owned it. It was pointed toward Europe and the signal to noise ratio for European stations was a vast improvement on the BOG vs. the transmitting antenna. These things work (or so I thought)!

The second night, performance was way down. In fact, besides signal levels being down, the directivity and signal-to-noise improvement of the prior night seemed to be gone. Was the second night a propagation fluke? 160 is like that, good one night and poor the next. Or was the first night just my confirmation-bias at work? Maybe BOGs don't work?

After several nights I gave up on the BOG. It didn't work. The first night performance must have been my imagination. I walked the wire in the woods and checked the connections multiple times. It was all there, hooked up properly and not working. I could hear a few stations, faintly, but that was not consistent with what others' claimed.

This took place in 1997 around the time two meter spotting networks started up. There was a very large and active network in the metro DC/MD/VA area and the closest network station to me (N3RR) was about two miles away. I decided the 100 feet of RG8/X feeding the dead BOG for the past two years would be better served feeding a small two meter ground plane I could use to log into the spotting network. That all went smoothly enough and I was able to log into the network, but slowly something dawned on me. The two meter signal from N3RR – a mere two miles away – was weak. Also, I could tell my signal as received at N3RR was weak due to the network often ignoring me in favor of stronger stations.

I'm slow sometimes but I finally deduced it was time to check the coax. Sure enough, the ground plane was an open circuit at the antenna end, and I measured a short at the shack end. Where was the short? Somewhere out in the 100 foot run of coax something had happened.

Knowing there was a short somewhere in the coax and actually finding it were two different things. This was Maryland in the winter. The coax was under 4 inches of snow. Snow with a nice crunchy ice cap. If you have lived in the north you are familiar with the slight thawing of snow during the day followed by refreezing at night, resulting in ice on top of snow. I *really* didn't want to go out back and find that short. It was cold and I'd potentially be digging up 100 feet of snow to inspect the coax while not being exactly sure what I was looking for. If the shield was touching the center conductor inside the jacket, I would not be able to see it.

One of the acquisitions at N4GG at that time was an Alpha 99 amp. As I became familiar with that amp I marveled at how forgiving the output tuning was. I think Alpha rated that amp for up to 3:1 SWR but I routinely used it at much higher SWR and the amp never cared. The thing was built like a tank. After 60 years of building, repairing and operating amps of every description, the Alpha 99 is still my favorite manual tune amplifier.

Pondering my shorted coax dilemma, I had an idea. How much power could an Alpha 99 deliver into shorted coax? This is not the sort of question one spends a lot of time theorizing about. This is something you try. At the time the concept was to "burn through the short and keep on going." Okay, time to flip switches.

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The Alpha did not like the 20:1 (plus or minus) SWR the shorted coax presented, but the amp would deliver around 500 watts into that load before the internal protection circuits tripped it off. So, I ran 500 watts, key down, into 100 feet of shorted RG8/X for a while to see what would happen. At the shack end nothing noticeable was going on. The amp was making 500 watts and humming along as Alphas do. A trip out back, crunching my way through the ice and snow, revealed a different story.

A six inch circle of melted snow and ice was evident about 50 feet from the house. Steam was rising! I had found the short, or the Alpha 99 had found the short depending on how you view it.

At the site of the short were...teeth marks. A squirrel had bitten my brand new RG8/X after one night of successful operation of the BOG. It wasn't my imagination after all. The BOG did work well - for one night.

Lessons learned:

- BOGs work.
- Squirrels are trouble.
- Alphas, and vacuum tube manual-tune amps in general are capable of driving nearly anything. Try driving a one ohm load with a solid state amp.
- Doubt can sure cloud one's judgment!

73,

Hal, N4GG

NFARL Proposed Bylaws Revisions / Mike Riley, KN40AK

*Our Board has revised the **NFARL bylaws**. They are posted [here](#) for a 30 day review period that began 5/7/2020. Club members will be asked to approve them at the May 18, 2021 club meeting. Please take a few minutes to review them and be prepared to make an informed vote.*

This notice has been on the NFARL website Home page for a year or so. The NFARL Board wants to make sure club business can be managed effectively. So, please take the time to review the information so you can help by making an informed decision on the proposed revisions. The Board will be seeking to secure a motion for voting on the changes at the May 18, 2021 meeting.

The NFARL webpage containing the Bylaws has the current version, the proposed version, and a summary of the difference document. That page can be accessed [here](#). The proposed changes are in response to clarification and changes to the originals over time.

ARRL—NFARL Field Day 2021 / Mike Riley, KN4OAK

ARRL 2021 Field Day is June 26-27, 2021. ARRL2021 Field Day will be different than 2020 Field Day for a number of reasons. One of the most obvious differences will be NFARL's "at the park presence" in 2021.

Like ARRL, NFARL began planning 2021 Field Day earlier this year. The City of Roswell has granted use of the Groveway Community Park facilities to NFARL and we're on the way to securing the equipment and materials needed for Field Day operations. You'll hear more about the operational and activity plans, volunteer opportunities, and event schedule during the next month. In the meantime, here's some information to help provide insight to a major North America amateur radio event of the year.

Q: When is ARRL 2021 Field Day?

A: ARRL Field Day is held on the fourth full weekend of June each year. ARRL 2021 Field Day will take place on June 26-27, 2021.

Q: Is ARRL Field Day a national holiday?

A: No, ARRL Field is not a national holiday (although I'm sure there are some people who wouldn't mind if it were considered someday...). ARRL Field Day is an event held in the U.S. and Canada that promotes the interaction of amateur radio, the public, civil and governmental services, regulatory agencies and others, to demonstrate and explore related science, technologies, operations and benefits to society associated with ham radio. You can learn more about ARRL Field Day at www.arrl.org/field-day.

Q: What benefit does North Fulton Amateur Radio League receive from participating in ARRL Field Day?

A: There are several benefits NFARL realizes from participation ARRL Field Day. One is the opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the surrounding communities and supporting organizations through shared practice of communication and event coordination. Another is demonstration of radio operations and communication capabilities to the public. Functioning as a long-term high performance nationally recognized club organization is also something we take pride in.

Q: What benefits do individual hams receive from participating in ARRL Field Day?

A: Introducing the amateur radio hobby to others and helping teach others along the way. Personal development through experiences undertaken that one would not normally get operating at their home stations. Enjoyment and comraderies of operating in large and small teams and sharing results.

Q: What about COVID / pandemic related health concerns? Will safety measures be in place during the event?

A: While the NFARL cannot control all requirements and procedures for safety, we will have protocols and systems in place to assist with making the event activities and site safe while we operate during Field Day.

Q: When can we sign up to volunteer in the ARRL-NFARL 2021 Field Day event?

A: Activity opportunities and volunteer assignment details are under development. Sign up for positions and opportunities that are known will be available beginning the week of May 17, 2021.

Q: Is there a team that will be coordinating the NFARL 2021 Field Day activities?

A: Yes, there is an ARRL-NFARL 2021 Field Day team coming together to coordinate event operations. Mike Riley KN4OAK, John Norris N4IHV, and Fred Ackley W4FRA will be leading the NFARL

(Continued on page 15)

ARRL—NFARL Field Day 2021 / continued from page 14

2021 Field Day event coordination.

Q: Is NFARL planning to hold a picnic as part of the ARRL-NFARL 2021 Field Day event?

A: Yes! The picnic has always been an important element in past Field Day events. This year, we are once again pleased to announce that Lynn Kahn N4MSK, has offered her talent and skills to lead the foodservice support aspects within the NFARL Field Day operations. Lynn and her team will be sharing information as the plan develops over the next several weeks.

Q: Where can the rules covering the ARRL Field Day 2021 be found so individuals can become familiar with them?

A: ARRL has the rules posted on their website. ARRL has elected to extend the rules waivers used Field Day 2020 as well as add Class D and E power limits. You can access the information through this link: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day#rules>

We'll share more information at the May 18, 2021 NFARL Club meeting.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the NFARL Field Day 2021 Team leaders for assistance.

You can reach Mike at KN4OAK@nfarl.org or call Mike at 404-680-2132.

You can Reach John at jwn45@bellsouth.net

You can reach Fred at kk4jyo@gmail.com

de 73,

Mike KN4OAK

NFARL Mart Opportunities / Mike Riley, KN4OAK

Lori K4UPI, and Daryl K4RGK, Young are long-time NFARL members who have contributed in many ways to the club operations and success. Presently, they oversee the merchandise operations on the NFARL Mart. After handling the merchandise operations in expert fashion, they now wish to pass this opportunity along to another NFARL member.

Currently the NFARL Mart is set up as an integral part of the NFARL website. The WordPress application tool greatly simplifies the retail sales aspect of order management. This leaves more opportunity for the role of product management, where the responsible manager(s) can focus energy on the supply chain and product catalogue content. If you enjoyed this type of role in the past, or if you'd like to try it as a new challenge, please contact John Norris N4IHV at your earliest convenience. Lori and Daryl can provide you with background operating information, as well as share some key aspects of the role that they've acquired through experience.

Thanks in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Mike KN4OAK

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



E3C14- Why does the radio-path horizon distance exceed the geometric horizon?

- A) E-region skip
- B) Downward bending due to density variations in the atmosphere
- C) D-region skip
- D) Due to the Doppler effect

See answer on the last page!

Studying for your Amateur Extra-class license?

The [current question pool](#) is effective through June 30, 2024

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](#).

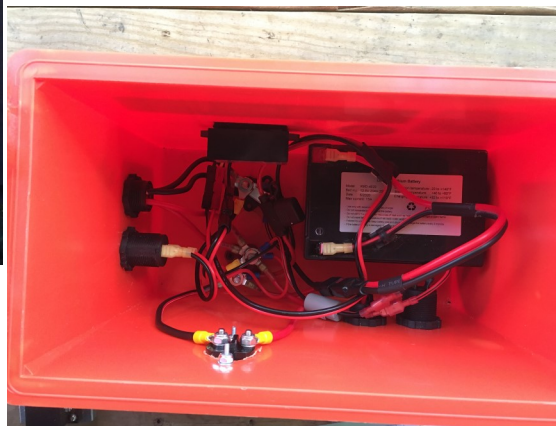
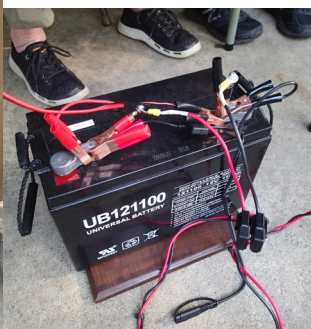
Ian NV4C and his team hold license test sessions on the second Saturday of each month.

For more information including upcoming test dates, [click here](#).

U.S. Islands 1 Day Get-Away / Terry Joyner, W4YBV

Here are some photographs from the NFARL U.S. Islands 1 Day Get-Away event May 8, 2021. The event was held at West Bank Park, Lake Lanier, GA. We had a great time, QSOs, RDF hunting, examining the different rigs and just talking amongst friends!

Thanks to Edith KN4NDV, and Dave KO4USA, for their time spent as chefs! Thanks Fred W4FRA ,for getting things organized! Thanks Tim WK4U, for providing the RDF items!



(Continued on page 18)

U.S. Islands 1 Day Get-Away / continued from page 17



(Continued on page 19)

U.S. Islands 1 Day Get-Away / Terry Joyner, W4YBV



U.S. Islands 1 Day Get-Away / Terry Joyner, W4YBV



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 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 Thursday — CW SIG** — 8:00 PM on ZOOM. Meeting ID is 815 5160 3634; password is CW-CHAT (all CAPS)
- **Every Saturday — Royal Order of the Olde Geezers "Breakfast"** - 9 AM-10AM
This informal breakfast group on Saturday mornings is NOW on ZOOM. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84974393861?pwd=b2l5cWx6djVIUFY5UVZoQjZrckFFQT09> Meeting ID: 849 7439 3861 Passcode: ROOG
- **Second Tuesday — NFARES Meeting** - May 11, 2021 ***Online meetings only until COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted.*** Check NFARES.org for more information.
- **Second Saturday — VE Testing - NFARL June 12, 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.
- **Third Tuesday — NFARL Club Meeting** - May 18, 2021, 7:30 PM
LIVE meeting! NEW LOCATION! Preston Ridge Community Center
— May 2021 Meeting: Social Catch Up; Hello to New Hams & New Members
Door opens at 7PM for Social Networking. Meeting begins promptly at 7:30. See Page 1
- **Fourth Tuesday — NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - May 25, 2020, 7:00 PM
Online meeting only
— monitor website and NFARL Groups.io reflector for updates.
- **May 22 Tailgate in Forsyth**- Forsyth, Georgia at the Monroe County Recreational Complex at 100 Dan Pitts Drive, which is just off of I-75 exit 188, across the interstate from the GPSTC training center. The event will run from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm . Call Tim/ N5FBI at 770-358-2789 or email at N5FBI@ARRL.NET

Contact Us

President	John Norris N4IHV	President@nfarl.org
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Field Day Chair	Mike Riley KN4OAK	FieldDay@nfarl.org
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eNews Team	Help Wanted!!	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 Callsigns: NF4GA and K4JJ

Extra Extra answer: B (question E3C14)

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