



# eNEWS Apr 2009

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

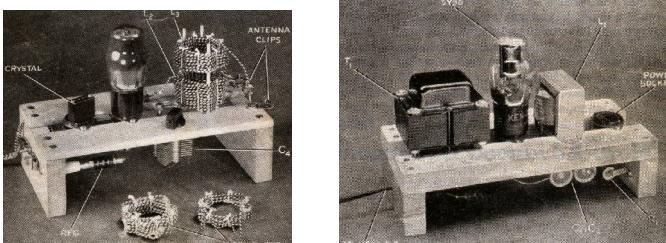
eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton!** Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org or eHAM.net for the national news, but here's your **North Fulton ARL eNEWS** for April 2009.



## **Summary of upcoming events and dates**

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:45 AM - Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday** - **NFARES net** - 8:30PM - 147.06 Mhz (+ 600) & PL 100
- **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100)
- **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** - 5:00 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** - **Code practice** 8:00 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100)
- **Alive-After-Five – April 16.** 5PM – 9PM

**Regular Club Meeting – Tuesday, April 21, 2009 - 7:30 PM** - Our next club meeting is Tuesday, **April 21<sup>st</sup>** at **7:30 PM** where we'll feature Dr. **Don Nesbitt, N4HH**, talking about Merry Go Round Radio. Don was first licensed back in May 23, 1955 as **WN9VZY**. Armed with the 1950 edition of the ARRL's "How to Become a Radio Amateur," I built and tested a single 6V6 crystal controlled oscillator complete with a transformer operated power supply wherein we were admonished that: ". . . it does use about 350 volts. That can easily be lethal, so use the greatest care and respect when working with it." This is scary stuff!



He currently has 351 confirmed countries worked, (Not with this 6V6, but I bet he wishes it was). He will discuss his experiences with various HF rigs while focusing on specifications, measurements and operating impressions of HF radios in the market today. Don will also provide an analysis of radios currently in use by local amateurs. Join us for dinner prior to the meeting at the Golden Corral at 6 PM. Details are at <http://www.nfarl.org/meetings.html> .

FREE refreshments - meet friends - socialize - bring a show and tell item to talk about - Enjoy the space - Wear your NFARL shirts, name tags, etc. **Talk in - 145.47 MHz** Details / maps / photos are on the NFARL website. Plenty of seating and plenty of parking (including additional parking across the street at the old Milton high school) bring friends, relatives, neighbors...

**We meet here: Masonic Lodge Hall, 194 Milton Ave, Alpharetta, GA.** Go to map: <http://tinyurl.com/5t7swd> . The Lodge is located directly across from the old Milton High

school on Milton Ave.

**Door prizes - Toys for Techies** - If everyone brings one good, clean item/book to give away as door prizes, then everyone will win one... + Gift Certificate from HRO. Are you supporting HRO?

**Eat before We meet** - If you are interested in dinner before the meeting, you can join us at our **NEW LOCATION**, the **Golden Corral** just north of the Northpoint Mall shopping district and east of GA400 and Haynes Bridge, located at 915 North Point Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022. Click <http://tinyurl.com/cnseg5> to see a map. The advantage of eating at the **Golden Corral** is that it is all self service, no ordering off a menu, and no waiting for a waitress/waiter to serve you and is only about a mile from where we had been meeting and we should be able to comfortably finish in time to arrive at the meeting by 7:30 PM. The space will hold 50 and is reserved from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

### **Presidents Corner**



March was a lot of fun for our club members beginning with a kitting and build-a-thon focused on our youth members. During this session our youth members kitted 200 Joule Thief Kits as well as building one of the kits for themselves. [http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart\\_v2.php](http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart_v2.php) The proceeds from the sale of these kits have been used to buy ham radio books for the public libraries in the area. In March we delivered the books to the public libraries [http://www.nfarl.org/photoAlbum2009/Library\\_Project/index.html](http://www.nfarl.org/photoAlbum2009/Library_Project/index.html) where they were gratefully received by the librarians.



Our March program was fantastic. Bill Barr, N4NX, a club member and member of the K5D Desecheo DXpedition, presented a slide show and explanation of the trip. Everyone was amazed at the complexity and success of the K5D DXpedition. Thank you Bill! Finally we wrapped up March with a very successful club table at the Kenneehoochee Hamfest. At the hamfest we signed up many new members, portrayed the club, and youth members sold the Joule Thief kits. A special thank you goes to the Kenneehoochee Amateur Radio Club for putting on a great hamfest.

April brings more great activities for our club. Already we've had a great Mid-Month Madness by Jim, W4QO, and Joe, N7QPP, on managing batteries. Members who attended this event had the opportunity to learn how to properly store, maintain, charge, and test their batteries. We also sold \$310 worth of batteries for our club treasury. These are new 7 Ah, 12V, batteries that were donated by Ollie, KE4HMN. Thank you very much Ollie!

Please also plan to join the North Fulton ARES meeting on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> where Jim, W4QO, will teach message traffic handling in a very fun and interactive manner.

<http://www.nfarl.org/ares.html> .

On April 25th many of your club members will be conducting a special Technician HamCram for the Methodist Disaster Relief Association in Conyers. This is another way your club is helping promote ham radio throughout the Greater Atlanta area.

As you can see, your club is sponsoring many activities and is dedicated to promoting ham radio. Please continue to participate in these activities and offer to help or lead one of the activities where you have some expertise. We can only maintain this level of activity with your continued support. Thank you for all you do to make the club so fantastic.

73, Mack, WB4MAK

**MMM – Mid Month Madness!! You say "What is this Mid Month Madness?"**

Well, Mid-Month Madness is a great way to increase your learning and technical skills in a hands on fashion. Join the North Fulton Amateur Radio League for an exciting amateur radio activity. These activities are announced on the web page at [www.nfarl.org](http://www.nfarl.org). Some of our past activities included an antenna building party, kit building, and shack tours. These have all been well attended events that offered amateur radio operators exciting ways to learn more about ham radio.

**HEY! Is your QSL card on the website? – Bring your QSL card to the meeting,** and we will place them on the NFARL web site <http://www.nfarl.org/qslMembers.html>. As time goes on, we will be incorporating areas for narrative BIO's and what ever else that "YOU" want to insert with your card. We now have over 243 members and only 39 club member QSL's on the website. **Please bring your QSL CARD and HELP get our club cards on the page!!**

**NFARES Update** –Thanks to the operators who assisted with the City of Sandy Springs damage assessment on 4/14/09. They were: **Tom Koch (W4UOC), John Maguire (K4AMM), Bill Reed (K4YJI), Dave Hazell (KD9RU), Jim Stafford (W4QO), Marilyn Stafford (K4ZOL), Steve Knittel (KC4YBO), Jim Paine (N4SEC), Wayne Chapman (KG5WU), and David Walls (KC4YBT)**. Their assistance in coordinating and executing the assessment was invaluable to the City of Sandy Springs. We also appreciate the use of the **147.06** repeater while coordinating this effort.

The Sandy Springs Challenge is being held on May 3rd. It is a .6 mile course with a series of foot and bike races. Volunteers are needed from 11-6 p.m. for course monitoring and other activities. Please contact Shelia [KD4NKE@nfarl.org](mailto:KD4NKE@nfarl.org) to volunteer for this event.

**NFARL TECH NET meets Mondays at 8:30 PM** - Join us on **145.47** to discuss technical topics lead by **Joe N7QPP**. As far as we know, no one else conducts a net quite like this one. It uses the repeater, Google, a chat room, and now **Echolink** to enhance the quality of this unique net. Go to the website and look [www.nfarl.org/nets.html](http://www.nfarl.org/nets.html). There you'll find the link to the CHAT room. Some great links are posted each week as participants search for answers on the web and listen to experienced members explain things on the repeater.

**YOUTH NET**– Meets every Friday at 5:00 PM on 145.47 Mhz (PL 100). You also do NOT have to be a YOUTH to join the net. Let help get this net going.

**Repeater News** - Don't forget the club's newest repeater. This is a joint venture with the MATPARC club and is located on 224.620 Mhz. Program your radio to listen to 224.62, set that channel for MINUS 1.6 MHZ offset and a PL100. If you do not have PLL, dial **7411**. All the repeaters seem to be working as designed and are listed at the bottom of this eNEWS.

During the month of April, there will be major improvements made to the antennas and feed lines for the 440M and 220M repeaters on Sweat Mountain. This should improve the coverage and performance of these repeaters in our coverage area. We also have plans, in the not too distant future, to install a 900 MHz repeater for club member use. Special thanks go to Fred, N4CLA, and Mike, W5JR, for leading this effort.

Also special thanks goes to Mike, W5JR, for modifying a Motorola Maxtrac 2M radio to enable carrier operated squelch keying of the club Echolink node. I'm sure you'll agree that Echolink performance has been greatly improved. Thank you Mike!

**SERA NEWS** - What is **SERA**? **South Eastern Repeater Association**. Do you get the SERA Journal? Go to: [www.sera.org](http://www.sera.org) for info on how to join SERA and support the coordinating body that coordinates the repeaters in the South East.

**Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch each Wednesday @11:45 till?** We meet at Slopes BBQ on Crossville Rd in Roswell. Talk in 145.47. All are welcome to attend, whether you are a NFARL member or not. Remember, when you go through the line, be sure to ask them to print a receipt and credit the Radio Club. It helps the cause. We have been having a consistent 20+ in attendance. BUT GUESS what? For the longest time, our record attendance was 28 until March 4<sup>th</sup>. We had another record attendance on Wednesday March 4th. **32. Wow!**

**Bring a book to donate to the club library** - We especially need license manuals of all classes. Remember these "expire" and you don't need it now that you've passed. Bring them to the meeting every month and pass to our librarian - Cathy, KI4SBK.

**Club Membership** – Remember back in January 2008, when we stated that our goal for 2008 would be **150**? And then before year end we hit **188!!** Well, would you believe we hit **237** as of Feb 12, and at the time of this news letter, we are now at **250**?

**Please welcome** – our newest members. We wish to say thank you for choosing NFARL for your personal involvement in Amateur Radio. We also want to thank our members that have continued to show their support by renewing their membership. These people represent our membership activity for January, February and March 2009.

**When you see these people at a meeting or here them on the repeaters,  
please welcome these NEW MEMBERS.**

Fname	Mname	Lname	CallSign	YM Joined NFARL	Member #	ARRL
Mike		Cohen	AD4MC	2009-03	520	y
Matt		Garland	AJ4NT	2009-03	518	y
William		Bateman	K6WVB	2009-03	511	y
Eddie	L	Turner	KC4AWZ	2009-02	507	y
Thomas		Tickle	KD5TFR	2009-02	510	y
Russell	L	Tower	KF4JUN	2009-03	513	y
Wayne		Chapman	KG5WU	2009-02	509	y
Alexander		Williamson	KI4IMZ	2009-02	506	y
David		Lemcoe	KI4YJL	2009-03	517	n

Chris		Fowler	KI4YMD	2009-03	519	y
Keith	W	Nelson	KJ4DFP	2009-02	505	y
Chris		Howard	KJ4HYG	2009-03	512	Y
Joe		Urso	KJ4IXJ	2009-03	515	y
Jonathan	Jackson	Doyle	KJ4IZB	2009-03	516	n
Vanessa		Camilli	N0CAL	2009-03	522	n
Bill		Douglas	N3RXS	2009-03	521	n
Neil		Foster	N4FN	2009-03	514	y
Neal		Starkey	NU4D	2009-02	508	L

***Thank you to the following for their continued support of NFARL***

Name	CALL SIGN	USER#	Member Since	ARRL Mbr
Beeman, Bob	K4BB	264	1999-01	Yes
Black Jr, Richard A.	K4RAB	342	2007-03	Yes
McGee, Roger	K4RNM	294	2001-03	Expired
Kludt, John	K7SYS	344	2007-03	Yes
Cherian, Aj	KG4TTQ	402	2008-03	Yes
Parker, Scott	KG4ZLI	458	2008-09	No
Burgett, Jeff	KI4UTS	343	2007-03	Yes
Crimm, Steve	KJ4CUR	403	2008-03	Yes
Whitelock, Ray	KJ4DYG	408	2008-03	No
Moore, David	KU4MT	352	2007-04	Yes
Dendy, John	N4CUS	404	2008-03	Yes
Paine, Jim	N4SEC	407	2008-03	Yes
Harris, Curtis	W2IQA	325	2004-03	Life
Vitolo, Anthony	W4AV	412	2008-04	Yes
Myers, Joel	W4JNM	411	2008-04	Yes
McCormick, Mack	WB4MAK	351	2007-03	Yes
Houston, Bill	WD4LUQ	405	2008-03	No

**Youth Membership -** The executive committee voted to give all youth "FREE" membership in NFARL until the end of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, regardless of whether you are a family member or not. Just go to the Mart page on our web site and complete the member information form

**So, ya wanna learn code? -** Jim, W4QO, Chuck AE4CW and Chris KJ4HYG, continue to make great progress with helping people learn Morse code in the **CW-SIG (Special Interest Group)**. NFARL is continuing code practice on **Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 8 PM on the 145.47 repeater** and each Friday, Jim W4QO, will offer a code test for those who would like an "unofficial" code endorsement on their ham license.

**ARRL Membership -** Currently we are at 70% of our club membership. Our goal is to have as many NFARL members as possible be members of the ARRL. You can now use **PayPal** to join ARRL - using <http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart.html>. **NFARL benefits financially if you will join or renew your ARRL membership thru NFARL. So help us out when you join or renew.**

***It is EASIER TO JOIN and renew -*** We have made it even easier for you to continue your membership or join NFARL by simply clicking on this link <http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart.html> and taking advantage of the new secure **PayPal** or

personal credit card function on our newly revamped NFARL web site. No more check writing, no more stamps, no more envelopes, no more electronic bill pays. There has always been some question regarding **when dues are due**. The way the club dues/renewals are currently set up is they are due every 12 months from the date you joined NFARL. So if you joined in May, your renewal date would be due on the next May. This basically does two things for the club. First, it keeps a more constant cash flow for the club receivables, and second, it makes it easier on you. If you find that you need to change your annual renewal date to fit your budget, just say so. It is just a click away on the computer.

**Check out our website & join our Yahoo reflector** – Here's how to keep in touch with your club. Visit our website - [www.nfarl.org](http://www.nfarl.org) - You'll find all kinds of valuable info there, such as up to the minute news, how to become a ham or upgrade, **photos** of club events, a **roster** of members, and a club **calendar**. While you're there click on the **YAHOO GROUP** button and take a spin around. While you're at the NFARL YAHOO GROUP, click on the **JOIN THIS GROUP** button and become part of the NFARL mailing list. You may also join by simply sending an email message with your **name** and **callsign** in the body of the message to: [nfarl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nfarl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**NFARL WEBSITE #1** – Thanks go to Bill, K4YJJ for the continued outstanding job that he is doing on the web site. The next time you see Bill, say thank you. You can also go to <http://www.nfarl.org/eNewsIndex.html> and get **previous issues of the eNEWS**. From now on, the newsletter will be stored on the website without being attached to your typical email newsletter notification and will be just a hot link in the email.

### **Name Badges**



NFARL now has a very nice name badge that sports our **club LOGO, Call Sign, First name, City and State** and has a magnetic back so it does not poke holes in your shirts. We are going to place another order after the meeting so if you are interested in ordering one of these badges, you can order off the web before the meeting or at the meeting for \$9/ea. paid at order time.

[http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart\\_v2\\_badgeSpecs.php](http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart_v2_badgeSpecs.php)

The badge is 3" wide by 2" high and comes with a magnetic back. We've found a vendor who will provide them to us for \$9.00 each including postage. Below is the ordering process

**When we receive your specifications and payment we'll place your badge order into our badge design & production process.** This is a batch process, and the ordering process does not begin until we have several badge orders in hand. The entire process can take up to four weeks so please be patient.

Here are the steps involved:

1. You order and pay for your badge via the webpage (or you can pay with cash or a check)
2. Several orders are gathered into a batch
3. The batch is then sent to the graphic designer for mock up
4. Your mock up is then emailed back to you for approval
5. Once we have approval from everyone in the batch, the order is then placed with the supplier.
6. Your badge is then made and mailed directly to you

Thanks for ordering from the NFARL Mart!!

**North Fulton Public Libraries** - NFARL recently completed an ARRL book donation program at all 5 North Fulton area libraries. All branches now have the latest Technician and General License Manuals and the comprehensive introductory book "Getting Started in Amateur Radio". In addition, the books total over \$700 retail and were spread among - **Ocee, Spruill, Alpharetta, Roswell, and Sandy Springs** branches. Books ranging from the **Amateur Radio Handbook** to the **Operating Manual** are in the collection but not at each location. Stop by your local branch in the next few weeks and ask to see the "ARRL books" which should be on the shelf shortly. There should also be an "attribution" plate inside the front covers of these books showing the club's name. For more photos, visit the NEWS page on the club website. Many thanks for this club donation go to Jim Stafford, W4QO, for heading up this project. This is the kit project that is providing the funding for these books. Don't forget to help the cause **get your Joule Thieves**. They are only \$5.00. These will be available at the meeting and at the lunches. These are also great tools for teaching young people how to build a project.



### ***Mentoring List – Remember last month, and the First stab at the list? -***

Well here is the list and how it got started. Last month was a first stab at this topic. We are going to continue publishing this list of **THINGS** and **NAMES**. Again the purpose of this list is this. There are a lot of people out there in the club as well as other non members that have questions about how **THINGS** work and don't seem to know who to ask about these things for help. So we are putting together a list of **THINGS**, with **NAMES** associated with those **THINGS**. This list is by no means complete. This also means if you have an area that you need help with that is not in this list, then YOU need to submit this information / question to [enews@nfarl.org](mailto:enews@nfarl.org) . DO NOT BE SHY, because what you may need help with, probably means there is someone else out there that needs the same help and won't ask because they don't know who to ask, or what to ask or how to ask. And here is the deal. If you think you have something to offer, in an area that is not mentioned, don't be shy. Everyone has a certain amount of expertise in something. How 'bout you computer guys? I know there are a few of you out there. Send us a note and say you want to be added to the list.

10M / 6M operating	K4ESA Bob, K4RNA Aaron
Antenna help	AE4CW Chuck, K4DLI Jim, W2WG Bob, WK4U Tim
Antennas, Wire	W4QO Jim, N4OSJ Greg
Antique Radio Repair	W6GB Gary, W4UOC Tom, N4OSJ Greg
ARES	W4UOC Tom, KD4NKE Shelia, AF4IA Lee, KE4QLH David
Contesting and DXing	W8BLA Verne, K3GO John, WB4MAK Mack, W5JR Mike
CW	W4QO Jim, AE4CW Chuck, KJ4HYG Chris
Digital communications	N4CUS John
Field day	AK4IK Ian
Hamfest/Service Projects	K4YJI Bill
HRD assistance	N4CUS John
License Testing	W8BLA Verne
Name badges	W4GKF Chaz
Photography	W4OO Bill
QRP and Homebrewing	W4QO Jim, WB4MAK Mack

Radio Merit badge, (Boy Scouts)	W3WL Wes, KB7WO Rich, N4DJS Dave Ritchie, W4QO Jim
Repeaters	N4CLA Fred, W5JR Mike, WB4MAK Mack, W4OO Bill
SDR Radios	WB4MAK Mack, W2FMU Ernie, AE4CW Chuck, WK4U Tim
Tech Net	N7QPP Joe, WB4MAK Mack
Training classes/HamCrams	WB4MAK Mack
Website	K4YJJ Bill
YOUTH	W4QO Jim, W3WL Wes, KJ4HYG Chris

**Special Interest Group (Contesting)** - We will starting our newest **Special Interest Group** on **contesting** which will be hosted by **Verne W8BLA** and **Mack WB4MAK** at the home of WB4MAK on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM, where you'll have the opportunity to learn more about contesting which is also known as radio sport. Details are at <http://www.nfarl.org/contestingSIG/contestingSIG.html> . If you find that you really enjoy contesting then we encourage you to join the Southeast DX Club where you can take your learning to the next level <http://www.sedxc.org/> .

**Battery Packs for sale** – We are again selling 12V 7Ah Sealed Led Acid batteries. These batteries are "NEW" still in the box. The batteries are configured in 48V strings, in a metal box and in the original shipping box. They can be easily removed from the metal boxes and used as 4 individual 12V batteries or paralleled into higher current capacity 12V systems. These batteries can be purchased from outside sources for @ \$25 each. We are asking \$40 for the entire package of 4 batteries. These batteries will be available at the Wednesday Lunches and the monthly meetings.



**Alive-After-Five** – The North Fulton Amateur Radio League is again going to take part in a MONTHLY event in the Historic district of Roswell which will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from April to October with a start time of 5PM and the ending time being 9PM. You will find storefront merchants, street vendors with specials for the evening, restaurants ready to serve your favorite meal, galleries with fabulous art and craft, and nonprofit organizations to inform and educate!. This event proves to be a good time for everyone, Ham or Not. The purpose for our NFARL involvement is to be visible to the public and to try to help inform the public just exactly what ham radio is and how it can be a help in times of disasters as well as being an interesting and fun hobby. We are looking for 3 or 4 volunteers to be present on these nights to represent our organization and to meet the public. For further information of what will be there and what / who the sponsors are, please check <http://www.aliveafterfiveroswell.com/>

**News Letter suggestions / Letters to the editor** – As a suggestion, if you know anyone in the immediate area that you feel needs or would like to be introduced to Ham radio or to our club, please forward their email address along with their name or any other information to [eNEWS@nfarl.org](mailto:eNEWS@nfarl.org) and we will get them on the monthly eNEWS distribution.

**Contact us:**

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<b>Exec Team</b>	Tom Koch – W4UOC EC NF ARES	<a href="mailto:W4UOC@nfarl.org">W4UOC@nfarl.org</a> <a href="http://www.nfares.org">www.nfares.org</a>
<b>Exec Team</b>	Mike Roden – W5JR	<a href="mailto:W5JR@nfarl.org">W5JR@nfarl.org</a>

**Club Repeaters**

<b>145.470 (-)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mtn
<b>147.060 (+)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Roswell WaterTower
<b>224.620 (-)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mtn
<b>443.150 (+)</b>	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower (MATPARC/NFARL)
<b>444.475(+)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mtn



ARRL Club  
Affiliate



NFARL  
Club Supporter



SERA  
Supporter