



## **NFARL eNEWS**

**March 2014**

[www.nfarl.org](http://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](http://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 Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG)** - 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 - March 18**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. NFARL Library opens at 7:00 PM. **Dr. Gary Bush, W6GB**, will discuss "Renovation of Electronics."
  - **GIG-SIG Meeting** – Thursday, **March 13** and **March 20**, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM - The Community Room at the Kroger grocery store at the intersection of Johnson Ferry Road and Shallowford Road. Check NFARL [website](#) for details.
  - **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting - March 25**, 7:00 PM - Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
  - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting - April 8**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Talk-in station on 147.06 Repeater
  - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session - April 12**, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
  - **Spring Technician HamCram** – Saturday, **April 26**, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM -- Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Click [HERE](#) to register at the NFARL Mart. Registration deadline is **April 6**
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## ***Program Update / Walt Woron, KJ4HE***

If you have an old piece of equipment lying around the shack – perhaps something you picked up at a hamfest boneyard – but aren't sure what the next step is to getting that oldie but goodie up to snuff, our March presentation, "Renovation of Electronics," may be just what you need.

Join us on Tuesday, March 18, when **Dr. Gary Bush, W6GB**, will discuss the process of returning equipment to as close to new operation as practical, including circuit updates if available. The presentation will discuss how to clean equipment, what chemicals can be used in the process, pitfalls, and special techniques for enhancing appearance. Articles from the literature and useful books will be discussed.

A native of Atlanta, Gary (at right) grew up in Kennesaw, and attended Georgia Tech for 15 years where he came out with five — yes, five! — degrees: B.S. in Physics, Master's in Physics, Master's in Nuclear Engineering, Master's in Electrical Engineering, and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering.



Gary is a corporate fellow and research scientist at Lockheed-Martin, Palo Alto, Calif., where he has worked for the past 28 years. He moved back to Georgia in 2005 but has continued to work full time for Lockheed via telecommuting, with trips back to California about once a month.

He has held an amateur radio license since 1968 (age 17) when his call was WN4KUX. During his freshman year at Tech, he got his advanced class license and his call became WB4KUX. The summer before the CW code test was eliminated, he passed the amateur extra class license, including the 20 wpm code test. When friends made fun of his passing the 10-question CW test, he copied five minutes solid from W1AW to get the 20 wpm code proficiency certificate. His call then became W6GB.

His main interests are renovating ham and test gear, especially equipment with tubes, and antenna work. Join us at 7:30 PM for what promises to be an entertaining and interesting evening.

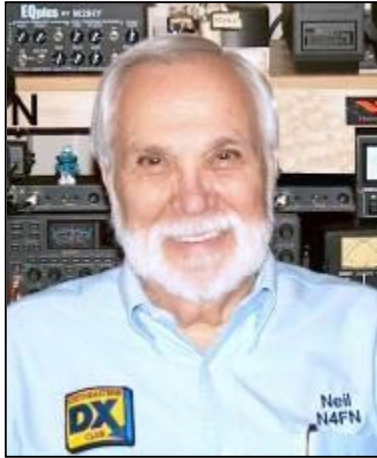
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**Don't miss the SILENT AUCTION of radio test equipment at the March meeting – Details elsewhere in this edition of the NFARL eNews!**

## ***President's Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN***

*Activities, Activities, Activities, step right up and get your Activities!*

Silly, probably. Sounds like a carnival barker, sure. The point that I am trying to make is really quite simple: Some members have contended that the club does not seem to have much in the way of activities. *Au contraire!*



**John Tramontanis, N4TOL**, has done a great job in this area. I cite amongst a few items that we as a club are doing, in no specific order: HamJam 2014, Field Day, Atlanta Science Festival, Georgia QSO Party, ARES, various SIGs (Contest, Antenna, Builders, General Class and CW). If you think there would be an interest in any others, let us know. We need your feedback. The same applies to programs. **Walt Woron, KJ4HE**, has done an admirable job of lining up interesting and informative programs. If there is something you would like to see or hear, let Walt know. He would love the input.

One of our star efforts is our work with **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, and her great students at Mill Springs Academy. Martha is a real "spark plug." She reminds me of **Carole Perry, WB2MGP**, in NYC, who is one of the all-time great supporters of ham radio in the schools. In the planning stages is a teacher workshop for about a dozen educators in the metro area to promote ham radio in the public and private schools. This will be a one-day workshop with various segments, similar to a HamCram format with different presenters. Permission has been granted by the administration at MSA to host the event this summer.

Also in the works is an event that has been dubbed Program-a-palooza, a program to program HT (and, I guess, base stations) with repeaters. It will also check for active repeaters.

Earlier I mentioned HamJam 2014 and Field Day. As of this writing, both sites have been obtained, and, when required, the deposit made. Field Day this year will be an all-out effort in the contest category, a bit different than what we have done in the past. Yes, Virginia, we will have the same great picnics at Field Day. That has not changed.

If you have not figured it out yet, we are definitely on an activity kick. Want more? Let us know. I receive a number of club bulletins and newsletters, and I am pleased to say we are the top dog in activities and quality of content in our newsletter. Those who were at the February meeting heard me comment about the work that goes into planning and distribution of our newsletter. For those who did not make the meeting, here is what happens: **Bill Reed, K4YJI**, sends out a call for materials to be submitted, followed by a reminder. Each article then goes to Editor **Jim Smith, W4JDS**, (Yes, Virginia, we have a real one! I do not know of any club that has a real live professional editor.) After Jim works his wizardry, the newsletter goes to **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**, for publishing to all recipients. And that, Virginia, is how it happens.

Again, the point I make is that whatever we do, the work is done by a great group of dedicated folks, who make this club as great as it is. Hard to believe, but some years back we almost disappeared. Due to some dedicated folks, look where we are now. We can boast of having been Dayton Hamvention Club of the Year and also have one of our own as Ham of the Year. My memory escapes me as to who that was :- ) ... could it be **Jim Stafford, W4QO**?!

See you on March 18 for our monthly meeting!

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## ***Vintage Test Gear Silent Auction at March Meeting***

***/ Chuck Catledge, AE4CW***

What better way to renovate your vintage radios than with vintage test gear! **Dr, Gary Bush, W6GB**, will show you how to renovate older radios and now you can have the test gear to help you do it! Don't miss the **Silent Auction** during the March meeting. There will be **no reserve** on any item. All items must go, no offer declined.

Here is a partial list of the items up for bid:

Tektronix 547 Oscilloscope with six plug-in modules  
Tektronix 503 Oscilloscope  
Tektronix Square Wave Generator  
HP 5512A Frequency Counter  
HP 5245L/5253B Electronic Counter  
HP 652 Test Oscillator  
HP 3440A/3444A Volt/Ohm/Ammeter  
General Radio 1265A Adjustable DC Power Supply  
Keithley 610C Electrometer  
Kistler 503 Charge Amplifier  
Technique 9B Pyrometer  
Three Compumotor LM-F5A Linear Motors/Drivers  
Assorted Servo Motors and Rotary Encoders



Most of these items sold from well over \$1,000 when new. All are lab grade. Most items are in working condition but will likely require cleaning, adjustment and perhaps some repair for peak performance.

These items were provided through the generosity of **Ed Heiny, KK4CEU**.

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

Go to the [NFARL Mart](http://NFARL.Mart) to order one of these magnetic badges!



## ***NFARL Helps Mill Springs Students Build Oscillators*** ***/ Martha Muir, W4MSA, and Mike Cohen, AD4MC***

NFARL members recently had a great time working with Mill Springs Academy students. Here's an article by teacher **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, for the school's Weekly News: Students in Martha's ACE [Academic Competition Enrichment] class would like to say "THANKS" to NFARL members **Jim Stafford, W4QO**; **Mike Cohen, AD4MC**; **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**; **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**; and **Fred Ackley, KK4JYO**. This team came by on Wednesday [2/26/14] to help the students build and solder electronic oscillator kits that they will use to help practice sending Morse code messages correctly. Jim Stafford is leading the class in mastering Morse code. Mike Cohen is working with the students on proper voice- and computer-based transmission techniques on the radio. He is also determining what types of antennas we'll need so that all ACE students can contact each other via radio no matter where they live in the Atlanta area. This is no easy challenge since we are spread out not only north, south, east and west but also with great differences in our elevation.

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(BTW, that's Morse code for THANKS)



Above, left photo: Standing (left to right), Sammy, KK4WPI; Fred, KK4JYO; Jim, W4QO; seated, from left: Drew, KK4WOH and Trey, KK4QJB. Above, right photo: Tommy, KK4WOJ, and Mike, AD4MC. Below left photo: Foreground, from left: Christian, KK4YDU; Wes, W3WL; and Andrew, KK4WOF. Below, right photo: Jack, KK4WPH; Chuck, AE4CW, Parker, KK4WPK; and Megan, KK4 (coming soon!). Photos by Martha Muir, W4MSA.



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## ***Activities - Georgia QSO Party / John Tramontanis, N4TOL***

The 53rd running of the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) will take place April 12-13. Members of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League have always been key participants in this event and won the club competition for the state last year.



The club's goal this year is to make the contest a success by having a high level of members participate and to represent the state well to the amateur radio community. Additionally, the club

is focused on repeating as club champion for Georgia in 2014.

However, the most important goal for the weekend is to have **FUN** and operate in the contest at your station, or operate with others at a shared station. This is your chance to “be the DX.” It is a real opportunity to practice “running,” calling CQ and letting them come to you.

Special certificates will be awarded to all club members for participation in the contest and also certificates awarded for key accomplishments in select categories.

More information will be posted on the club reflector as the contest approaches. For contest details, please see the [GQP website](#).



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## ***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 Water Tower
<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 Water Tower
<b>444.475 (+)</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain
<b>927.0125 (-)</b>	<b>146.2 Hz</b>	Sweat Mountain

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