



eNEWS August 2009

www.nfarl.org

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



Summary of upcoming events and dates

- ❑ **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 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) - Check website for "how to"
- ❑ **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** - 5:00 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100) - Join AJ4JQ or others...
- ❑ **Second Tuesday** - **NFARES** meeting - 7PM at the Sandy Springs office complex
- ❑ **Alive-After-Five** - **August 20**. 5 - 9PM Downtown Roswell Street Fair with NFARL there.
- ❑ **Mid Month Madness - Youth Education Day** - Sept. 5 - 10AM-2PM - Acworth, GA
- ❑ **Chattahoochee NC Halloween Hikes** - Oct. 17,23,24,30 - Ham HELP needed
- ❑ **Lawrenceville Hamfest** - Nov. 7, 8 - Join the fun, work the booth, boneyard walk
- ❑ **HamCram** - October 3 - Tech and General Class - 8 AM - All Day - register by 9/12.

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Regular Club Meeting - Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 - 7:30 PM

PROGRAM: **Why QRP? (or Life's too short for QRO)** - Clarke McCauley, KE4RQ, will speak on the merits of QRP and how sometimes the journey is more fulfilling when viewed at a walking pace than from 30k feet in a jumbo jet. Come find out how to "smell the roses" by working QRP - Low Power of 5 watts or less (yes, Cliff - 10 watts PEP on SSB!) You will not want to miss this one if you've thought about QRP.



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

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. Support HRO!

We Eat before We meet - If you are interested in dinner before the meeting, you can join us at yet another new restaurant in Alpharetta directly on Main St (Hwy 9). It is called **Smoke Jacks**. It is located at 29 South Main St, (Hwy 9). <http://tinyurl.com/kjql93> . We meet between 5:30 and 6PM and leave @ 7PM for the meeting which is located literally just 2 minutes away. The meal prices are from \$6 and up. Hope to see you there.



Presidents Corner - The club's momentum continued in July with a great program by Jim, W4QO, on operation of your HF radio. I know everyone enjoyed the program and learned a lot about those mysterious controls on your rig. Jim, as always, offered a very common sense demonstration of how things work inside the box. Thank you Jim!

Verne, W8BLA, continues to lead a very effective ARRL license testing program for the club. Thank you Verne and all our volunteer examiners! In July we tested many new applicants and brought them into our wonderful hobby. Many of them have joined our club. Please welcome them at the next meeting.

The club also sponsored another great contesting **S**pecial **I**nterest **G**roup session in July with a program demonstrating the various popular contesting logging programs. Members of the SIG had the opportunity to get hands on experience with four different programs and to install them on their personal computers. On August 15th members of the SIG will operate in the North American QSO party as a multi-single operation. This will offer hands on experience and coaching while operating in an actual contest. It's never too late to join the contesting SIG if you're interested in learning more about this exciting area of ham radio.

Many members joined us at Frys in early August to tour the components section with the lens of ham radio. Members discussed all the various ways that components and tools can be used in ham radio. Everyone learned some new aspect of everyday electronics and how they can be applied to our hobby. It was a great program and special thanks go to Chuck, AE4CW, for his always helpful insights.

Our program for August will feature, Clark, KE4RQ, talking about life is too short for QRO. QRO in case you're not familiar with this Q signal is "increase power". Clark will discuss the more leisurely side of ham radio by working low power or QRP. I've heard Clark present this program and I'm sure everyone will enjoy his perspectives.

*Many NFARL members will be caravanning to the Huntsville Hamfest this weekend. I've posted details on the Yahoo reflector if you'd like to go over with the group. I hope to see everyone there and we can all meet for lunch at noon in the food area.

*The NFARL ARES group continues to thrive and offer many great programs. In July the focus was a demonstration of packet radio for message handling. In August the program was on demonstrating D-Rats as a digital message handling program.

*Please join us on Thursday, August 20th, for Alive After 5 in Roswell. Details are on our website at www.nfarl.org. This is a great community outreach program to showcase ham radio to the general community. It's a festive event and people who participate always have a great time.

de Mack, WB4MAK

MMM –Mid Month Madness is a great way to increase your learning and technical skills in various ways. Join the North Fulton Amateur Radio League for an exciting amateur radio activity *between* meetings. These activities are announced on the web page at www.nfarl.org. This month - **September 5** - we will have a unique **Education Workshop on Generating Power**. This workshop is oriented toward our youth members who are all encouraged to attend. It will be presented by the team of Jim, AB2CD and his wife Shelly AB1CD at their home in Acworth. They have been doing these for years to promote amateur radio among our youth. If space is available (limit 10) adults may also attend. You must sign up with Mack - wb4mak@nfarl.org

Club Membership – We are now over 250 members at the time of this newsletter. We need your renewals so if you have received your renewal notice, please oblige. **Please welcome** – our newest members at our upcoming meeting. Many have joined lately. 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.

ARRL Membership - NFARL is a Special Service Club affiliated with the ARRL. 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, our voice in Washington. You can now use **PayPal** to join ARRL - using <http://www.nfarl.org/mart.html>. **NFARL benefits financially if you will join or renew your ARRL membership through NFARL. So help us out when you join or renew.**



Amateur Radio Emergency Service Report The ARES group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (7:30PM) at the Sandy Springs City Hall for education and training. At Tuesday's meeting, John, K3WNL, helped us become more familiar with the TS-2000. This was followed by a live demonstration of D-Rats, the data capability of D-Star. If you would like to join this very Special Interest Group, contact Tom (the NF Emergency Coordinator) at w4uoc@nfarl.org. The net meets every Sunday night at 8:30PM on the downtown Roswell repeater - 147.06 (PL 100). You do not have to be a member of the group to check in or participate in the training. You do **not** have to be a NFARL member to join NFARES.

NFARL TECH NET meets Mondays at 8:30 PM - Join us on **145.47 mhz** to discuss **technical topics** lead by **Joe N7QPP**. As far as we know, no one else conducts a net quite like TechNet. 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. 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 145.47.

YOUTH NEWS

- **AJ4JQ (Frances)** has just worked her 100th country since January. Congrats to her for finding all those countries during the low sunspots!
 - **KJ4HYG (Chris)** has just finished building the Small Wonders Labs SW-40 CW (yep, CW) transceiver and is ready to put it in the case. Chris will enjoy this during camp outs!
 - **KJ4NRN (Ed)** has been keeping the airwaves busy since he got his TECH license.
 - **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 "check in" to the net. Join our very capable Net Control, Frances, AJ4JQ, for this fun net. Invite some youngsters, too.
 - **Youth Workshop** - Don't miss the MMM trip and workshop on POWER GENERATION on Sept. 5. See news of this item elsewhere in eNEWS! Be sure to sign up.
 - **Remember-** Youth membership is FREE to those under 18. Just complete the form.
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And continuing on The Tim Lemmon series on Shortwave Listening tips is always available in the [FEATURED ARTICLES](#) section of the website. Thank you Tim for this great information. Tim's article this month is entitled



It's getting dark for shortwave in Atlanta! – 8pm

The gray line, also known as the terminator (I'll be baaack) is practically here. Do you know we can use the gray line to communicate (or hear other stations) much easier than normal? When it's dusk here in Atlanta (in August), you can make contact with

stations in Southern Greenland, Northern Scandinavia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Western India quite easily. Load any gray line program on your computer to see for yourself. By the way, if you're an aspiring SWL or ham DX'er, you'll use the gray line often. Sometimes twice a day! Don't forget the dawn terminator, which highlights *different* parts of the world.

North American pirate radio is definitely starting now. Especially on weekends and holidays. **6925** USB is still the most active frequency. Last week, I heard 3 different pirates at the same time! **6925, 6930 & 6935**. Amazing.

Signals are much stronger than any other time of the day. Many stations are beaming towards North America now. Many of them are religious, which I will avoid in this article. Some stations are quite interesting. Others extremely boring - usually government run. Some stations seem very strong for being so far away (Radio China International and Voice of Vietnam come to mind). That's because they lease transmitters from Canada to get much stronger signals into North America. Something to be said for one-hop propagation. China Radio International is even broadcasting to us in digital DRM delivering great sounding audio. So what are some of the better stations we can hear on short wave after eating dinner Tim?

You can try Radio New Zealand. They broadcast to the Pacific area, but can be heard extremely well here in Atlanta. Try them on **13730** in DRM mode. Excellent decoding all evening long. **15720** simulcasts the same programming in regular analog audio if you're not setup for digital short wave. WBCQ (America's only free speech radio station) on **7415** from Monticello, Maine offers very interesting programming. **5110** is even more interesting at times. All I can say is listen for yourself :) Both transmitters are only on in the late afternoons and evenings. **5110** is harder to copy here in Atlanta, but can have even more risqué programming. WWCR on **5070** from Nashville, TN offers some interesting programs at times, with very strong signals here in Atlanta. Radio Rebelde from Cuba on **5025** offers another strong AM signal in Atlanta. Even during the daytime! They have this transmitter broadcasting with almost 20 KHz wide AM audio. Some of the best sounding Caribbean music heard on HF radio! If you have a radio capable of receiving that wide, be sure to give them a listen. Of course, you can always hear Radio Habana Cuba on **6000** bash the Americans. Radio Canada International broadcasts on **6100**. The Voice of Russia pounds into Atlanta on **9665 & 9890** for a couple of hours. Often with great music and news with a Russian view point. Radio Australia is easily heard on **17715** right now.

China Radio International sounds almost like an American station! Hmmm, wonder why!? Listen for yourself. **6020 & 9570** beamed to North America directly from Albania. **9570** is usually better. **7350** directly from China. Hear the difference for yourself. Starting at 9pm, hear Radio China International on **9580** from a relay in Cuba. Or **9790** from a Canadian relay. You can even try **6080** and hear CRI in digital DRM mode. The Chinese are really trying to be heard in North America!

Iran ("The Voice Of Justice") can be heard on both **7235 & 9495** from 9:30pm-10:30pm in English. Not the best signal in the world, but a very interesting, and controversial source. Their 7 MHz signal is from Sirjan, which is 6350 nautical miles from my home. Their 9 MHz signal is from Tehran, which is 5930 nautical miles from my home. Interesting that they often play an imam singing Koranic verses before the news during part of this English broadcast to North America.

We also have three very strong stations near the bottom of 3 MHz that pound extremely strong signals into Atlanta all evening. You can hear them on any cheap portable short wave radio. Try

3145, 3185 & 3215. You'll hear anything from religious programming to far right wing programming. Radio Miami International on **9955** has some interesting programming during the day and evening – when not being jammed by our friends in Cuba.

And finally, here's a recent schedule of short wave related programs throughout the week in our evening hours. Be sure to give them a listen. Do you have the capability to automatically record with your radio while you're away? Great way to catch broadcasts when you're not at home.

Friday

8:00pm Allan Weiner's Worldwide WBCQ **5110.0, 7415.0**

8:15pm DX Partyline WRMI **9955.0**

9:30pm Wavescan WRMI **9955.0**

10:35pm DX Program Radio Bulgaria **9700.0, 11700.0**

10:45pm DXers Special Supplement R.A.E. **11710.0**

Saturday

8:20pm Radio Waves Radio Exterior de España **6055.0**

9:30pm DXing With Cumbre WHRI **7315.0, 7385.0**

9:35pm (variable) DXers Unlimited Radio Habana Cuba **6000.0, 6140.0**

9:45pm Ask WWCR WWCR **5070.0**

10:00pm Australian DX Report WWCR **5070.0**

10:15pm DX Partyline WWCR **5070.0**

Sunday

10:00pm DXing With Cumbre WHRI **7385.0**

Monday

8:15pm DX Partyline WRMI **9955.0**

8:25pm Radio Waves Radio Exterior de España **6055.0**

Tuesday

8:00pm Pirates Cove WBCQ **7415.0**

9:00pm DX Partyline WRMI **9955.0**

9:35pm (variable) DXers Unlimited Radio Havana Cuba **6000.0, 6140.0**

Wednesday

8:15pm DX Partyline WRMI **9955 .0**

Thursday

8:30pm International Radio Report WBCQ **5110.0**

Next month, we'll move to midnight local time, and the last article in this series. Gosh, I think it's time to use some radio tuning oil – a delicious cold margarita. Maybe two! Stay cool and enjoy your evening DX till next month. Do you have any questions? Anything you'd like me to cover? I'd love to hear from you. Tim, WK4U tim_lemmon@yahoo.com

Mentoring - NFARL prides itself on helping members - both young and old - enjoy ham radio to the fullest. 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 . 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. Send us a note and say you want to be added to our list.

Contact us:

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Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) **	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn
147.060 (+)	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn *
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell Water Tower *
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn
927.1625(-)	151.4 Hz	Sweat Mtn

* Joint Venture with the MATPARC club. ** This repeater has Echolink - Node 381631



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