



## **eNEWS March 2011**

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

**eNEWS** is “**what’s happening**” in **North Fulton**! Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Go to [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) or [eHAM.net](http://eHAM.net) for the national news, but here is this month’s **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



### **Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates**

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM - Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30PM - 147.06 MHz & 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 Frances Doyle, AJ4JQ and others...
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** - 7PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **March Club Meeting** – March 15 – W3WL “South Orkney DXpedition”
- **Mid-Month Madness – Kennehoochee Hamfest** - March 19 - Jim Miller Park
- **VE Testing Sessions** – Mar 19 and Apr 16 - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center – 10:00 AM

### **Program Update / John Kludt K7SYS**

Wes Lamboley W3WL, our vice president and education chairman, has safely returned from the South Orkney Islands. Wes was a member of the Micro-Lite Penguin DXpedition team and put in many hours pulling folks out of the CW pileups. Please come to the March meeting for a first-hand look through Wes' eyes and ears on a very successful DXpedition from the other end of the circuit. Wes will be accompanied by George Nicholson, N4GRN, also a member of the Micro-Lite Penguin team in South Orkney as well as being a seasoned DXpeditioner of many rare and exotic DX entities.



### **March Mid-Month Madness**

March finds the hamfest calendar in full swing. NFARL will be hosting a “cafe-style” booth at the Kennehoochee Hamfest, Saturday, March 19. This event will be at Jim Miller Park, Marietta. Drop by between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM for a chat. You can even help staff the NFARL booth!

### **April Program**

As spring comes around, it is always tempting to find ways to take our radios outside and play. Please join us as Mike Roden W5JR introduces us to the joys and techniques of transmitter hunting.

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## ***President's Corner for March***



As we close out February and move into the month of March, I am amazed by the amount of activities and events that have already been enjoyed by the NFARL club membership this year. Most impressive are the efforts put forth and results achieved by our club members with an outreach to both the amateur and the non-amateur communities alike. From conducting a youth kit building event at TechFest, assisting in helping local Boy Scouts achieve their radio merit badges, providing control operators at the "School Roundup" at the Living Science Center, administering HamCrams and license testing services enabling new amateurs to enter our hobby, we should

all take pride in what our fine club has accomplished and it is a credit to our vibrant membership. Yet, the year is only just beginning.

This month provides a great opportunity for all of you to take advantage of and contribute to the many upcoming events and activities that the club will be involved in. Here is what is coming up in the next 4 weeks!

For DX interests, our March program features our club Vice-President, Wes Lamboley, W3WL, who will be giving a presentation on the recent South Orkney DXpedition. Wes was a member of the VP8ORK team and he will be sharing the story and his experiences from his journey to the far end of the earth that delivered over 63,000 QSOs from a rare entity to the amateur community. For those operators wishing to score some DX in a unique manner, they can participate in the club effort to achieve DXCC awards via Logbook of the World utilizing the club call sign NF4GA. Please see the following link for details. <http://www.nfarl.org/clubDXCC/clubDXCC.html>

For aspiring CW operators and those operators that wish to hone their skills or help advance the skills of others, we have CW sig practice sessions on Friday evenings at 8:00 on the 145.47 repeater. Please see the column by Jim Stafford, W4QO, in this newsletter for details.

For those who wish to serve their club and also enjoy the activity of a hamfest, signing up to take a shift staffing the NFARL table at the Kennehoochee Hamfest on March 19<sup>th</sup> provides a great chance to promote our club to the amateur community.

For contesters, club members are encouraged to participate in the ARRL DX SSB contest March 5-6 and the CQ WW WPX SSB March 26-27. These contests should help to get you warmed up for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Georgia QSO Party (GQP) on April 9/10.

This year the club will be awarding all participating NFARL members in the GQP with a custom certificate and also will be recognizing high score achievements in various categories (mode, power, etc.). Don't miss out on the thrill of being one the "hunted" GA stations in this contest. Click [here](http://gqp.contesting.com/index.htm) for more details: <http://gqp.contesting.com/index.htm>.

73 - I hope to see you at the meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> and to work you on the bands,

John N4TOL

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## ***Field Day 2011 Update / Ian Kahn AK4IK***

The time is again here to plan for Field Day. Your planning committee is off to a great start, with many ideas for the 2011 event. I am pleased to announce that Scott Straw KB4KBS joins the team this year as co-chairman. Scott helped out significantly the last time he was in Atlanta for Field Day and brings a wealth of new ideas to make this year's event better than ever.

I also want to take this opportunity to reach out to the newer members of the club, whether you are a new ham or an old-timer who is new to our club. If you are looking for an easy way to get involved in club activities, Field Day is a great starting place. It is our biggest event of the year, and it presents many opportunities to get involved, meet other club members, and learn more about ham radio operations.

Please contact me at [ak4ik@nfarl.org](mailto:ak4ik@nfarl.org) if you would like to join the committee.

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## ***Water Tower / Mike Roden W5JR***

Mack McCormick W4AX (used to that new call yet?) and Brian McCarthy NX9O scaled the Roswell water tower recently and changed out our 2-meter repeater antenna. The "new"- to-NFARL, commercial DB-224 antenna (via Bill Hampton W4OO) received a makeover from Mack and Chuck Catledge AE4CW before being hoisted aloft.

Reports coming in show marked improvement. Thanks to those who tested with us.

Participating in the project along with Mack and Brian were Jim Paine N4SEC, Bob Freeman KI4SBL, Christian Kuhtz KJ4VPK and me.

The photo shows the topside install crew with the antenna installed -- the aluminum on the left. The antenna on the right belongs to the City of Roswell (our gracious host).



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## ***CW SIG: Amateurs CHOOSE to learn Morse Code! By Jim Stafford, W4QO***

Well, the 2011 CW class has drawn to a close. It lasted 6 weeks and this year we had about 7 enrolled. That may sound strange but we had some that had to withdraw and one person joined us near the end! To this point, we've had 3 people pass the 5 wpm code test and will be duly recognized at the March club meeting. Those are **Chris, W4CCH, Larry, KJ4YOT, and Jacob, KJ4VWL**. Let me tell you about Jacob. He is 10 years old, a NFARL club member, and he has achieved the CODE 10 award already by making more than 10 contacts. The adults should feel no shame but Jacob was the star of the class, learning all the code quicker than the rest, and he has worked at least 13 states, probably more by now – all on CW! Congrats to Jacob a real telegrapher!



We also had another half dozen involved in what we call CW101 – the distance learning class. They participated in the weekly on the air code practice on the 145.47 repeater on M-W-F at 8PM. We encourage the rest of the CW SIG gang to keep practicing a half hour per day, follow the guidelines on the club website, and try out the RUFZ program. We will now have a practice session on the repeater only on Fridays at 8PM, followed by a 5 wpm code test, and then on to 7117 khz to send our calls to each other at 5 wpm! Join us, why don't you and earn your 5 wpm code endorsement on a copy of your license we print for you! CW – better than Twitter!

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## ***Scouts Earn Radio Merit Badge / Jim Stafford W4QO***

Thanks to the leadership of scout liaison Jon Wittlin K4WIT, six Boy Scouts earned their Radio Merit Badge at the merit badge conference February 26. Scouts were to complete pre-class material and then with Wes Lamboley W3WL and Rich Adams KB7WO assisting Jon, the scouts worked through almost three hours of classroom material at the Cross of Life Lutheran Church on Hembree Road. On a beautiful day, they adjourned to the parking lot where I had installed a quick-up 40-meter dipole at about 25 feet. Scouts then helped put up a 2-meter J-Pole antenna using the throw bag over a 20-foot pine tree! The six scouts rotated among three stations the mentors had established. Over the 145.47 repeater, scouts spoke with a number of hams and on the HF station they worked Missouri, Pennsylvania and coastal South Carolina. All seemed impressed as they completed the requirement to spend at least 10 minutes on the air! Several expressed a real interest in continued study for a ham license. Congrats to scouts and teachers alike.





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## **Living Science ARC Roundup Station a Hit / Frances Doyle AJ4JQ**

Thank you to all the NFARL members who helped set up and run Living Science Amateur Radio Club's School Club Roundup station! From February 14 – 17, KJ4LS was on the air for the School Club Roundup contest, talking to other school clubs and hams around the world. We introduced students to amateur radio and let them talk to other hams. Several students expressed interest in getting their licenses, and everyone thought that ham radio was "really cool." Most had never heard of the hobby, but everyone was fascinated to hear stations from all over the United States and other countries talking to us. A few students were a bit nervous when talking on the radio for the first time, but afterward they agreed that it was fun. We logged over 100 contacts and talked to about 15 other school clubs, ranging from elementary schools to universities. Again, thanks to everyone who helped, and we hope to talk to you during the next School Club Roundup in October.



Frances Doyle AJ4JQ at the controls of KJ4LS during the School Club Roundup

## ***Another Big Day for HamCram / Mack McCormick W4AX***

NFARL hosted another successful Technician HamCram with 18 people passing the examination. Many young people were also licensed. It was a long day and the HamCram covered the new Technician material, which has become much more technical.

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Please join me in thanking the Living Science Center for the use of their facility and all the great instructors: Wes Lamboley W3WL, Rich Adams KB7WO, Jim Stafford W4QO and Chuck Catledge AE4CW. Special thanks also goes to Verne Fowler W8BLA, Ian Kahn AK4IK, Roger Anders AA2HT and Ken Perry K4COS.

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## ***Prime Time Ahead for Club DXCC / Dave Higdon Jr. KD4ICT***

The hunt is on! Last month the club's pursuit of DXCC was announced. We have a few contacts so far, but still have a long way to go to reach our goal. The first window is still open through the end of March for the newest licensees (2009 to present). April and May will open to those licensed since 1993. This month we have a few more contests to utilize for our contacts.

Hopefully, everyone had a chance to work the ARRL DX SSB contest. If you were able to do so, don't forget to submit your contacts made as NF4GA. There is still another SSB contest near the end of the month. It is the CQ WW WPX SSB contest from 0000Z March 26 through 2400Z March 27. I will post a reminder on the NFARL reflector with more information in the days before the contest.

For the PSK31 crowd, the EA PSK31 contest is the weekend of March 12-13 from 1600Z Saturday until 1600Z Sunday.

The Russian DX contest on the weekend of March 19-20 will give CW and SSB operators a chance to make a few contacts. In this contest, you can work both modes and get credit. It runs from 1200Z March 19 until 1200Z March 20.

Now, who do you work? If you want to dig a little, check this link:

<http://www.hb9bza.net/lotw/index.html>

It will provide a list of LOTW users. You can search for users several ways. This list is updated often. The March 3 update stated there were 40,298 call signs from 332 current countries. After reading the list of users you will find some countries are rarer than you would think. Of course, if someone is not on the list, you can still work them. They just may not be users yet. Go ahead and submit your contact.

Which brings me to a related topic: If you are not a LOTW user, you should give it a chance. It takes just a little more effort to get going, but not much. But once you are set up, the QSLs in many cases are nearly instantaneous. And it is much quicker and cheaper than traditional QSLing. For me it is not a replacement, but another tool in the bag. I still enjoy sending and receiving cards.

So, when you work some DX, please try to also work them as NF4GA and send a log excerpt to [award@nfarl.org](mailto:award@nfarl.org) as soon as you can. If you can send an ADIF file, please do, or just send all the pertinent details and we can add you to the log. Remember, all contributors will receive a copy of the DXCC certificate. Here is the link to NFARL DXCC site: <http://www.nfarl.org/clubDXCC/clubDXCC.html>

It is possible to complete this challenge in a weekend. Let's see what we can do!

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## ***Quickie QSO***

**A monthly feature aimed at helping NFARL members get to know each other**

**Name, call:** Scott Dunbar N4SBD

**QTH:** Alpharetta

**Personal:** I have 7-year-old twins -- a boy, Jack, and a girl, Elizah.

**First licensed/other calls:** Technician in October 2009 and General in February 2010

**Main equipment:** Home: ICOM 706MKII, LDG Z-100Plus autotuner, Yaesu FT-2800M (connected to EchoLink N4SBD-R), ULI and Signalink interfaces. Mobile: ICOM 2820H Dual Band X-repeat with D-Star and GPS. Running D-RATS, WINMOR, Winlink.

**Favorite hangout:** QTH with the kids

**Favorite activities:** I enjoy scuba diving, sailing, golf, skiing, electronics, astronomy, physics, woodworking, ham radio and travel.

**I'd like to know more about:** Digital modes / CW / TV transmissions

**Fantasy:** To have a perfect electronics / mechanical workshop like on the MythBusters TV show.

**Memorable on-the-air moment:** QSO with Col. Doug Wheelock while he was aboard the International Space Station. My son Jack was with me. All my antennas are in my attic.

**My Elmer:** The following guys have helped me get started: Jim Stafford W4QO, Mack McCormick W4AX, Tom Koch W4UOC, Michael Cohen AD4MC and Jim Paine N4SEC.

**When not in the shack:** I work for Nokia and travel globally. I am active in ARES, CERT and other disaster relief groups in Alpharetta. If I am not doing any of the above, I am hanging out with my kids.

**Something you might not know about me:** I have degrees in Physics and Math from Georgia Tech, and have been building robots since I was 11 years old.

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## ***Service Opportunities***

### **March**

**Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Saturday, March 19.** We need NFARL volunteers to set up the NFARL booth at 7:30 AM, tend the booth from 8 AM to noon and take down the booth at noon. We need at least two volunteers in the booth each hour and five volunteers to set up



and take down the booth. Contact Bill Reed K4YJI at [k4yji@nfarl.org](mailto:k4yji@nfarl.org) for more information and to volunteer.

### **International Day at the Johns Creek NE Spruill Oaks Library**

Come join a team of NFARLites who will present “[The World of International Ham Radio](#)” during [International Day](#) at the [NE Spruill Oaks Library in Johns Creek](#) on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We will set up a mini field day station operating from the lobby of the Library beginning at 10AM and continuing throughout the afternoon. Coincidentally, this is the weekend of the [CQ worldwide WPX SSB contest](#). The bands will be hopping with international stations, so we will have a great opportunity to introduce Ham radio to a host of youth and adults who will be visiting the library for this special event. To sign up for this event contact Chuck, AE4CW at [ae4cw@nfarl.org](mailto:ae4cw@nfarl.org).

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### ***North Fulton ARES Update / Jim Paine N4SEC***

North Fulton ARES will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the City of Sandy Springs Municipal Complex, 7840 Roswell Road Building 500.

You do not have to be an ARES member to attend. Our meetings are open to all amateur radio enthusiasts. Also, NFARES has a weekly net at 8:30 pm Sunday on the 147.060 (+, tone 100) and all amateurs are welcome to check in. Over the last several weeks, after the conclusion of the net, a number hams have have practiced sending messages with several different digital modes through the repeater. For more information on NFARES, please check out: <http://www.nfares.org/>

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### ***Need a Name Badge?***

Go to the [NFARL Mart](#) and order one of these magnetic badges!







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

### **Contact Us**

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<b>Treasurer &amp; Repeater Trustee</b>	Fred Moore N4CLA 404-434-4499	<a href="mailto:n4cla@nfarl.org">n4cla@nfarl.org</a>
<b>Past President &amp; Special Events</b>	Chuck Catledge AE4CW 770-641-7729	<a href="mailto:ae4cw@nfarl.org">ae4cw@nfarl.org</a>
<b>Program &amp; Mid-Month-Madness Chairman</b>	John Kludt K7SYS	<a href="mailto:k7sys@nfarl.org">k7sys@nfarl.org</a>
<b>Field Day Chairman</b>	Ian Kahn AK4IK	<a href="mailto:ak4ik@nfarl.org">ak4ik@nfarl.org</a>
<b>ARES Liaison &amp; Community Relations</b>	Jim Paine N4SEC	<a href="mailto:n4sec@nfarl.org">n4sec@nfarl.org</a>
<b>Repeater Operations</b>	Mike Roden W5JR	<a href="mailto:w5jr@nfarl.org">w5jr@nfarl.org</a>
<b>Web Master</b>	Bill Cobb K4YJJ	<a href="mailto:k4yjj@nfarl.org">k4yjj@nfarl.org</a>

### **Club Repeaters**

<b>145.470 (-)</b> EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>147.060 (+)</b> Primary ARES repeater	<b>100 Hz</b>	Roswell WaterTower
<b>224.620 (-)</b> Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>443.150 (+)</b>	<b>No Tone</b>	Roswell WaterTower

<b>444.475(+)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>927.0125(-)</b>	<b>146.2 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain