



eNEWS Feb. 2009

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 or eHAM.net for the national news, but here's your **North Fulton ARL eNEWS** for February 2009.



Summary of upcoming events and dates

- ❑ **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:45 AM - Slopes BBQ
- ❑ **Every Sunday** - **NFARES net** - 8:30PM - 147.06 Mhz (+ 600) & PL 100
- ❑ **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 Mhz (PL 100)
- ❑ **Mid Month Madness** - February 13-15, 2009 - Orlando HamCation.
- ❑ **January 17, 2009** - VE Test Session - 10 AM - EOC behind Fire Station #1, Alpharetta

Regular Club Meeting - Tuesday, February 17, 2009 - 7:30 PM - We have an outstanding program this month presented by our very own **Gary Bush, W6GB**, discussing how to restore vintage radios. This should be very interesting for all the senior hams as well as the beginners. Learn the tricks and pitfalls to restoring vintage equipment. Most of these rigs "glow in the dark" from the tube filaments and are highly sought after collector's items. The meeting is this Tuesday, February 17th at 7:30 PM. The club meeting location is found at www.nfarl.org. Join us for dinner prior to the meeting at the Alpha Soda at 6:00 PM.

FREE refreshments - meet friends - socialize - bring a show and tell item to talk about - Enjoy the space - Wear your NFARL shirts, name tags, etc. **Talk in -145.47 MHz.** Details/maps/photos on website. Plenty of seating and plenty of parking (including across the street at high school) so bring friends, relatives, neighbors... **We meet here: Masonic Lodge Hall, 194 Milton Ave, Alpharetta, GA.** Go to map: <http://tinyurl.com/5t7swd>. We are located directly across from the old Milton High school on Milton Ave.

Door prizes - Toys for Techies - If everyone brings one good, clean item/book to give away as door prizes, then everyone will win one... + Gift Certificate from HRO. Support HRO?

Let's eat before the meeting - If you are interested, you can join us for dinner at the Alpha Soda, just south of Hwy 120 (Milton Parkway) on Haynes Bridge Road in the shopping center. We meet at 5:45 PM and leave at 7 PM. It is about 5 minutes to the meeting location.

Presidents Corner



We're off to a great start in 2009 with over 235 very active members. For February Mid-Month Madness, six club members will be headed to the Orlando HamCation Hamfest for three days. It should be lots of fun and fellowship.

Jim, W4QO, and Chuck, AE4CW, are also making great progress with the CW training sessions. At this point all the letters have been learned and it's just a matter of increasing speed. Each evening at 8 PM there is a code practice session on the repeater and each Thursday there is a face-to-face gathering to provide support to each other. As a special practice the group met on 40 meters to make an actual CW QSO using HF on the air. Learning CW will tie in nicely with the clubs contesting special interest group sponsored by Verne, W8BLA.

For April please let me know via email wb4mak@nfarl.org or in person, what activity you'd like to have for Mid-Month Madness. A couple of people have suggested that we build the Small Wonders SW+ Transceiver http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/swl_swp.htm , for \$50 plus another \$42 for the enclosure. This would not be a single day building project but would be built and tested over a couple of Saturday mornings. Please let me know other activities you're interested in for Mid-Month Madness.

We had a great session at the Chattahoochee Challenge road race with 90% of the volunteers coming from NFARL. A special thanks to: **KD4NKE Shelia, KF4ANG Gil, AK4IK Ian, WD4ON Don, K4YJI Bill, KB7WO Rich, W3WL Wes, WB4SQ Gary, KC4YBO Steve, AF4IA Lee, and KY4HCE Joe.**

We've also begun kitting the parts for a fund raising project for the club. We'll soon be selling the Joule Thief Manhattan construction project on our website, club meetings, and at Hamfests. We'll be asking for help soon to assemble the kits. Take a sneak peek at the assembly instructions at http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart_v2.php . Just click on the picture.

Finally, please remember our recurring monthly events with TechNet every Monday night at 8:30 PM on the 145.47 repeater and Hungry Hams every Wednesday at 11:30 AM. Details on all these activities may be found on our website.

You may contact me at wb4mak@nfarl.org or 770 753-4202 if you have any questions or concerns. We have lots of members and need everyone to volunteer to continue to make the club thrive.

73,
Mack

MMM – Mid Month Madness!! You say "What is this Mid Month Madness?

Well, Mid-Month Madness is a great way to increase your learning and technical skills in a hands on fashion. Join the North Fulton Amateur Radio League on the first Saturday of each month for an exciting amateur radio activity. Some of our past activities included an antenna building party, kit building, and shack tours. These have all been well attended events that offered amateur radio operators exciting ways to learn more about ham radio.

At the antenna building party people had the opportunity to build a wire antenna from scratch. Hams built antennas for 80 meters, 40 meters and 40/20 meters. Everyone had a great time, learned to build and tune an antenna, and learned best practice construction techniques. Here are [pictures](#) of the antenna building party.

Then at a recent kit building session, hams with all experience levels, were able to successfully build a crystal testing RF oscillator. Some people who attended the event had zero experience with kit building and soldering. Our youngest builder was only ten years old. Here are [pictures](#) of the RF oscillator kit building session.

Our next kit building session offered construction of a sound card interface to enable digital modes like PSK31 or a frequency counter with a digital readout. Some of the advanced builders were offered surface mount (SMT) construction techniques.

We've also held shack tours of the ham radio shacks of various club members. These shack tours are excellent ways to get ideas of how you can incorporate new ideas into your personal shack. Recently Mack McCormick, WB4MAK, opened his shack to club members. The morning began with a breakfast and then a tour and demonstration of Mack's shack. Mack operates on all bands 160M to 23cm on all modes including CW, SSB, AM, FM, D-Star, and all digital modes. Everything in Mack's shack is computer controlled and automated. Over 50 hams attended the event.

So, for our March Mid-Month Madness, on Saturday March 7th, we'll meet at Location yet to be determined for a pancake breakfast to package the Joule Thief kit for our club fund raising project. You can see the detailed construction details at the bottom of the Mart page: http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart_v2.php .



Please RSVP to wb4mak@nfarl.org so proper food arrangements can be made.

VE sessions announced – Our next VE sessions will be March 14, May 16, July 18, Sept. 19, and November 14. All are currently scheduled to be at the EOC behind Fire Station #1 on Webb Bridge Road, which was our old meeting location. Full details are on the club website; click on TEST SESSIONS.

HEY! Is your QSL card on the website? – Bring your QSL card to the meeting, and we will place them on the web site <http://www.nfarl.org/qsIMembers.html> . As time goes on, we will be incorporating areas for narrative BIO's and what ever else that "YOU" want to insert with your card. We now have over 230 members and only 37 club member QSL's on the website. ***Please bring your QSL CARD and HELP get our club cards on the page!!***

NFARES Update - On Saturday, February 7th, 14 Hams (11 of which belonged to NFARL) provided communications to the Chattahoochee Nature Center for the Chattahoochee Challenge 2009 Run. The run was uneventful (no one was injured), and several runners expressed their appreciation that the Hams were willing to come out so early and "freeze their fannies off" just to make sure that the run was completed safely.

Jim Paine and Steve Knittel of NFARES volunteered their time the weekend of January 24-25 to assist the North Fulton CERT Teams in practicing emergency exercises. Their main focus was to

teach CERT members net protocol while using walkie talkies. Tom Koch also volunteered his time to create a Powerpoint presentation to assist in teaching net protocol.

On February 4th, in observance of National Severe Weather Awareness Week, the NFARES group conducted a severe weather net at 9:00 a.m. The net was run out of the Sandy Springs EOC. There were 15 total check-ins. 2 remote from Brunswick and Cleveland, GA using D-Star and 13 from Roswell, Alpharetta, Northside Hospital, Emory Johns Creek Hospital, and surrounding areas.

ARES Meeting - ARES now meets on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the **Sandy Springs City Council Chambers** located at the Morgan Falls Office Park. All are welcome to attend whether you are an ARES member or not. **Details are on the website.**

NFARL TECH NET meets Mondays at 8:30 PM - Join us on **145.47** to discuss technical topics lead by **Joe N7QPP**. As far as we know, no one else conducts a net quite like this one. It uses the repeater, Google, a chat room, and now **Echolink** to enhance the quality of this unique net. Go to the website and look www.nfarl.org/nets.html. There you'll find the link to the CHAT room. Some great links are posted each week as participants search for answers on the web and listen to experienced members explain things on the repeater.

Repeater News - Don't forget the club's newest repeater. This is a joint venture with the MATPARC club and is located on 224.620 Mhz. Set your rig for MINUS 1.6 MHZ and a PL100. If you do not have PLL, dial **7411**. The 444.475 repeater has been off the air for repair. We are looking on having it reinstalled shortly. Thank you for your patience.

SERA NEWS - What is **SERA**? **South Eastern Repeater Association**. Do you get the SERA Journal? Go to: www.sera.org for info. on how to join SERA and support the coordinating body that coordinates the repeaters in the South East.

Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch each Wednesday @11:45 till? We meet at Slopes BBQ on Crossville Rd in Roswell. Talk in 145.47. All are welcome to attend, whether you are a NFARL member or not. **Remember, when you go through the line, be sure to ask them to print a receipt and credit the Radio Club. It helps the cause.** We have been having a consistent 20+ in attendance.

Bring a book to donate to the club library - We especially need **license manuals** of all classes. Remember these "expire" and you don't need it now that you've passed. Bring them to the meeting every month and pass to our librarian - Cathy, KI4SBK.

Club Membership - Remember back in January 2008, when we stated that our goal for 2008 would be **150**? And then before year end we hit **188!!** Well, would you believe we are now at **237 as of Feb 12?**

Did you notice? - One of our club members, K4DLI, made it into the MARCH 2009 QST. Congrats Jim! Look at the 3Y0X, Peter I article. You may want to replicate this antenna in your back yard.

ARRL Membership - Currently we are at 67% of our club membership. Our goal is to have as many NFARL members as possible be members of the ARRL. You can now use **PayPal** to join ARRL - using <http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart.html>. **NFARL benefits financially if you will join or renew your ARRL membership thru NFARL. So help us out when you join or renew.**

Please welcome – our newest members. We wish to say thank you for choosing NFARL for your personal involvement in Amateur Radio. We also want to thank our members that have continued to show their support by renewing their membership. These people represent our membership activity for December 2008, January and February 2009.

Thank you for your support

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member Since</u>			
Williamson, Alexander	2009-02	New Member	Carroll, Robert	2008-02 Renewed
Nelson, Keith	2009-02	New Member	Hazell, David	2008-02 Renewed
Pierce, William	2009-01	New Member	Powers, Tom	2008-02 Renewed
Pierce, William	2009-01	New Member	Catledge, Chuck	2008-01 Renewed
Macaulay, Clark	2009-01	New Member	Corley, Len	2008-01 Renewed
Denny, Joseph	2009-01	New Member	Freeman, Robert	2008-01 Renewed
Klosowski, William	2009-01	New Member	Freeman, Robert	2008-01 Renewed
DeLuco, Rick	2009-01	New Member	Holland, Michael	2008-01 Renewed
Walls, David	2009-01	New Member	Knight, Kevin	2008-01 Renewed
Penland, James W	2009-01	New Member	Staton, Shelia	2008-01 Renewed
Trotman, Kevin	2009-01	New Member	Streible, James	2008-01 Renewed
Reed, James	2009-01	New Member	Corley, Len	2008-01 Renewed
Sarock, Daryl	2009-01	New Member	Streible, James	2008-01 Renewed
Otterson, Jeff	2009-01	New Member	Floyd, Randy	2007-01 Renewed
Priebe, Cliff	2009-01	New Member	Hill, Ed	2007-01 Renewed
O'conner, JP	2009-01	New Member	Koch, Tom	2007-01 Renewed
Dallis, Bob	2009-01	New Member	Lemmon, Tim	2007-01 Renewed
Harris, Mark	2009-01	New Member	Howe, Ron	2006-02 Renewed
Marquardt, Alex	2009-01	New Member	Ross, Robert	2006-02 Renewed
Slagle, Paul James	2009-01	New Member	Wasilov, Victor	2004-12 Renewed
Schklar, Norm	2008-12	New Member	Mann, Richard	2002-02 Renewed
Cook, Andrew	2008-12	New Member	Reynolds, Stephen	2001-02 Renewed
Scholberg, Lisa	2008-12	New Member	Beeman, Bob	1999-01 Renewed
Pease, Bill	2008-12	New Member	Ziskind, David	1996-06 Renewed
Hawkins, Harold	2008-12	New Member	McGinnis Jr., Charles	1994-12 Renewed
			Sanders, Jack	1994-12 Renewed
			Richardson, Larry	1994-11 Renewed
			Reynolds, Billy Gar	1994-10 Renewed
			Kasten, Don	1990-01 Renewed
			Conrad, Jack	1983-01 Renewed

Member since = Year – month first joined

When you hear these people on the air or see them at the meeting, welcome them to NFARL.

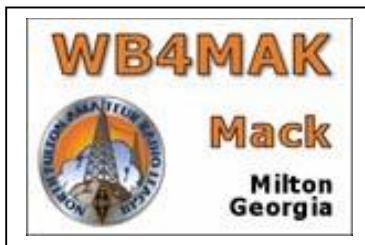
EASIER TO JOIN - We have made it even easier for you to continue your membership or join NFARL by simply clicking on this link <http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart.html> and taking advantage of the new secure **PayPal** or personal credit card function on our newly revamped NFARL web site. No more check writing, no more stamps, no more envelopes, no more electronic bill pays. There has always been some question regarding **when dues are due**. The way the club dues/renewals are currently set up is they are due every 12 months from the date you joined NFARL. So if you joined in May, your renewal date would be due on the next May. This basically

does two things for the club. First, it keeps a more constant cash flow for the club receivables, and second, it makes it easier on you. If you find that you need to change your annual renewal date to fit your budget, just say so. It is just a click away on the computer.

Check out our website & join our Yahoo reflector – Here's how to keep in touch with your club. Visit our website - www.nfarl.org - You'll find all kinds of valuable info there, such as up to the minute news, how to become a ham or upgrade, **photos** of club events, a **roster** of members, and a club **calendar**. While you're there click on the **YAHOO GROUP** button and take a spin around. While you're at the NFARL YAHOO GROUP, click on the **JOIN THIS GROUP** button and become part of the NFARL mailing list. You may also join by simply sending an email message with your **name** and **callsign** in the body. to: nfarl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

NFARL WEBSITE #1 – Thanks go to Bill, K4YJJ for the continued outstanding job that he is doing on the web site. The next time you see Bill, say thank you. You can also go to <http://www.nfarl.org/eNewsIndex.html> and get **previous issues of the eNEWS**. From now on, the newsletter will be stored on the website without being attached to your typical email newsletter notification and will be just a hot link in the email.

Name Badges



NFARL now has a very nice name badge that sports our **club LOGO, Call Sign, First name, City and State** and has a magnetic back so it does not poke holes in your shirts. We are going to place another order after the meeting so if you are interested in ordering one of these badges, you can order off the web before the meeting or at the meeting for \$9/ea. paid at order time.

http://www.nfarl.org/shop/mart_v2_badgeSpecs.php

News Letter suggestions – As a suggestion, if you know anyone in the immediate area that you feel needs to be introduced to Ham radio or to our club, please forward their email address along with their name or any other information to info1@nfarl.org and we will get them on the monthly eNEWS distribution.

Contact us:

President	Mack McCormick, WB4MAK 770-753-4202	Wb4mak@nfarl.org
Vice President/ Program Chairman	Walt Woron KJ4HE	KJ4HE@nfarl.org
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Exec Team	Jim Stafford - W4QO	W4QO@nfarl.org
Exec Team	Tom Koch – W4UOC EC NF ARES	W4UOC@nfarl.org www.nfares.org
Exec Team	Mike Roden – W5JR	W5JR@nfarl.org

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn
147.060 (+)	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower (MATPARC/NFARL)
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mtn



**ARRL Club
Affiliate**



**NFARL
Club Supporter**



**SERA
Supporter**