

# ◆ Squelch Tales ◆

Volume 3 Issue 1

January, 1996

The Quarterly Newsletter of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League, Inc.

## News from the North Side

by Pat Patterson, AD4GJ

**W**ell, this is the first newsletter of the new year and also the first that I have published. I can only hope that the high standard of quality that Jeff, AA4RC has provided as editor and publisher of *Squelch Tales*, rubs off on me and that this and subsequent issues are as well done and informative as his were.

The last month has been a learning experience for me; learning new software packages, learning how to obtain some great information from the Internet and World Wide Web and learning how difficult writing for and organizing a newsletter can be. So, I hope that this issue has turned out OK. If anyone has any ideas on how we can improve the newsletter, please let me know. Or if you have any articles that you would like to contribute, please send them to me at 2070 Laurel Mill Way, Roswell, Ga. 30076, or to the P.O. Box shown on page 2. If you have a PC with a word processing package on it, I would greatly appreciate it on a 3½ inch floppy disk. Or, if you have Internet access, send it to me at my E-mail address, "ppatterson@attmail.com".

I hope that each of you has a fantastic New Year and that we have a great year for the club. Look forward to seeing all of you at the January meeting. Until then,

73,  
Pat



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### President's Corner Steve Mays KS4KJ



Well, here it is, December 16th. The North Fulton Christmas party was just four days ago and at some point during it I officially became president of our club.

One small step for the NFARL but one giant leap for me. The decision to allow my name to be placed into nomination was difficult, because after only being licensed for two years I still feel like "the new kid on the block." I know I have lots to learn in amateur radio and in how to lead a club like North Fulton, but I'll be doing both at the same time. My goal is to keep expanding my knowledge of radio and also expand North Fulton's ability to offer information and help to people seeking to learn and do more in this hobby that brings us together. For some people, it is finding out more about HF and what you can do with it. Others may be learning about packet. Still others might want to learn how to build their own antennas. The great thing about our club is that there is someone (and usually more than one person) that can offer their help and knowledge on these things to other members. We can help new licensees get their "air legs" as they find out how much fun it is to communicate and meet new people. We all come together for Field

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**North Fulton Amateur Radio League, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 1741  
Roswell, GA 30077**

President - Steve Mays, KS4KJ  
Vice-President - Cam Clayson, WV5R  
Treasurer - Fred Moore, N4CLA  
Secretary - Al Fischer, KC4RIB  
Membership Coordinator - Steve Mays

**CLUB REPEATERS**

145.470 MHz out (-0.6 MHz)  
147.060 MHz out (+0.6 MHz)  
444.475 MHz out (+5.0 MHz)

**NFARL BBS**

552-0868 (1200-2400-9600 8-N-1)  
Dan Turner, WA4BRO, Sysop

**NEWS NET EVERY MONDAY**

At 8:00 P.M. on 145.470 MHz  
Alt. Frequency: 147.060 MHz

**Monthly Meetings:**

Second Wednesday of Each Month  
Dinner - 6:30 PM  
Meeting & Program - 7:30 PM

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*North Fulton Amateur Radio League Quick Repeater Guide*  
145.470, 147.060, 444.475

Open Commands

- #1 Echo Test
- #2 Deviation Test
- #3 DTMF Test
- #4 Time
- #5 Sinad Test
- #6 Frequency Test
- #7 Display Mail
- #8 Send Command Out Link
- #9 Play Announcement

User Commands

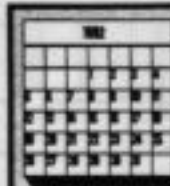
- 0\*N Emergency Patch
- 1\*N User Patch
- 2 Patch Redial
- 7 Mailbox
- 8 Open Mail
- 10 Change Password
- 12 Record User Name
- 15 User Profile
- 20 Speedial Maintenance
- 25 User Hang-up Code
- 30 CTCSS Command

N = Number To Dial

Only from Phone Line

- 1 Reverse Patch
- 2 Monitor Air
- 3 Non-directed Patch Page
- 4 Directed Patch Page

*Additional copies of the repeater manual are available for \$6 each. Contact Fred Moore at 770-992-0877 for details. All checks should be made payable to the N.F.A.R.L.*



**HAMFEST CALENDAR**

*courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal and the ARRL*

January 13-14	Sarasota, FL
February 3-4	Miami, FL
February 10	Charleston, S.C.
February 10	Pensacola, FL
February 16-18	Orlando, FL
February 24	Dalton, GA
March 2	Tulsa, AL
March 9-10	Charlotte, N.C.
March 29-30	Columbus, GA
April 27-28	Gainesville, FL
May 4	Greenville, S.C.
May 17-19	Dayton, OH
June 8-9	Atlanta, GA
June 14-15	Albany, GA
July 27	Asheville, N.C.



**FCC License Status Number:**

**1-800-322-1117**



## Atlanta VEC Schedule

*(All days are once a month for each notation)*

1st Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Jonesboro</b> George White KN4NG 361-6850
1st Sunday 2:00 PM	<b>Lawrenceville</b> Duane Reynolds WB2YAD 962-9582
1st Monday 7:45 PM	<b>Roswell/Marietta</b> Delaine McCarthy KM4FV 993-9758
2nd Sunday 3:00 PM	<b>Cartersville</b> Mark Swicord KD4EYF 975-1309
2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM	<b>Snellville</b> Wayne Taylor WD4CCA 498-7759
2nd Saturday 8:30 AM	<b>Stone Mountain</b> Hal Martin KI4RD 978-9160
3rd Saturday 9:00 AM	<b>Marietta</b> Larry Huff WA4CQZ 955-3171
4th Sunday 2:30 PM	<b>Atlanta</b> John King AB4GK 381-5291
4th Friday 7:00 PM	<b>Lilburn</b> Howie Gould W4NVF 921-8362

## Vice President's Corner Cam Clayson WV5R



Hello Everyone! First of all, I'd like to thank the previous slate of officers for helping to make the North Fulton Amateur Radio League what it is today. A special thanks to Jeff and Michelle Weinberg for their undying devotion to our club. The list of things that they have done for us is too long for me to state here. Let's just say, that, in every organization, there are people that take the reins and get things done. Thanks Jeff and Michelle! Also, let's not forget Fred and Cathy Moore, Steve and Susan Mays, and Chuck and Rose Daley. The officers (and their spouses) are to be commended for the fine job that they have done!

Speaking of officers..... congratulations to our newly elected President, Steve Mays (KS4KJ), our continuing Treasurer, Fred Moore (N4CLA), and our new Secretary, Al Fisher (KC4RIB). I look forward to serving with these fine individuals. I know that I speak for all of them when I say, if there is anything that anyone in the membership needs, please call on us.

I am very proud to serve for such a fine group of individuals. We are going to have a fantastic year and I hope everyone will help to share our successes! Many people are already at work to ensure that all of us enjoy the time we spend as members of the NFARL. I've heard rumors of killer antenna systems for Field Day (I know it's not a contest, but I still wanna WIN!), interesting programs for the club meetings, and the usual social gatherings that we all enjoy. And let's not forget my favorite aspect of Amateur Radio, PUBLIC SERVICE!

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Memorable Contacts Brad Freeborn AB6FD

It was the spring of 1991 and I had just upgraded to General Class. Having just purchased a 10 Meter mobile rig, I naturally couldn't get enough Dx'ing in to satisfy the enjoyment of my new-found voice privileges on the entire band.

To be certain to get on the air as much as possible, and especially during the peak noon hours, the humble comfort of the ole mobile out in the parking lot at the work QTH during my lunch hour would have to suffice.

"CQ Ten, CQ Ten, KC6OJY mobile, Los Angeles calling CQ Ten, CQ Ten". To my astonishment I received a response immediately from a station in 'Zero Land'. "KC6OJY mobile, you are five and nine into Southern Missouri". He asked for a frequency check and I verified him on 28.805 MHz. I asked him where he was in Southern Missouri due to the possibility that he might have been in the Western part of the state which would have put him approximately 100 miles or so from where my parents were located. He stated that he'd just left the courthouse and was taking a late lunch and then heading home to Joplin.

I said, "Name is Brad here. You sound as if you're mobile, what courthouse you at?" His next transmission was a long winded one that finally ended with the answer to my question.... He was in Carthage, Mo., at the courthouse, less than a quarter mile away from my folks house!

When I told him how near he was to my parents residence, he quickly responded, "Well, Brad, if you don't mind giving me an address or phone number, I'll drop in on them and hand over the microphone if you wish". I

*(Continued on page 10)*



# Repeater Emergency Codes

**POLICE**

100 479-5511  
 101 479-2525  
 102 479-5518  
 103 479-5518  
 104 926-7778

**CHEROKEE**

County  
 Canton  
 Little River  
 Oak Grove  
 Woodstock

**CLAYTON**

200 471-4242  
 201 366-4141  
 202 478-7407  
 203 366-8035  
 204 961-4000  
 205 966-3382

County  
 Forest Park  
 Jonesboro  
 Lake City  
 Morrow  
 Riverdale

**COBB**

300 499-3911  
 301 974-3111  
 302 948-2514  
 303 422-2505  
 304 422-5420  
 305 429-4300  
 306 943-1616  
 307 434-6666

County  
 Acworth  
 Austell  
 Kennesaw  
 Mabelton  
 Marietta  
 Powder Spgs.  
 Smyrna

**DEKALB**

400 294-2911  
 401 458-0121  
 402 294-2911  
 403 373-6551  
 404 458-8561  
 405 768-7171  
 406 294-2911  
 407 469-0101  
 409 294-2911

County  
 Chamblee  
 Clarkston  
 Decatur  
 Doraville  
 Hapeville  
 Lithonia  
 Stone Mtn.  
 Tucker

**DOUGLAS**

500 949-5656  
 501 942-3211  
 502 942-2121

County  
 Douglasville  
 Lithia Spgs.

**FAYETTE**

600 461-6353  
 601 461-4111  
 602 487-7977  
 603 487-7977

County  
 Fayetteville  
 Peachtree City  
 Tyrone

**FIRE**

110 345-5515  
 111 479-2323  
 112 926-7791  
 113 926-9870  
 114 926-7778

210 471-4242  
 211 366-4141  
 212 478-7407  
 213 471-4242  
 214 961-4000  
 215 996-1912

310 422-2121  
 311 422-2121  
 312 948-6411  
 313 422-2121  
 314 422-2121  
 315 424-8333  
 316 422-2121  
 317 434-6666

410 294-2911  
 411 294-2911  
 412 294-2911  
 413 373-0600  
 414 294-2911  
 415 768-7171  
 416 294-2911  
 418 294-2911  
 419 294-2911

510 949-1212  
 511 942-3171  
 512 949-1212

610 461-6353  
 611 461-4111  
 612 487-7977  
 613 487-7977

**POLICE**

700 768-8200  
 701 475-5900  
 702 658-6666  
 703 766-3618  
 704 768-8200  
 705 964-1441  
 700 768-8200  
 706 768-8200  
 707 768-8200  
 708 641-3714  
 709 964-1332

800 962-1900  
 801 962-1900  
 802 476-4151  
 803 963-2443  
 804 921-2211  
 805 962-1900  
 806 448-2111  
 807 972-2623  
 808 962-1900  
 809 962-1900

900 957-9121  
 902 946-4512  
 903 957-5200  
 904 957-1217  
 905 957-9121

**911**

**0\*0**

**0\*1**

**0\*2**

**0\*3**

**0\*4**

**0\*5**

**0\*6**

**0\*7**

**0\*8**

**0\*9**

**FIRE**

**FULTON**

County 710 768-8200  
 Alpharetta 711 475-5353  
 Atlanta 712 659-2121  
 College Park 713 766-9621  
 East Point 714 768-8200  
 Fairburn 715 964-1441  
 Mountain Park 710 768-8200  
 Palmetto 716 768-8200  
 Red Oak 717 768-8200  
 Roswell 718 993-6677  
 Union City 719 964-1332

**GWINNETT**

County 810 963-0123  
 Buford 811 963-0123  
 Duluth 812 963-0123  
 Lawrenceville 813 963-0123  
 Lilburn 814 963-0123  
 Mountain Park 815 963-0123  
 Norcross 816 963-0123  
 Snellville 817 963-0123  
 Sugar Hill 818 945-5397  
 Suwanee 819 963-0123

**HENRY**

County 910 957-9121  
 Hampton 912 946-4512  
 Locust Grove 913 957-5200  
 McDonough 914 957-1217  
 Stockbridge 915 957-9121

**FULTON COUNTY**

**ATLANTA POLICE  
 FULTON COUNTY  
 DEKALB COUNTY  
 COBB COUNTY  
 GWINNETT COUNTY  
 CLAYTON COUNTY  
 GEORGIA STATE PATROL  
 ATLANTA FIRE DEPT  
 MARIETTA POLICE/FIRE  
 ATLANTA GAS LIGHT**

# Who's Who in the N.F.A.R.L.

(As of December 23)

00		Joy	WATTS	292	KD4HDE	Chris	Craig
4	AA4RC	Jeffrey	Weinberg	320	KD4HFR	Mario	Ruhnke
72	AA4ZC	Larry	Boden Jr.	312	KD4HLM	Douglas	Allen
121	AA5Q	Jack	Brabham	304	KD4HYX	Donna	Pickens
47	AB6FD	Brad	Freeborn	327	KD4IKZ	David	Jacoby
341	AD4FB	Daniel	Ortiz	326	KD4ILA	David	Mayer
63	AD4GJ	Pat	Patterson	333	KD4KEY	Martha	Clark
117	AD4YZ	Bill	Kimes	335	KD4LXQ	Chuck	Daley
255	AD4ZR	Russell	Akridge	1	KD4NC	Doug	Drye
336	AG6R	Bryan	Carl	21	KD4PEN	Joel	Garrett
62	K3GA	Stuart	Kravitz	60	KD4RFK	Rick	Patchin
59	K3PPY	David	McBride	300	KD4RTY	Caroline	Keown
97	K4AHJ	Tom	Knight	148	KD4RUA	Phillip	Butler
107	K4FLS	Sam	Agee	351	KD4SGK	Alan	Manning
260	K4GLZ	Everett	Thomas Jr.	79	KD4SGR	Bill	Reynolds
71	K4JHM	Hal	Myers	37	KD4SHE	Marshall	Magee
20	K4JMX	Alan	Dages	53	KD4TFG	Jeff	Medin
252	K4UAF	Don	Rogers	237	KD4TWN	Ann	Seay
92	K6EID	Phil	Finkle	65	KD4UMM	Jim	Moore
30	KA4GGI	Joseph	Pastuch	69	KD4YDD	Scott	Brown
272	KB4KAY	Todd	McGinnis	76	KD4ZNP	Bill	Agee
131	KB4KBS	Scott	Straw	57	KD6CLO	John	Farr
317	KB4KHQ	Lane	Watts	94	KE4CKA	Wendell	Webb
124	KB4LWS	Diane	Andrus	88	KE4CWG	Ken	Bishop
125	KB4LWT	Larry	Andrus	102	KE4DCJ	Nancy	Smith
64	KB4NUC	John	Hess	101	KE4EGD	Terry	Smith
91	KB4VSS	Greg	Culpepper	99	KE4ENH	Adam	Lee
256	KC4AZR	Kathleen	Foulkes	54	KE4EPS	Judie	Medin
89	KC4RIB	Al	Fischer	50	KE4EPU	Gregory	Wieland
220	KC4ROW	Kenny	Snyder	48	KE4FOS	Edward	Hotchkiss
275	KC4WHZ	George	Scott	68	KE4FOV	Bert	Bruner
231	KC4YBO	Steve	Knittel	267	KE4GFN	Dan	Reid
122	KC4ZTP	Mike	Brooks	138	KE4GHA	Gary	Leazer
262	KC4ZTY	Steven	Sheppard	104	KE4HMN	Oliver	Staley
10	KD4APK	David	Fellows	106	KE4HNN	Sue	Gutkes
129	KD4APR	Kathleen	Coleman	105	KE4HNP	Mike	Langley
283	KD4APT	Shiona	Cavaliere	113	KE4IGA	Sam	Freeman Jr.
301	KD4ATP	John	Keown	115	KE4IHC	John	Dowdney
43	KD4BIO	John	Brewer	112	KE4JKN	Susan	Mays
302	KD4EQE	Philip	Zeigler	119	KE4JTX	John	Vlad Jr.
800	KD4FTZ	Ina	Earhart	127	KE4MCW	Rose	Daley
303	KD4FYJ	Bill	Pickens	75	KE4MLU	Elaine	Sanders
				135	KE4NPE	Jerry	McKibben
				27	KE4NPF	Nicole	Reynolds
				133	KE4NPG	Ashton	Tomlinson
				58	KE4OLP	Steve	Howard



32	KE4PIM	Nelson	Ingalsbe
42	KE4QFQ	William	Chenault
26	KE4QVQ	Todd	Zachritz
31	KE4RQO	Cory	Russek
83	KE4SJM	Wesley	Shultz
52	KE4SWX	Michael	Gresham
51	KE4TEG	Keith	Hylton
36	KE4TUS	Rose	Ingalsbe
46	KE4UTT	Jonathan	Reich
331	KE4VFI	Leah	Cook
95	KE4VGW	Daniel	Lawrence
80	KE4WLQ	Steve	Cook
67	KE4WLR	Robin	Cook
66	KE4WOC	Mike	Cook
78	KE4WYV	Daniel	Render
84	KE4ZAA	Jared	Baker
86	KF4DAO	Mark	Liakos
87	KF4DMU	John	Dallas
358	KF4DVM	John	Galbraith
359	KF4DVN		Anderson
361	KF4ECD	William	Cassanova
170	KF4ZZ	Judd	Converse
96	KG8EN	Dave	Vanderwall
41	KI6CQ	Paul	Brewer
128	KJ4YM	Mark	Coleman
266	KM4FV	Delaine	McCarthy
56	KM4KB	Charles	Earhart
22	KM4MG	Marty	Stern
337	KQ4BG	Richard	Seay
342	KQ4WZ	Donald	Reed
33	KR4MM	Bryan	Gay
328	KR4TG	Michael	Del Pozzo
268	KS4CM	Bill	Slatton
134	KS4GT	Ruth	Clemens
2	KS4KJ	Steve	Mays
108	KS4OP	Steve	Potter
25	N1ABM	James	Alderdice
330	N3FDT	Michelle	Bonelli
329	N3FDU	Mike	Bonelli
130	N4BNC	Dave	Isom
3	N4CLA	Fred	Moore III
85	N4GFF	Carl	McKinney
11	N4HRA	Lew	Cason
77	N4JDO	Marty	Olson
70	N4JJH	Tony	Boden Sr.
34	N4KUF	Ernest	Massingill
74	N4LPU	Cliff	Walker
264	N4OSQ	Diana	Hess
185	N4PZA	Patton	McKinney
251	N4QVP	Bob	Stam
16	N4QXH	Alan	Stern
265	N4SE	Mac	McCarthy
44	N4SHO	Chuck	Rann
203	N4UAY	Hamp	Smith
202	N4UJO	Larry	Richardson

207	N4UJO	Walter	Wilson
205	N4VTH	Patty	Smith
285	N4VYP	Dorothy	McKinney
280	N4YIE	David	Gibson
282	N4ZUQ	David	Cavaliere
73	NC4E	Jack	Sanders
90	ND4D	Chuck	McGinnis Jr.
120	NK4U	Nancy	Draheim
247	W2HIK	Fred	Holcomb III
181	W4DQT	Bill	Plage
18	W4EJF	Forrest	Shelton
253	W4IRZ	Bill	Reynolds
334	W4NAR	George	Ryan
19	W4QO	Jim	Stafford
35	W4SHP	Jack	Van Hutten
49	W4UXJ	Marvin	Moss
321	W4WKP	Johnny	Fearon
152	W4YBV	Terry	Joyner
400	W8BLA	Vern	Fowler
55	W8SOA	Jack	Conrad
61	WA4BNN	Mike	Henry
5	WA4BRO	Dan	Turner
230	WA4BVI	Marvin	Ramos
6	WA4FNJ	Mike	Connell
347	WA4POU	Gilbert	Butler
276	WA4WSP	Michelle	Weinberg
82	WB2HMG	Frank	Lombardi
100	WB3JAU	Larry	Mottley
81	WB4GTL	Duane	Farmer
28	WB4PYL	Dan	Gustafson
192	WB4RTP	Avery	Davis
245	WB4RUJ	Hal	Orego
45	WB4ZBV	Kim	Clough
145	WB4ZTA	Ginny	Clough
319	WB5ZDH	Don	French
29	WD4NIT	Warren	Coleman
39	WV5R	Cam	Clayson

## DID YOU FORGET?

If you haven't paid your dues yet and they are past due, please do so now. Keep your repeater privileges intact.

Thanks .....



## N.F.A.R.L. Treasurer's Annual Report

N.F.A.R.L.  
1995 Profit & Loss  
(Jan. 1 thru Dec 22, 1995)

Income:	
ARRL Renewal	193.00
Auction Income	956.40
Contribution Income (Tickets)	214.00
Contribution Income (Unrestr)	25.00
Dues Income	3,817.50
Interest Income	80.94
Miscellaneous Income	411.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,910.84</b>
Expense:	
Advertising	377.13
ARRL Expenses	177.00
Auction Expenses	705.85
Awards	64.13
Bank Charges	22.47
Equipment Purchases	2,246.90
Field Day	11.52
Liability Insurance	309.00
Licenses	15.00
Newsletter Printing	96.25
Office Supplies	49.59
Parts	39.00
Postage	416.91
Printing (Manual Reproduction)	36.57
Printing (Misc)	169.60
Rent (POB)	40.00
Software	71.39
T&E (Entertainment - Hall Rental)	250.00
(Meals - Christmas)	100.00
(Cook Out)	156.85
(Field Day)	8.71
Taxes (Georgia Corp Tax )	13.68
(Georgia Dept of Revenue)	11.09
(IRS)	54.76
(Sales Tax )	17.84
Telephone (Sweat Mountain )	382.15
(Water Tower )	307.56
Void	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,146.95</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>763.89</b>

### Steve's Corner

(continued from page 1)

Day to combine emergency readiness (in building a complete radio station on a soccer field) and contesting (using that station to contact as many other Field Day sites as possible). There are many things we can do for each other, and that makes this club possible. The people that are in it are what makes it fun for me to be a member and go to meetings and talk to everyone on the air. Now I'm president and I want to do all I can to keep it a great club and help to grow. But, I can't do it alone. While there are four officers for North Fulton, we can't do it by ourselves. We need EVERYONE to do what it takes to make OUR club good. So, if you have something to present as a program at a meeting, TELL ME. If you have an idea for something our club can do, TELL ME. If you have an idea on how to improve the things we already do, TELL ME. I'll listen and see what we can do. But, after you suggest it, be prepared to DO IT. The officers and I will do what we can, but we need you too. So get your thinking caps and work shoes on the go to it!

As I did Wednesday night, I would like to thank Jeff Weinberg, Fred Moore and Rose Daley for all that they have done over the past year to keep North Fulton going. Jeff, of course, had been president for the past three years and has certainly earned a rest. ( I expect to see you at meetings, though!) Don't forget that we want to get your Email addresses at the next meeting, or you can send them to me at the address below. Thanks for your faith in electing me and I hope I can live up to the job. See you at Alpha Soda in January!

Steve Mays KS4KJ







# Quarterly Secretary's Report

October 11, 1995

The meeting convened at 7:30 by President Jeff Weinberg, AA4RC at the Alpha Soda Restaurant in Alpharetta.

The first issue raised was whether or not we wanted to continue meeting at this location. Some discussion ensued as to whether this would be a good location for the November election. An Election Committee was selected: this committee consisted of Cam Clayson, WV5R and Chuck Daley KD4LXQ. These individuals were to be responsible for accepting nominations for next month's elections.

The treasurer and secretary reports will be in the next newsletter: motion to accept Fred Moore's interim report was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Jeff is seeking nominations for our annual Amateur of the Year award. This is presented to a club member who has dedicated time and energy to amateur activities as well as demonstrating the best qualities of amateur operators. Nominations were to close the second week of the month.

Our annual Christmas party will be held at the Chimney Springs sub-division clubhouse on December 13, 1995. Directions will be in the newsletter and talk-in will be on 145.47 and 444.475. As in the past, the club will provide the meats, bread, sodas and condiments and members were to bring desserts, vegetables and other goodies to share.

Jeff reminded us that at this time, at least two offices will be vacant for next month's elections as neither the president nor the secretary will be seeking re-election.

A repeated reminder: The club does receive \$2.00 for each ARRL renewal and \$5.00 for each new ARRL membership. This is a great way to help out the club! You need to submit your renewal slip through Jeff and it adds about 7-10 days to the processing.

Visitors this evening included: Clay Juckett who is studying for his exam, John Galbert, KF4DVM and Tom, WB4HLH. Tom and John are also new club members. Please be sure to welcome these new stations.

Jeff reminded us that the next testing session at St. Ann's in Marietta would be the first Monday in November. This info is also in the newsletter. The info line that Jeff had been leaving these dates on has been adapted to another purpose and will no longer be available.

Going back to the subject of our next meeting's location, Steve Mays, KS4KJ, reported the results of his informal visit to the Cherokee Cattle Company. The group consensus from that visit was that both the food and the service has worsened since our last meeting there. It was decided that we would continue to meet at Alpha Soda.

On the subject of other meetings:

GARS	3rd Thursday	7:PM
Insomnia Net	Each Tuesday	10:30PM
NFARL Net	Each Monday	8:PM
Hamwatch Net	Each Sunday	8:PM
Amateur Family		
Breakfast	3rd Sunday	9:AM

Other announcements: Congratulations to Cam Clayson, WV5R and Jennifer Beaver, KF4BUL on their engagement. Fred Moore, N4CLA reminded the mem-

bership to pay their dues (the expiration date is on your newsletter address label). Jeff also added that we are still seeking a newsletter editor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

November 8, 1995

The meeting opened at 7:50PM with apologies from Jeff Weinberg, AA4RC who had arrived late. The business of the evening was our annual election of club officers. On the subject of old business, Fred Moore, N4CLA discussed some technical aspects. With the help of Rick Patchen, KD4RFK, he is trying to get a remote receiver installed near the northern intersection of I85 and I285 to provide better coverage in Gwinnett County. The 440 machine appears to be doing well and the software update needed for using 10 digit telephone numbers was to be installed shortly. The other item re-visited was the announcement that Pat Patterson, AD4GJ, would be assuming the newsletter duties beginning with the January edition.

Our visitors this evening included KF4ECD, Bill Casanova and KC4HUM, Dave Shively. There were no reports of upgrades nor new members. A brief discussion of repeater etiquette followed, prompted by John Galbert, KF4DVM.

Proceeding to the elections, your secretary submitted the following slate of officer candidates in the absence of Chuck Daley, KD4LXQ.

President	Steve Mays	KS4KJ
VicePresident	Cam Clayson	WV5R
Treasurer	Fred Moore	N4CLA
Secretary	Al Fischer	KC4RIB

No other names were placed in nomination and all candidates were elected by voice vote.

*(continued on page 9)*



**Secretary's Report**

*(continued from page 8)*

Also, Mike KR4TG, will be assuming the position of Field Day Co-ordinator next year.

Following the reminder that next month's meeting will be the Christmas party and will not be at Alpha Soda, Nicole Reynolds, KE4NPF, spoke briefly about Roswell/Alpharetta Hamwatch. She detailed that group's elections which had been held the previous week. Their meetings are the first Wednesday of the month and begin at 7:30PM.

Dan, KE4WYV, asked about the possibility of moving the Monday Night net. According to Steve Mays, KS4KJ, he has no plans to move the net as it does not conflict with any of the local 2m nets and it's been on Mondays since any of us can remember.

Jeff reminded us that the Amateur of the Year award will be presented at the Christmas party next month. He also has the latest info on "vanity" call signs if anyone would be interested. At this point he turned the chair over to Steve Mays, our president-elect. Steve thanked Jeff for the fine work he has accomplished over the last three years and spoke briefly about his hopes and concerns for the coming year. Since there were no objections, we will continue to meet at Alpha Soda in the new year.

Jeff mentioned a few things in closing: Fred has the database, the repeater manuals and all responsibility for the repeater. Fred and Cam are trying to set up an info line for the club. Finally, Jeff mentioned his inability to get the club filed with the IRS for tax-exempt status. This requires a large amount of paperwork filed and he would like to see the new officers move forward with that task.

The meeting closed at 8:45PM

December 13, 1995

The meeting convened at 7:40PM at the Chimney Springs Clubhouse, during our annual Christmas party. Thanks were extended to Michelle Weinberg for her usual

fine job in setting up this event.

The first order of business was the presentation of the Amateur of the Year Award. This award was first presented three years ago and the past recipients are David Fellows, KD4APK and Chuck Daley, KD4LXQ. This year, the award was presented to Al Fischer, KC4RIB, in recognition of his work with the SciTrek STARS station and his publicity efforts for NFARL.

The 1996 NFARL officers were formally presented:

Steve Mays	KS4KJ	President
Cam Clayson	WV5R	VicePresident
Fred Moore	N4CLA	Treasurer
Al Fischer	KC4RIB	Secretary

In addition, Mike, KR4TG will be our 1996 field day coordinator and Pat Patterson, AD4GJ, will assume the responsibility of editing and publishing Squelch Tales. It is hoped that future newsletters will include e-mail addresses.

On a related topic, Becky Bruner, wife of Bert Bruner, KE4FOV, has been working with Steve Mays on a NFARL Web Page. Jack Sanders, NC4E, asked about the possibility of putting the newsletter on a bulletin board; while response to the idea was positive, it will continue to be mailed as well.

Al Fischer stood and thanked the outgoing officers for their efforts over the past year, affording special recognition to Jeff and Michelle Weinberg for all their fine work over the past three years. Jeff mentioned his regret that he had been unable to file the paperwork for tax-exempt status and suggested that the club make that a priority in the next year. Al will request the necessary paperwork from the IRS.

Jeff turned the meeting over to Steve Mays at this point. Steve spoke about the repeater and how well it is spoken of around the city. He would like to continue that tradition and build on it to keep our membership vital and growing.

The meeting closed at 8:10PM  
Rose Daley, KE4MCW

**"The WB3GCK Downspout Antenna"**  
 Reprinted From  
**The SPLATTER**  
 Official Newsletter of  
 The Amateur Radio Club of Augusta

After years of trying to come up with a good way to get on the HF bands from my little townhouse (without attracting a lot of attention from my neighbors), I started experimenting with using my aluminum rain gutter and downspout for an antenna. The results have been surprisingly good. In fact, it has turned out to be the ultimate low-profile antenna!

I use my downspout like a random wire antenna, using a commercial transmatch. A piece of #22 stranded hookup wire runs from the transmatch to the downspout and is attached with a sheet metal screw. The downspout has a vertical run of approximately 16 feet, connecting the horizontal rain gutter which is about 16 feet long across the front of the house. Including the feed wire to the shack, the total length is in the neighborhood of 42 feet, over a quarter wavelength for 40 meters and almost a half-wave length for 30 meters. The house is made of brick, so the entire system is isolated from ground.

With the downspout behaving essentially like an end-fed wire, it really helps to work this type of antenna against a good ground. Fortunately, my basement operating position is only a few feet away from there the water supply pipe enters the house. I use a piece of 1/2 inch copper pipe as a ground bus between my operating position and the incoming water pipe. A tinned copper braid strap and a couple of ordinary automotive hose clamps were used to connect the bus to the water pipes. A short braid strap connects the ground stub on the transmatch to the copper ground bus. For good measure, I attached counterpoise wires to the ground stub of the transmatch; one each for 40, 30, 20, and 15 meters. The counterpoise wires are made from garden variety stranded hookup wire cut to a quarter-wavelength. I just run these wires around the shack, hiding them

*(continued on page 11)*

**Memorable Contacts**  
(Continued from page 3)

couldn't resist the offer and replied with a loud "Roger!". Having just vacationed at my parents a couple of weeks earlier, I had to give him directions off the top of my head, having left my address book at home. I was able to direct him onto the correct street and told him it was the forth or fifth house on the right and to look for a GMC Pickup with and orange and white camper.

On the next go'round, he said, "Brad, I think your dad's out here working in the yard. Stand by.....". Then, what seemed to be an eternity went by when a voice came back and said, "Brad, is this really you? This can't be possible!". I said I was in my car at work over 2,000 miles away and proved it was me by telling him how much I enjoyed the pancakes he made me while I was there. My father said, "It really is you, Bradley. This is really something, let me go get your mother". But.....oh, no, the band conditions were starting to change. I called the stations call, but no response. Mother Nature had slammed the door so fast we didn't even have time to sign off.

However, the amateur operator from Joplin turned out to be a really super guy. He remained a good acquaintance of my folks for about 6 months and even helped them fix up their house a bit in preparation for winter.

Funny how that simple "CQ" call turned out to be an amazing event. But, it was just one of many memorable contacts, only on Ham Radio.

# # #

*If you have had a Memorable Contact or Event on Ham Radio, share it with the rest of us by sending it to the address shown on page 2.*

# Amateur News From The ARRL

ARRL Bulletin 106 ARLB106  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 30, 1995  
To all radio amateurs

A new law in Massachusetts will put the language of the FCC's federal preemption of state and local laws affecting amateurs (PRB-1) on the books in that state when it takes effect next year.

H-2782, a bill in the Massachusetts legislature, was written by ARRL Volunteer Counsel Thomas Carrigan, WA1NVS, in 1992. The bill was passed by both chambers of the legislature earlier this year, then sent back to the legislature by Governor William Weld, for modification. Both chambers of the legislature then enacted the bill in the last week of this year's legislative session and sent it to the governor, who signed the bill into law on November 21.

The bill becomes law 90 days after signing, and is assigned to Chapter 225 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Eastern Massachusetts ARRL Section Manager Phil Temples, K9HL, said "Like PRB-1, the new Chapter 225 does not give amateurs a green light to do anything they want to do with their antennas. You are still bound by the zoning laws of your city or town, and you will still have to go through the same process for approval that you have to go through now.

"So what's the difference? Now, when you go to your town hall, you can point to Chapter 225 as requiring that local regulations be reasonable. If you should find it necessary to go to court for satisfaction, you can choose state court or federal court. State court trials would be less expensive, but the precedents set in PRB-1 cases do not transfer to Massachusetts courts," Temples said.

Carrigan has written a primer for Massachusetts hams on what the new law means. Temples also suggested that Massachusetts amateurs who contacted their representatives and senators in support of H-2782 now send a note thanking them for their support.

# # #

ARRL Bulletin 105 ARLB105  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 29, 1995  
To all radio amateurs

The ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim award has gone to

Beth Harris, KJ7FC, a 15-year-old Amateur Extra Class licensee in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Beth was first licensed as a Novice in 1993 and advanced to Extra Class in little over a year. She is an active operator and a member of the SHY-WY Amateur Radio Club in Cheyenne.

Beth, a sophomore at Cheyenne East High School, is active in several student organizations, including French and Amateur Radio clubs, and has been singing in choirs since she was five.

Beth was nominated for the award by Paul M. Crips, KI7TS, a communication technology instructor at Carey Junior High School in Cheyenne, who said Beth "has a true love of life, learning and exploration. With young operators like Beth, Amateur Radio will always have its rightful place as a national resource."

Beth was honored at a luncheon on November 15, attended by her parents; school officials; ARRL Wyoming Section Manager "Rev" Morton, WS7W; former Wyoming SM Steve Cochran, WA7H; ARRL Public Information Officer Wilson Sellner, WB7RRZ; and ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Marshall Quist, AG0X.

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award recognizes outstanding under-21 licensed amateurs and includes a 1000 dollar cash award. Nominations are made through ARRL section managers with a deadline of March 31 each year.

# # #

ARRL Bulletin 102 ARLB102  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 10, 1995  
To all radio amateurs

The following is a list of the FCC's most recently issued call signs as of November 1.

Dist	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AA02S	KG02Q	++	KB0UJ
1	AA10V	KE1DI	N1WBH	KB1BUW
2	AA22G	KG2ER	++	KB2WEE
3	AA3MX	KE3VD	N3WHT	KB3BLQ
4	AE4NK	KT4FO	++	KF4EKP
5	AC5FN	KK5UL	++	KC5RMU
6	AC6QH	KQ6BK	++	KE6ZEM
7	AB7NA	KJ7SG	++	KC7NPR
8	AA8UW	KG8UF	++	KC8BKJ
9	AA9QL	KQ9EO	++	KB9LWZ

++ Either all call signs in this group have been used or no new call signs have been recently issued in this district.



Amateur News From The ARRL  
(Continued from page 9)

## HOW TO GET STARTED IN HAM RADIO

Here's your invitation to a high-tech hobby that's got something fun for everyone. Amateur Radio operators are people from all walks of life — no matter what age, gender or physical ability. And getting started in Amateur Radio has never been easier! You can usually find a ham radio class in your area sponsored by friendly volunteers who will help you learn the ropes.

The rules for earning an Amateur Radio license vary depending on which country you live in. In the US, there are six license levels, or "license classes." These licenses are granted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

### TWO BEGINNER LICENSES TO CHOOSE FROM

The most popular license for beginners is the Technician Class license, which **NO LONGER REQUIRES A MORSE CODE EXAMINATION**, and gives you all ham radio privileges above 30 Megahertz (MHz). These privileges include the very popular 2-meter band. Many Technician licensees enjoy using small 2-meter handheld radios to stay in touch with other hams in their area. Technicians may operate FM voice, digital packet (computers), television, single-sideband voice and several other interesting modes. They can even make international radio contacts via satellites, using relatively simple equipment. To earn a Technician license, you'll need to pass the Novice and Technician written exams. These are multiple-choice tests, written with beginners in mind. You'll study topics such as radio operating practices, FCC rules and basic electrical theory.

The Novice Class license lets you talk by radio using voice, Morse code or computers. To earn a Novice license, you'll need to pass the Novice written exam and a 5 words-per-minute Morse code test.

a 5 words-per-minute Morse code test. Novice Class operating privileges include FM voice on the 220 MHz band, digital packet, and single-sideband voice on the 10 meter band. Novice operators may also use many other popular shortwave frequencies (below 30 MHz) to communicate worldwide using Morse code.

### WHERE DO I START?

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) publishes ham radio license study guides to help you learn the things you'll need to pass your exam and have fun with Amateur Radio. ARRL can also assist you in finding ham operators in your area who'd like to help you get started.

The ARRL educational Activities Department (EAD) distributes a New Ham Package that is sent at no cost to you. The material describes Amateur Radio, popular ARRL study guides, and includes a list of your local ham radio clubs, ham radio classes and volunteer examiners in your area. To serve you best, we'd like to know the following when you request a New Ham Package:

-Your First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

-Call Sign (optional)

-Date of Birth, MM/DD/YY

-Street Address

-City, State, Zip, Country

-Phone 1 (day), Phone 2 (evening)

Contact ARRL today for the New Ham Package by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM or write to ARRL EAD, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA. Be sure to make a specific request for the New Ham Package and include your postal address because there is too much material to send via e-mail or fax.

# # #

Downspout Antenna  
(continued from page 9)

under the rug. Operation on the 80 meter band has been successful using just the ground bus. How well does it work? During the first few months of operation, I worked 44 states; all with 5 watts or less. I've also worked a handful of DX stations (though I'm more a casual rag chewer than a DX chaser). The length of the "antenna" is somewhat short for 80 meters, but performance on that band has been a big surprise. Signal reports on 30 and 40 meters, my primary bands, have been consistently good. In fact, the downspout has now become my main antenna.

Some words of caution are in order, however, if you plan to use your rainspout as an antenna:

1. Make sure your gutter and downspout are isolated from ground.

2. Make sure there is solid electrical continuity between the various sections of your downspout and gutter. Mine are fastened with pop rivets (not the greatest for RF work, but they appear to be doing the job).

3. Watch your power. I wouldn't recommend running a kilowatt into your rainspout. Ham radio is fun, but not worth burning down your house.

4. Make sure people and pets won't come into contact with the "antenna" while you are transmitting. This isn't too much of a problem at QRP power levels, but be careful.

So, if you find your HF antenna options are limited by either space or legal restrictions, take a look at the outside of your house. There just might be a free multi-band antenna hanging out there.

73 de Craig, WB3GCK

# # #

Thanks to "The Splatter", official newsletter of the Augusta, Ga. Amateur Radio Club for the reprint of this article and to WB3GCK for writing it.....



# Amateur News From The FCC

## FCC AFFIRMS DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF RULES GOVERNING TRANSMITTER POWER STANDARDS IN THE AMATEUR SERVICE

The FCC has affirmed the Chief, Private Radio Bureau's denial of a request by Dale Gagnon for a waiver of the Commission's rules governing transmitter power standards in the Amateur Service. Gagnon requested permission for his amateur station to transmit at power levels greater than the 1,500 watts authorized by the Commission's rules.

Gagnon requested the need for higher power in order to engage in long-distance communications. Gagnon also sought to avoid the cost of bringing his vintage transmitters into compliance.

Affirming the Bureau's decision, the Commission said that Gagnon had not submitted any compelling arguments why his station should be given preferential treatment over other amateur stations operated by licensees of the same license class. The Commission said also that there is no basis for permitting Gagnon's station to use greater power than other amateur stations, and to do otherwise, would be unfair to other amateur station licensees who must comply with the power requirement.

Action by the Commission April 26, 1994, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 94-109). Chairman Hundt, Commissioners Quello and Barrett.

-FCC-

News Media contact: Patricia A. Chew at (202) 632-5050.

Private Radio Bureau contact: Maurice J. DePont at (202) 632-4964.

## FCC AMENDS AMATEUR SERVICE RULES TO IMPLEMENT A VANITY CALL SIGN SYSTEM

The FCC amended Part 97 of its Rules governing the Amateur Service to implement a vanity call sign system.

On December 23, 1994, the Commission adopted a Report and Order establishing a system for the assignment of vanity call signs to amateur stations. Today, the Commission amends the rules to make minor revisions requested in the Petitions for Reconsideration.

The FCC made three revisions that will improve the vanity call sign system. They are:

- 1) establishing a special application filing gate, Gate 1A, to provide licensed clubs the opportunity to obtain the call signs of deceased members;
- 2) limiting requests for call signs designated for Alaska, Hawaii and the Caribbean and Pacific Insular areas to licensees mailing addresses in those areas; and
- 3) limiting requests for vanity call signs to licensees of the corresponding, or higher, operator class.

Action by the Commission September 21, 1995 by MO&O (FCC 95-402). Chairman Hundt, Commissioners Quello, Barrett, Ness and Chong.

- FCC -

News Media contact: Stacey Reuben Mesa at (202) 418-0654.

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Contact: Maurice J. DePont at (202) 418-0690.

## NEED AN FCC FORM 610?

The ARRL/VEC can supply you with your needed Forms 610, whether they be for the Reciprocal Permit for Alien Amateur Licensee, Form 610-A; Club/Military-Recreation/RACES station, Form 610-B; or Form 610 for Amateur Operator/Primary Station License. FCC Form 610-R is a computer generated renewal form that will be sent from the FCC (beginning September 1995) to licensees whose license is to expire within 90 days. Form 610-V is the special application for persons seeking a Vanity call sign and that form is now available. Send a SASE to the ARRL/VEC if you would like to receive one. Several FCC forms, including Form 610, are available through the FCC's fax-on-demand service by calling 202-418-0177. (Request form "000610")



### Cam's Corner

(continued from page 3)

Remember we are here to serve and help our communities! Do what you can and you will reap the rewards that you richly deserve!

Enough of my jabbering for now. I hope that I can do as much for you, the membership, as you have done for me in the time that I have known you. Oh Yeah, thanks to Pat Patterson (AD4GJ) for putting this newsletter together. Until we meet again...

73,  
Cameron Clayson WV5R

## Newcomer's Guide to Amateur Radio Equipment by Vince AA4MY

I recently overheard two fairly new-to-the-hobby amateurs discussing (bemoaning) the high cost of Amateur Radio gear, specifically HF transceivers. They were discussing top brands, and top-of-the-line models. (Sorta like twoteenagers with newly-earned learner's permits, bemoaning the prohibitive costs surrounding Porsche 924's...) "You really can't get much for under \$1,000," said they. "Horse-feathers!" sez I.

Many new Amateurs mistakenly assume that they have no choice but to begin with a tired old used QRP CW transceiver, a wire dipole antenna, and perhaps a used handheld rig for VHF/UHF. This may be the case if you're simply flat broke and have no way to raise cash for a decent station, but there are any possibilities if you allow you creativity, determination, and logic to prevail. And you won't have to "homebrew" your entire station (unless you want to)!

Over the past 10 years, there has been a virtual explosion in electronic technology. The technology of "yesterday" (tubes, and linear VFO's) have been replaced with ultra-sophisticated, computerized, marvels of engineering and packaging technology (for which, we pay most dearly). But let's look seriously at some of those "antiques" of the late 70's and early 80's (which are now in the \$400 - \$800 range). Did they work? Most assuredly. How well did they work? Many a DXCC and 5 band WAS earned, with untold millions of hours of enjoyment, to boot!

Unfortunately, newcomers won't find ads for the "antiques" in today's Amateur Radio mags. All they see are the ads for the new, (multi) kilo-buck transceivers from Japan Inc. After reading some of the spec sheets on the new rigs, a newcomer to the hobby will probably think I'm off my rocker when I say most of the "features" found on the new HF rigs in the kilo-

buckrange are USELESS!

Just for an example, lets talk about "digital VFO's" and "memories". A "digital VFO" is in actuality, a frequency synthesizer.

Synthesizers are characterized by extreme frequency stability (a very desirable trait), on the order of 20 Hz or less per hour of (based on thermal changes in the crystal time base). But let's look at some of those "antiques". They, too, can boast of frequency stability. Like 100 Hz or so per hour. "But," you say, "that's FIVE TIMES WORSE than what a new rig can do!" And you're absolutely correct. But the key question is: "Will you notice 100 Hz per hour drift?" Using a tight CW filter, yes, you would--after perhaps a FULL HOUR QSO. On SSB, you'd probably want to touch the frequency knob after about 2 HOURS of ragchewing! Yes, those older rigs sure made Amateur Radio operating rough...

"But the new rig offers 100 memories", while some of the "antiques" don't even offer a digital display!" Yup, you're right again! But remember, unlike the VHF/UHF FM spectrum, HF is not "channelized". HF stations will be scattered randomly on the band--NEVER will you find them exactly where you programmed your memory for yesterday!. Net operation?? "Plus or Minus QRM" is often heard on many an HF net preamble. Your HF "memory" will NEVER get you exactly on the frequency of your favorite net. You'll always be tuning up and down the band anyway. Unless you plan to make heavy use of autostart RTTY, HF packet, or AMTOR, I doubt you'll ever need a memory on HF.

Keyboard entry of frequency? Perhaps good to get you in the desired band segment, but not much more.

Digital display? Impressive to look at, and perhaps nice to have. But crystal calibrators (about \$20 to build, if your "antique" doesn't already have one built in) and mechanical displays have been the frequency reference for years--and yes, the new rigs' high-tech synthesizers have to be calibrated against WWV,

just like the \$20 calibrator...

Solid state finals versus tubes. No doubt about it, tubes are getting more difficult to find. But they CAN be found. "Tubes are expensive!" Yes they are--but YOU can replace them. Ever try to get 4 matched RF type transistors? Ever changed a set mounted in a heat-sink buried within the bowels of a tightly packed maze where even Japanese-sized fingers fear to go? More likely than not, the average Amateur wouldn't even ATTEMPT to replace the finals in a solid state rig (IF he could find a matched replacement set!), while changing a tube presents little, if any, problem. Tubes have other advantages, too. They're infinitely more forgiving when it comes to that "ideal" 50 ohm resistive match we Amateurs are always seeking, but seldom attain. At 2:1 SWR, a tube will work just fine--a newer rig will probably go into a limited "foldback" to protect the transistors. Three to one?? Tubes are still perkin' along...Transistor? Forget it!

One disadvantage though: You will have to learn to peak the grid, and dip the plate. Hand-eye coordination. Watch the meter--twist the knob. Yup, those "Amateurs of olden days" sure had it rough...

Speech compressor? Some DXers swear by 'em. Most rag-chewers swear AT 'em! If you need one, they exist as after-market devices for the older rigs, not to mention the "build your own" method.

Suffice to say, a lot of the features on the newer rigs amount to high priced, useless frills. What newcomers in quest of a good HF rig REALLY need to do is seek out an EXPERIENCED Amateur who has knowledge about the older rigs. Ask what kind of rig they use. Ask what they like or dislike about it. Most Amateurs are delighted to show off their shack, and give you hands-on exposure to their setups.

I'd recommend any of the following, as they were the "standard of performance" in that "classic" age of 10 or more years ago. Most can be found in ham-fests or in trader publications for around \$200 - \$600.

(continued on page 14)



**DX Corner**  
**"Bitten by the Bug"**

After many weeks of preparation the day had finally come. On this weekend, among all of us here on the East coast, we will be flooded with the soft eerie sounds of other Amateur stations across the globe. Across the 20 Meter band one could hear what sound like a contest already underway. But only those who are serious of the sport spend the last few hours "warming up". It's a good time to get a feel of where propagation has opened for the "hunter". Moving up the band, it is evident 20 is open to Southern Europe and Northern Africa. I take another sip of coffee and mentally go over my plan to work this band. "Hunting and Pouncing" would probably work best here since I am now familiar with what stations are on the band. Computer on, lights slightly dimmed for comfort, and moments before the chaos.

00:00 Zulu, the beginning. One could tune across the band and find stations from every country in the world on the air at a given moment. Starting at the bottom, I tune up to find 2 or 3 Italian stations, 4 Spanish stations, and a host of German stations. I was after Africa, and usually they will try to join in early. About 100 KHz up from the bottom, I heard a rather large pile-up. Setting the VFO to zero beat and the notch to top-dead-center, I listen... Probably 1000 or more stations calling. It is hard to hear the DX station for a call-sign or part. Adjusting the beam heading 5 degrees further south, I managed to loose some of the QRM on the frequency. There he is, "Three-Victor-Eight-Bravo-Bravo QRZed?". The wall of noise begins, showing no mercy at the many who really want to work a new one. In the confusion, while some still calling, I managed to hear his call again. Like a reflex, I throw my call in a small opening "Kilo-Romeo-Four-Tango-Golf", and the melodic sounds continued, for what seemed to be hours. Then I heard what I hoped to hear. "Tango-Golf, Tango-Golf again..." "-Five...QSL?". A moment a silence arose

A moment a silence arose and then "Kilo-Romeo-Four-Tango-Golf, QSL ...ur Five-Nine-Thirty-Three, Good Luck.....".

A moment I had waited for for the many months of studying, testing to upgrade. I remember wanting to talk to some of the people I have heard on the radio for a long time. After all the hair pulling and nail biting over the tests, Here was the result. A new contact with an individual in a small baron country. At this time, I log the call, and with my hands still shaking, tune up for the next challenge..... Out of all of the aspects of Amateur Radio, I enjoy this the most. A sport that has been continuing since the early 30's and will continue on. For all of those who wish to make new contacts with new countries, states, counties, or just to make new friends, Enjoy the Amateur Hobby. There is room for all on all the bands. For those who enjoy contests, remember, be sure to check your frequency first, then transmit.

C U All in the pile-ups es 73 de  
 Mike, KR4TG

Please remember  
 to recycle this  
 newsletter!



**Amateur Equipment**  
*(continued from page 13)*

Collins KWM-2A, Drake TR4-C, & TR-7 transceivers; Collins S Line, Drake T4C, R4C (separate Receiver & transmitter). Again, these were the "Cadillacs" of 10 or so years ago. Solid, proven performers, and parts still readily available.

Be cautious though--not all the rigs in this era were gems. Although some of their rigs were winners, manufacturers such as SWAN, National, EICO, et al., have had models that left a sour taste in the Amateur community. Until you're more knowledgeable about the ins and outs of specific models, stick to the "Cadillacs" like Collins & Drake.

Got a little more to spend? Icom 745 (my current HF rig), Kenwood TS-830, TS-430. \$600 - \$800 range. SOLID performers (even if they ARE transistorized!).

Just for fun, let me play devil's advocate. Lets assume that you, Joe New Ham, just HAS to have that kilo-buck+ special. It's a steep price to pay, no argument. But the thing you have to keep in mind is that the cost of this hobby is mostly "up-front money." In the long run, Amateur Radio is NOT that expensive when you look at dollar cost versus hours of enjoyment.

Let's compare it to some other hobbies: Bowling--pretty inexpensive, eh? After you buy your equipment (about \$75 or so), you can look forward to dropping an additional \$10 or so every time you visit the lanes for a couple hours of fun. A couple times a week, over the course of a SINGLE YEAR, you've already paid MORE than that new transceiver costs! Do you enjoy going to the movies? Add this up: \$5-\$6 admission, \$2-\$5 for refreshments, that's \$7-\$11 per film, and if you go just once a week it works out to \$350-\$550 per year...add a date and double it...about an hour and a half of entertainment each week for perhaps \$1,000! And don't forget the hassles of parking, waiting in line, etc. What about golf? You pay greens fees, and you're limited to daylight and

*(continued on page 16)*



## Amateur News From Around The World

courtesy of  
**Amateur Radio Newline**

10/28/95

The General class code test speed will remain at 13 words per minute. This, after the FCC denies three requests to lower the Morse code requirement of that class of operator license.

The requests, in the form of letters, came from three Technician-Plus class licensees. All three petitioned that the 13 word per minute Morse code requirement for the General class license be lowered to 5 words per minute. Two of them also asked that the Technician-Plus operator license class be eliminated. That all holders of Technician-Plus licenses be grandfathered to General class operator privileges.

But in an Order released October 19th the FCC says that the current amateur service license structure and examination requirements were developed in accordance with the expressed desires of the amateur service community. This, through numerous rule making proceedings that generated many thousands of comments. The FCC says that the amateur service community indicated on each occasion that it strongly desires to preserve communications by telegraphy. And after considering the views expressed in those proceedings, the Commission adopted the rules that are codified in Part 97.

Based on this history, the FCC concludes that the petitioners have not presented sufficient evidence to justify revisiting these matters at this time. Its not known if any of the three hams will file appeals.

# # #

Another intermode battle is brewing. This one on the 70 centimeter ham band where two groups of operators, amateur television users and FM operators are at odds.

Codeless technician amateurs may not have intended to start a battle, but they

seem to be involved, anyway. The controversy started last spring. That's when the Mid America Coordination Council decided to phase out fast scan amateur television operations on the 440 MHz band. The reason given, so that more spectrum can be made available for increased use by FM voice and other narrowband interests. FM users say they need the space so they can set up more voice repeaters to accommodate the flood of codeless technicians joining amateur radio every month. In most parts of the U.S., the 2 meter band is already saturated and in many areas, UHF frequencies are getting busier, too.

But ATV operators, including those who have operated on the 430 MHz band since before the first FM voice signal showed up, say not so fast. They say they won't move higher in frequency. And they say neither the FM community nor their repeater councils have the right to tell them to leave. Supporters of ATV point to FCC rules Part 97.305, subpart C. That section authorizes fast scan amateur television and other wideband modes on the 70 centimeter band and above. ATV operators say that, with or without the blessing of the Coordination Council or any other FM repeater frequency coordinator, their personal home stations will be staying on the air, right where they are.

Some ATV operators indicate they are even willing to take the issue to court if they must, so that they can keep their slice of the 70 centimeter spectrum.

The clash between ATV and FM seems to be hottest in the territories that fall under the umbrella of the Mid America Coordination Council. Last spring, MACC voted to stop coordination of Amateur Television repeaters in the 70 centimeter band. It did not ban them, but it did request that they consider moving to bands higher in frequency. Many ATVers complained

about this decision so at a meeting held in St. Louis just prior to the national repeater coordinators conference, MACC voted once again. The results were the same. A non-binding recommendation that MACC member states no longer coordinate fast scan ATV repeaters onto the 70 centimeter band. And with this second affirmative vote against ATV, it could spread to other parts of the country as the ham radio airwaves continue to fill up. If nothing else, it appears as if definite battle lines have been drawn between the two modes.

# # #

In DX, 9K2HN, will activate from Kuwait this new prefix using the call sign 9KOA. Depending on propagation, he is active on 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. QSL via 9K2HN, by the bureau or direct.

# # #

This from VE3NDX coming to us via packet radio. Joe tells about reports in the Canadian Press that tell about an Australian man that was fined \$2,000 for quacking like a duck on his radio transmitter. No, we are not kidding. \$2,000 for going quack, quack on the air.

The fine was levied after the man pleaded guilty to operation and possession of unlicensed communications equipment. In addition to the fine, he was also ordered to forfeit the equipment to the government.

Joe adds that the guy is probably very lucky. Lucky in that some duck hunting ham didn't get him first. Hi Hi....

# # #

11/12/95

RF light bulbs are on their way and they could add to the QRN currently on the ham bands. This, after the Federal Communications Commission waives its rules to permit the General Electric Company to begin marketing a new RF powered light bulb.

*(continued on page 16)*

## Amateur News From Around The World

courtesy of  
**Amateur Radio Newslite**

### Amateur News

*(continued from page 15)*

At GE's request, Part 18 of the commissions regulations has been waived. Part 18 limits on the amount of RF energy that can be conducted into the electric power lines by RF lighting devices in the band 2.2 to 2.8 MHz. GE proposes marketing to consumers an unlimited number of RF light bulbs that comply with the conduction limits for non-consumer RF lighting devices in this band.

Commission rules already permit RF lighting devices used in commercial environments to place this signal level on the AC power lines. The FCC says that there has been no record of significant interference problems from the use of these devices in commercial environments. It also says that radio operations in the range 2.2 to 2.8 MHz are not normally employed or intended for reception in residential environment. GE was granted a waiver for one year, and the FCC reserved the right to revoke the permit if it determines that RF lighting devices operating under the conditions of the waiver create severe interference problems.

Three years ago, a California company, Intersource Technologies, promoted an RF powered light bulb that operated at 13.56 MHz. According to the manufacturer it was designed to keep unintentional radiation to a minimum. The company claimed that its 25 watt RF bulb could generate as much visible light as a 100 watt conventional bulb but these lamps were never marketed.

And the ARRL says it has a definite interest in what kind of interference the GE RF bulb may generate. The League says that it will obtain samples of the GE bulbs for for testing as soon as they are available. ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, says that the new bulbs

should not, if properly designed, create any more interference to Amateur Radio operations than fluorescent bulbs, dimmer switches, or other similar devices found in the home. Other experts disagree. They point to the problems that a bad incandescent lamp dimmer can create for the average ham.

# # #

The cost of getting a ham radio license is going up again in 1996. Effective January 1st, the maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license examination will be \$6.07. The FCC set this amount based on the Consumer Price Index between September 1994 and September 1995. Its an increase of 17 cents from the current \$5.90 fee.

Actually, nobody really makes any profit from ham radio testing fees. Volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators are permitted to charge examinees for out of pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating examinations for amateur operator licenses. The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any one examinee for any one examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee.

# # #



### Amateur Equipment

*(continued from page 14)*

(for all but the fanatics) fair weather. Not so with HF Amateur Radio. Twenty-four hours a day, rain or shine, you can sit down and enjoy your INVESTMENTmaking new friends, learning about faraway places, and perhaps helping others in life-threatening situations.

Compare your Amateur Radio hobby. Say you spend even \$5,000 on a transceiver, antenna, tower, tuner, power supply, coaxial cables, rotator, and miscellaneous accessories for the shack. Let's say the setup lasts five years (conservatively) before you want to make any major changes. Five grand works out to \$1,000 a year, or \$20 a week for unlimited hours of operating and providing a valued public service. Even if you add more extras, like a good keyer, handheld VHF radios, club dues, magazine subscriptions, reference books, tools, license upgrade preparation tapes, packet TNCs, backup power generators, mobile gear, and a cheap computer, it's still a fairly inexpensive hobby over the long haul. No to mention the fact that you'll probably recoup 30-50% (or more) of your investment if you decide to sell your equipment used at a later date. So, for a net outlay equivalent to maybe \$10-\$25 a week, you can be a "complete Amateur."

If you're still doubtful about the hobby, seek out an experienced Amateur to consult and/or go shopping with, and go for one of the "classics" of recent time. Get on the air. It won't take you long to become hooked on HF operating. It's day and night compared to VHF repeater operation. Besides, you'll always be able to sell it at a hamfest if you ever lose interest. But if you're convinced that Amateur Radio is for YOU, then go ahead and look at those kilo-buck+ specials, visit your friendly Credit Union if necessary, and GO FOR IT!

73 de Vince Yakamovich, AA4MY

*Many thanks to Vince for this great article and I will be sending him a copy of our newsletter and he will send us one of his for comparison...*



<b>NORTH FULTON AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE</b>							
<b>P.O.Box 1741</b>				<b>ROSWELL GA</b>		<b>30077</b>	
Application Type	Date	New	Renewal	Change			
<b>PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>				<b>MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION</b>			
First Name:			Member #:	Call Sign	License cls		
Last Name:			License Expiration Date				
Address:			Are you a member of ARRL?	Yes	No	Life	
City:	State:	Zip:	Do you wish to become a member of ARRL?	Yes	No		
Home Phone	Business Phone		Pager	E-Mail address			
Spouse's Name			Children's Name				
May we contact you at Home?			Yes	No	Best time		
May we contact you at Work?			Yes	No	Best time		
Please restrict calls to emergency only			Yes	No			
Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for:			Public Service		Emergencies		
Do you have?			emer power	4 wheel drive	truck		
Would you like to be contacted by Roswell/Alpharetta Ham Watch?			Yes		No		
<b>What Operating MODEs are you interested in?</b>							
Packet	FM	CW	RTTY	Amtor	SSB	ATV	Oscar
<b>Where can we find you?</b>							
	HF	6M	2M	220	440	Other	
<b>DUES SCHEDULE</b>							
* Student / Retired Annual Membership			\$15.00				
Regular Annual Membership			\$30.00				
Additional Family Annual Memberships			\$5.00				
Donation							
Total							

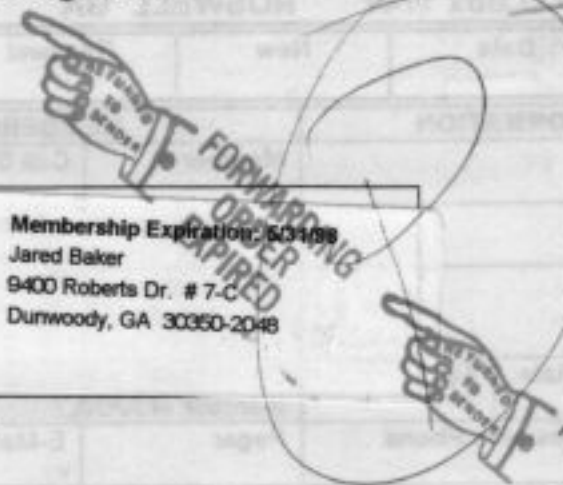
\* Student implies that you are a full time student and not gainfully employed. Retired implies that you are 55 years of age and are NOT gainfully employed. Your dues cycle runs from the date the club receives your dues to the next calendar year and is sent to you as an invoice.

Received:	Date	Amount	Check #
Presented to membership:	Date	Approved	Not approved



# Squelch Tales

North Fulton Amateur Radio League, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1741  
Roswell, GA 30077



Membership Expiration: 6/31/98  
Jared Baker  
9400 Roberts Dr. # 7-C  
Dunwoody, GA 30350-2048



### Inside This Issue:

- ⇒ Repeater Command Summary
- ⇒ Memorable Contacts
- ⇒ Downspout Antenna
- ⇒ Newcomer's Guide to Equipment
- ⇒ Membership Application
- ⇒ Repeater Emergency Codes
- ⇒ Atlanta VEC Schedule
- ⇒ DX Corner
- ⇒ Who's Who in the NFARL

BAKE400\* 303502300 1695 01/12/96  
 NOTIFY SENDER OF NEW ADDRESS  
 BAKER, JARED WAYNE  
 1223 BALBOA CT #A  
 NORCROSS GA 30093-4509



**NFARL**

## Upcoming Programs

February 14 - Open for suggestions.

March 13 - Open for suggestions.

April 10 - Open for suggestions.

May 8 - 5th Annual N.F.A.R.L. Auction. Bring items you wish to sell to this favorite annual club event.

June 12 - Field Day discussion. This is a great time to find out about this year's Field Day plans and schedule.

June 29/30 - Field Day

July 10 - Open for suggestions

August 14 - Open for suggestions

September 11 - Open for suggestions

*(As you can see, we are desperately in need of someone to step forward and say that they will give a presentation to the group. All it takes is a little knowledge of the subject and the courage to do it.....Please!!!)*



## Our Goal

Our goal is simply to be the best newsletter of its type in Atlanta. The N.F.A.R.L. newsletter should be something people look forward to getting 4 times a year.

In order to meet this challenge, this publication needs the support of its readers. If you have an article or letter of interest, please send them in to be published. The more contributors, the better the newsletter.

Also, if you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please send them to the attention of the *Squelch Tales* Editor, P.O. Box 1741, Roswell, GA 30077.

