



NFARL eNEWS

January 2015

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton** and surrounding area! Check out each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100
- **Every Monday – Tech Net** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 - Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **Every Wednesday – Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM - Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Thursday – YL Net** – 8:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 - Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for "how to."
- **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG) Lodge No. 1** - 9:00 AM - Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). Everybody's welcomed: You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – January 20**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Pre-meeting activity starts at around 7:00PM.
Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#)
13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 [map](#)
Talk-in: 145.47+ (PL 100)
Meeting Topic: CW, presented by Jim Stafford W4QO

Jim Stafford, W4QO, was first licensed in 1958 as a 16 year old farm boy in south central Indiana where he was KN9MAF. Due to Novice class requirements, Jim passed the 5 wpm

CW test and he used it for hundreds of contacts during the one year limited Novice period. CW has stuck with him since. He now "runs" the NFARL CW SIG which will begin this year on Jan. 22 this year. For our program, Jim will show us several things about CW history, methods of using CW on the air, and some tips on how to learn CW, just in case you want to do it! The talk should be interesting even to those who are not fond of CW and will include a recording of Thomas Edison, a good CW operator, sending MORSE code in his later years.

Some of our members and guests gather for dinner at ~5:45PM at 'Cue Barbecue at 13700 Highway 9 North in Alpharetta GA 30004. ([map](#)) Guests are always welcome. 'Cue is a 5 minute drive from the meeting location.

- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – January 27**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.

Coming Events

• **February 2015**

- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – February 17**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.

January 22nd January 22nd 7:30PM 2015 CW SIG Kicks off!
Kickoff Meeting will be at W4QO's shack to sign up send an email to cw@w4go.com

President's Corner / Bob Beeman k4bb



In this first President's message for 2015 I wanted to talk about the club's accomplishments in 2014, and opportunities for 2015. There is a link on the front page of the NFARL web page taking you to a listing of thirty four specific events and things accomplished by the club last year. Take a look, they are impressive.

These accomplishments show that the NFARL is healthy, growing, and involved. The membership is energetic and on the move in several areas involving operating, community involvement, and just plain ham radio enjoyment.

This last weekend, the NFARL hosted an activity at the 2015 Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society TechFest. It was a lot of fun for us, and the youth seemed to revel in assembling breadboard electronic kits. I never thought a blinking LED could be so much fun for someone. Those that organized and participated in the event did a great job.

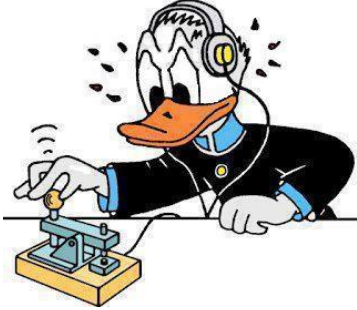
In the coming year there will be more TechFests, HamJams, Ham Crams, and many other events to which we are committed. There will be more opportunities for people to contribute. It is not necessary to be a 25 year ham because most of these activities only require a willingness to work with a team.

There are lots of things to talk about, and lots of things will be happening in the coming year. Our focus will be on community service and personal radio operating skills. A successful ARES group, Field Day, contest entry, net control, operating award (DXCC, etc.), and many other activities depend on good, organized radio operating skills.

73

Bob Beeman
k4bb

CW SIG



Have you entertained the idea that you might want to learn MORSE CODE? Have you wanted to push up your code speed from 10 wpm to 18 wpm or from 25 to 35 wpm? Then the NFARL CW SIG is the group to join. Note that much of the info is already on the NFARL website: <http://nfarl.org/sigCW/cwIntro.html>

The format for the CW SIG runs something like this. There is one face-to-face meeting of the group at W4QO's shack on January 22. At this meeting Jim will cover all kinds of tips and techniques to help you learn or improve your code speed. After that there will be an "on the air" net with CW transmissions every M-W-F evening at 7PM for about 45 minutes. The plan is to use the NFARL

444.475 machine this year for these practice sessions. Also, each week you will report on your progress to the entire group VIA EMAIL. Code proficiency is a personal thing and you will move along at your own pace in the CW SIG. You'll discover:

The discipline and techniques to improve your CW . In what order to learn the letters for ON THE AIR capability fastest . What software to use - both to learn and improve. Tip #1 - Download CW PLAYER . On the air protocols using 7117 khz - the NFARL meet up frequency . How an assigned code buddy is a key factor . What kind and where to get the best CW key . What organizations to join to help you improve - Tip #2: Join SKCC/get number . What transceiver kit(s) to build to get you on 40M if you want to go that direction.

Think of the CW SIG as "Weight Watchers for CW addicts - except here your results are based on GAINING, not LOSING!"

To sign up for this FUN group (even if you are only curious), send an email to Jim via his CW@w4qo.com address. Remember, the first (and only) meeting for the CW SIG is January 22 at 7:30 PM, two days after the January NFARL meeting.

NFARL YL 2015 Beginnings/ Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ



Here we are in 2015. The YL net got a great start with the first 2015 net on January 8th. We had a great time sharing weather updates from around the country and how our holiday break went! We had 17 YLs checking in from 9 different states including: Florida, Washington, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Michigan!

We had another great adventure as well at the annual GARS Techfest which took place on January 10th. There were numerous YLs there and it was great to meet some new ladies (and OMs)! We were also able to put together the 555 bread-board kits, learn about Amateur Radio with Satellites, Remote Controlling your radio, Baofeng HTs and programming them, and many more activities. Lunch was great too. A great and fun experience and looking forward to next year!

We continue to challenge to all the NFARL YLs to come up with YL activities you would like to do! As an aide to assist, I would like to open my radio shack to assist YLs in getting on HF and enjoying your HF experience. As major contests come up, and availability allows, I will also open the home shack to YLs who would like to get on HF and have some fun! I will post the invite on the reflector as it applies, so keep an eye out! If you'd like to personally schedule some time to come by and operate HF on a weekend, please email me at kk4ubq@nfarl.org. We are also looking for ideas and suggestions from **you** on what you would like to see and do next year! Please see me at the NFARL meetings or email me at kk4ubq@nfarl.org with any thoughts, suggestions, etc you have.

The YL net is every Thursday evening at 8:00pm local time (01:00 UTC Friday). The YL net will be followed by all YLs who would like to join the YLRL (Young Ladies' Radio League) 20m net at 9:00pm local (02:00 UTC) on 14.288MHz.

The purpose of the YL net is to encourage YL participation on ham radio, get together on the radio waves, get to know each other and have some fun! Invite all YLs you know! **We want all YLs to feel comfortable getting on the air and have fun!**

How to get set up to participate in the net is located on the NFARL Website at:

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

33 de KK4UBQ

EduTeam Teaches Electronics at Mill Springs Academy

Martha Muir W4MSA



During the second week of Mill Springs Academy's "Winter Learning," members of the NFARL EduTeam, led by Chuck Catledge and Jim Stafford, taught an introductory seminar on Electronics and Wireless Technology, with an emphasis on Amateur Radio. Chuck began the week with sessions relating electricity and magnetism, batteries, and other components in a circuit. Labs using the Elenco Electronic Snap Circuit kits gave the students hands on experiences with these concepts. Students really enjoyed making individual lemon batteries and then hooking them together. Students made calculations using Ohm's law and then verified them by making measurements with the VOMs that several members of NFARL donated for this class.

On Tuesday, Jim added on to the concepts that Chuck had started and had the students build simple capacitors and make measurements with them. He showed students how to decode the color codes on resistors and then compared their stated resistance to the measured resistance. **Better Be Right Or Your Great Big Venture Goes West** is an expression (and mnemonic) that he taught the students to memorize the color code. He guided students as they built the breadboard based Winky circuit with the help of Chuck, Mike Stafford, and Martha.



On Wednesday, Jim, with the help of Chuck and Roger Shaddick, showed the students how to build their own crystal radios starting with a cereal box. By the end of the morning, each hand crafted, hand wound radio was checked to see if it would pick up a signal. Everyone was pleased that all fourteen radios worked and heard AM stations clearly! Mike Cohen was in charge of the seminar Wednesday afternoon and introduced the students to digital radio using PSK31. Students who seem to have been born using a computer took to this right away.

On Thursday, Pavel Anni, joined the team and taught the students about what makes radios work, adding oscillators, amplifiers, mixers, and filters to the students' growing electronic components vocabulary. In the afternoon, Chuck, along with the help of Jim, Pavel, and Mike led the students through a lab featuring the new SNAP circuits kits obtained for this workshop. Students built various projects and demonstrated their circuit to the class.

On Friday, Wes Lamboley worked with the students with directional antennas and propagation, laying the groundwork for John Kludt's presentation on the use of satellites with amateur radio. He also had the students experiment with the ARRL MAREA project's simulation of driving the Mars rover using radio signals.

Every day, students 'got on the air' using a different mode or technique. On Monday, we used the handy talkies to perform a simulated emergency net around campus. On Tuesday, Jim had the students compare contacts made using a repeater versus using simplex. Thanks, Fred, N4CLA, for responding to us when we were doing this. On Wednesday, students sent and received messages using PSK31. On Thursday, students listened in on an ARISS radio contact that a school in Miami was having. On Friday, students got a taste of DX with the use of HF SSB.

This exhaustive effort gave these young students a great introduction to many concepts of electronics. Five of the students in the seminar had been in the ham cram seminar the week before. This seminar gave them hands on experiences with many of the concepts they had merely read and talked about. It reinforced ideas that hams need to know. Whether the rest of the students become hams remains to be seen. In any case, everyone got a great introduction to concepts that every scientifically literate citizen needs to know.

We are proud and excited to announce that the following students have just received their new call signs;

Jordan is KM4HFV

Jake is KM4HGA

Eli is KM4HFZ

Sawyer is KM4HFW

Megan is KM4HFY

Garrett is KM4HFX

SOTA



K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat.

He was the 19th North American to achieve Mountain Goat status. His first QSO was a SOTA activation on a backpacking trip to a 5300 foot summit with his 12 year-old son. He has more than 110 activations, including Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

SOTA (Summits On The Air) is an awards program to encourage operating from the tops of mountains. "Activators" get points for operating from a summit. "Chasers" get points for contacting activators. Points are good for... counting, and not much else! SOTA activation is a perfect combination. You get to spend time outdoors *and* you get to collect shiny toys." That pretty well sums it up.

Have you ever hiked to the top of a mountain and wondered, "This is nice view. What do I do now?" Now you have a *mission*. Pull out the radio, throw a wire into a tree, and work a pile-up. When you call CQ from a summit, it seems as if *everyone* wants to talk with you.

Techfest

NFARL kit build at the GARS TechFest was a huge success. 29 LED Blinky kits were built by aspiring master kit builders.

Kudos to Jim Stafford, W4QO, for spearheading this endeavor.

On behalf of the club, I would like to recognize and thank our volunteers who mentored the kit builders.

KI4SBL, Cathy Freeman

W4QO, Jim Stafford

WK4U, Tim Lemmon

K4BB, Bob Beeman

AE4CW, Chuck Catledge

W4DTX, Dave Crandall

AC4PA, Pavel Anni

N4FN, Neil Foster

AK4NA, Gary Brass

K4YJJ, Bill Cobb

AD4MC, Mike Cohen

AK4TL, Clyde McClain



73 John N4TOL

Strays

All of these folks have done many things beyond the short list of items provided below:

Bob Freeman, KI4SBL - Hams Helping Hams - Monday night Chat Room Link Grabber

Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ - Hams Helping Hams - YL Net creator/NCS and YLRL promoter

Distinguished Service Award - Jim Paine, N4SEC, Club P/R dude for years, + many areas of service to club

Distinguished Service Award - John Kludt, K4SQC, Satellite guru + ISS School QSO + FD chmn (top score)

Ham of the Year - Martha Muir, W4MSA, Ham radio promoter - Ham Radio Educator - State YOUTH Coordinator + many areas of service to club - Teacher conferences, workshops, Maker Faire, etc, etc.

Congrats to all winners! NFARL is better off having you as a valued member.

PS Gary Bush and Bill Cobb were winners of the door prizes..... \$50 and \$100 respectively....

At the January meeting Bob Citronberg KI4GHT will be announcing an upcoming Build A Thon. We will be building a Two Tin Tuna EZ Build designed by W1REX.

Thanks to Jim Smith W4JDS, Fred Moore N4CLA, Bill Cobb K4YJJ, Bill Reed K4YJI, my YF Suzanne and all of the contributors to this issue without whose help I could not have gotten it out. I apologize for its late arrival

Additional photos from all events in the **NFARL eNEWS** can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFARL/>

***Show Your Support for HR 4969,
the Radio Amateur Parity Act of 2014!***

Contact Your U.S. Representative!

Learn More [Here](#)



Contact Us

President	Bob Beeman, k4bb	<u>President@nfarl.org</u>
Vice President and Program Chairman	Scott Straw, KB4KBS	<u>VicePresident@nfarl.org</u>
Secretary	Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ	<u>Secretary@nfarl.org</u>
Treasurer and Repeater Trustee	Fred Moore, N4CLA 404-434-4499	<u>Treasurer@nfarl.org</u>
Past President	Neil Foster, N4FN 770-321-9348	<u>PastPresident@nfarl.org</u>
Field Day Chairman	John Kludt, K4SQC 770-891-8091	<u>k4sqc@nfarl.org</u>
Activities Chairman	John Tramontanis, N4TOL	<u>Activities@nfarl.org</u>
Membership Chairman and HamCram	Mark Schumann, KK4FOF	<u>Membership@nfarl.org</u> <u>HamCram@nfarl.org</u>
ARES Liaison and Community Relations	Jim Paine, N4SEC 770-475-4454	<u>n4sec@nfarl.org</u>
NFARL eNEWS Publisher and Editor	Ron Gill NV4U 678-646-4782	<u>Editor@nfarl.org</u>
HamJam Chairman	Wes Lambole, W3WL	<u>w3wl@nfarl.org</u>
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden, W5JR 404-781-9494	<u>Repeaters@nfarl.org</u>
Mentors / Elmers	Chuck Catledge, AE4CW 770-641-7729	<u>Elmers@nfarl.org</u>
Scout Coordinator	Jon Wittlin, K4WIT	<u>k4wit@nfarl.org</u>
Webmaster	Bill Cobb, K4YJJ 770-396-5007	<u>Webmaster@nfarl.org</u>

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell Water Tower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell Water Tower
444.475 (+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
927.0125 (-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mountain

Click any of the logos below to visit our NFARL supporters and affiliates

