

Happy New Year.

If you didn't get to attend the Christmas party this year, NFARL hopes that your Christmas season was a joyous time and that you and your family will have a prosperous New Year for 2006.

We just had our first meeting of the year, and if you didn't get to attend, you missed a great presentation. The speaker at the meeting was Ric Vaughn, **AD4EH**, a retired United Airlines 777 pilot, where he presented electric model airplanes.

Now for a little of what is going on in the club. As you know, amateur radio is a hobby and consists of volunteer organizations. We here in North Fulton have had a wonderful organization for the last 25 years and would like to keep it going. Membership has declined over the last several years, due to lots of reasons, most being totally out of our control. Some of these reasons have been that some of the members have passed on, some have moved, others have had life changes, some have had illnesses, and others have changed hobby interests, all of which happen to all organizations at some point in their existence. Most of you have been sent emails regarding the holiday functions, notification of the club web page www.nfarl.org that was recently updated and various other emails about club information as well as notifications of your dues being due. You may or may not know that the main repeater for NFARL, located on Sweat Mountain, has been moved to another location up there and has basically been intermod free since the move. The new location is now costing the club a monthly rental for the tower space as well as having to pay for the electricity. However, the benefits are, that we don't have to share the tower or building with anyone else and we are not plagued with intermod. We also no longer support any autopatches. The time had come to discontinue them as most everyone now has their own cell phones and the monthly cost of the phone lines were becoming prohibitive in cost. Sweat Mountain alone was costing almost \$43 per month and nobody was using it.

We are planning to have at least two or three fox hunts this year, Field Day with a picnic, and our annual Christmas Party. We have three repeaters running, 145.47, 147.06 and 444.475, all of which are open with no PL and are just waiting for you to use them. Get on and make yourself known.

Some of you have been sent several emails regarding dues information, with literally no response indicating that you at least received the notice, or that you no longer are interested in being a member of NFARL. Your financial support is needed now more than ever before. Our basic monthly expenses including tower space, electric, and PO Box is about \$65. We need your support. Our annual dues are \$30 a year, which nets out to \$2.50/mo. That \$2.50/mo keeps the three repeaters running and keeps the club solvent. We would really appreciate your financial support.

If you received this letter by **US Mail**, this means that we do not have your email address. Our goal is to reduce ALL external expenses including postage costs, especially since the postage has now gone to \$.39 for first class. If you would be willing to send us your email address, we would appreciate it very much. You can be assured that your email address will not be used for anything by us other than NFARL related business. Please reply to n4cla@nfarl.org.

Thank you and Sincerely,

Fred Moore

N4CLA