



eNEWS July 2011

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 is this month’s **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:30 AM at Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday - NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday - Tech Net** - (on summer hiatus – to resume in fall) - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Check website for “how to”
- **Every Friday - Youth Net** - (on hiatus for July) - 5:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Join Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday - NFARES meeting** – 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **Third Tuesday - Club Meeting** – 7:30 PM – July 19 - Ken Evans, W4DU – QRP Q&A
- **Mid-Month Madness** – On hiatus until August
- **VE Testing Session** – July 30 – 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

Program Update

Don't have a kilowatt to spare or a 100-foot tower? Not to worry, you can communicate around the world on fractions of a watt and a length of slender wire. It's the wonderful world of low-power operation, or QRP radio, and Ken Evans W4DU (at right) will give club members the lowdown on low power at July's meeting. Ken is the president and CEO of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International, usually referred to as ARCI. Although the organization has nearly 15,000 members worldwide, Ken started very early with the 50-year-old club and has member number 696! He is also a member of the QRP Hall of Fame and has been responsible for many exciting QRP programs, including the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee event which lasts the entire year of 2011. In this event, anyone may work all 50 states where the club call sign K6JSS is being passed from state to state each week. Ken is retired from Bellsouth Mobility and originally from Pennsylvania where he got his novice license five decades ago. For more info on QRP ARCI and the Jubilee, go to: www.qrparci.org



President's Corner for July

It was great to share the experience of NFARL Field Day with 269 other folks! Our club set a new attendance record with 270 individuals signing in, and judging by the activities, food and fellowship offered by our Field Day team, this comes as no surprise. Once again, Ian Kahn AK4IK and the team provided a wonderful experience to all who attended. Ian's report in this newsletter will cover some of the highlights and statistics, and there are additional details and photos from the event on the club website.



While I'm sure that our club scored quite well, I feel the biggest accomplishment of the weekend was the impressive demonstration made by our members to the community as to what amateur radio can do and what our hobby is all about. And the best part about it was that we had FUN doing it!

Ken Evans W4DU will present the program for our July meeting on "QRP Q&A". Ken is the president of QRP ARCI (Amateur Radio Club International) and will share his experience and knowledge in this aspect of our hobby dealing with low power operations.

Many of you should have received a ballot from the ARRL for the Georgia 2011 Section Manager election. Please remember to return this ballot to the ARRL before Friday, August 19. The Board supports and recommends you vote for NFARL member Verne Fowler W8BLA for Georgia Section Manager.

73 - I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on July 19 and I hope to hear you on the bands!

John N4TOL

Field Day 2011 a Big Success / Ian Kahn AK4IK



Food and fellowship are always key ingredients of any successful Field Day. This year's activities drew a record 270 visitors. Photo by Cuyler Smith Jr. AK4HE

Another Field Day has come and gone, and by all accounts 2011 was NFARL's best ever. The weather cooperated, and for the first time in at least four years there were no interruptions in operations due to thunderstorms (although I can't say the same thing about our antenna-raising efforts Friday evening). We set a club attendance record with 270 visitors

signing in at our computerized station. The picnic was outstanding. Everyone enjoyed Dickey's barbecue, hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the wonderful side items and desserts brought by the membership. A big thank you goes out to everyone who came, brought food, and enjoyed the camaraderie of our annual picnic. And, for the first time in my memory (short though it is), we scored a satellite QSO and had a successful digital operation.

Thank you to everyone who made it all possible.

Now, for the part you've all been waiting for. Here are the very, very, very preliminary, totally unofficial, not to be taken as the final word, QSO scores, based on my probably flawed statistical analysis. Steve Mays KS4KJ will have reasonably official scores for us later this month.

20m Score							
Mode	# QSOs	Score Mult	Total				
Phone	1151	1	1151				
CW	563	2	1126				
Dig	106	2	212				
Totals	1820		2489				
			2	Power Multiplier			
			4978	Grand Total			
All By Mode				All By Band			
Mode	#QSOs	Score Mult	Total	Band	#QSOs		
Phone	1967	1	1967	160	0		
CW	1019	2	2038	80	78		
Satellite	1	2	2	40	823		
Digital	160	2	320	20	1820		
Totals	3147		4327	15	235		
			2	Power Multiplier	10	77	
			8654	Grand Total	6	114	
					3147	Grand Total	

Year-Over-Year Comparison				
By Mode				
Year	2011	2010	2009	2008
Mode				
Phone	1967	1993	1372	1513
CW	1019	931	899	737
Dig	160	0	0	0
Satellite	1	0	0	0
Totals:	3147	2924	2271	2250
By Band				
Year	2011	2010	2009	2008
Band				
160	0	0	0	0
80	78	277	217	126
40	823	557	681	932
20	1820	1393	799	951
15	235	83	244	197
10	77	0	22	3
6	114	180	62	41
2	0	0	7	0
GOTA		434	239	
Totals	3147	2924	2271	2250

Please note that, due to the vagaries of GOTA scoring according to the rules, this year's GOTA QSOs are included in the breakdown by individual band and mode, instead of pulled out and categorized as GOTA contacts. By the way, for those of you keeping score, I estimate we had a higher 20m score than GARS, which means we win the challenge.

Finally, you, the NFARL membership, allowed me to be the Field Day chair for the past four years. It has been my honor and privilege to serve. Thank you for your support over the years as we built NFARL's Field Day activity into one of the best in the nation. You supported me through some changes that were deemed absolutely revolutionary at the time we made them, and by everyone's mutual support and understanding, we pulled them off. Each Field Day the past four years has been

a team effort, and I extend my gratitude to everyone who served with me, in any capacity, over the past several years. Thank you, one and all, for all your confidence in me. Please extend that confidence and support to Scott Straw KB4KBS, the 2012 Field Day chair.



Wes Lamboley W3WL and John Kludt K7SYS on the air.
Photo by Bill Cobb K4YJJ



Boy Scouts work on their radio merit badges.
Photo by Rich Adams KB7WO

General HamCram on the Horizon / Wes Lamboley W3WL

NFARL plans to have a General HamCram on Saturday, October 1. The session will follow a thrust at the September Club meeting to encourage Techs to upgrade and get on HF and work the T32C DXpedition to Christmas Island (www.T32C.com) that we are helping to sponsor. The September meeting will be devoted to learning how to improve phone operation skills on the HF bands and will be especially focused on DXing techniques. Live demonstrations will be included.

The approach for the HamCram will be different from before, with a weekly on-the-air meeting on the club repeater to help clarify various subject materials before the actual HamCram session on October 1. We are excited about this session and the potential for helping new Generals get a start on HF. Watch for an invitation to sign up for the class on the reflector. NFARL members will be given priority to take part in this special General Class HamCram.

Summer 'Break' for Youth / Dave Higdon KD4ICT

NFARL is sponsoring plaques for youth members who achieve Worked All States. With summer here and maybe not as much time being devoted to school work, the weekend of July 16 (2:00 PM local until 2:00 AM local Sunday), presents an opportunity. It is possible to get Worked All States in this 12-hour period during the North American RTTY QSO Party. If you don't make it in this timeframe, August has the RTTY Rookie Roundup. You don't have to be a kid to participate, so everyone jump in. Only college age and younger members are eligible for the club award, but everyone can qualify for the ARRL awards. Digital HF operators have the highest rate of LoTW QSL'ing, so this is a great chance to work toward Worked All States for everyone.

DXCC Quest Heats Up / Dave Higdon KD4ICT



NFARL continues the quest for Logbook of the World DXCC. We currently have 22 confirmed entities. At this point, the activity is open to all club members. So, if you contribute, you will get your own copy of the certificate once we reach our goal.

Just a few guidelines to follow: Use the club call NF4GA and stay within the limits of your license class. Work the DX with your call and the NF4GA call, then send your QSO info to award@nfarl.org and we will add it to the log. Use any mode, they all count!

If you are interested in RTTY, the weekend of July 16-17 is an international RTTY contest. Make a few contacts there. Digital operators are usually the best in uploading info to LoTW. The exchange is simple RST plus serial number. If anyone is interested, contact me (kd4ict@nfarl.org) and we may be able to coordinate times and bands for the club effort.

See this link: http://digital-modes-club.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=56&lang=en

A few helpful sites include a DX Cluster aimed at LoTW users- <http://www.lotw-online.com/>
A list of known DX LoTW users can be found at <http://www.hb9bza.net/lotw/lotw-dx.html>

NFARL Membership

We currently have **260** active members as of the writing of this newsletter. The following members joined during June and July 2011.

callsign	first_name	last_name	mbrsince	lic_class
KK4CLC	Mike	Stark	2011-07	Technician
	David	Harris	2011-06	Not Licensed
KK4CKH	Lance	Henderson	2011-06	General
K4GDR	William	Hurley	2011-06	Amateur Extra
	Omar	Cordial	2011-06	Not Licensed
KC4JVJ	John	Harris	2011-06	Novice
AI4VE	William	Ravenel	2011-06	Amateur Extra
KG4UVU	Paul	Manno	2011-06	Amateur Extra
KK4AUE	Jack	Grisham	2011-06	Technician

Please greet our newest members and welcome them to the organization the next time you see them

Changes for NFARL Library / Keith Plossl KK4BTA

John Dendy N4CUS has maintained the library for NFARL for some time and we need to thank him for his diligent service to the club. His service is very much appreciated. The library was well maintained and made resources available to all members without the need to personally invest in resources we may need only for a short duration. John asked for a volunteer to take over the library since he no longer has time to make the library a priority.

I volunteered to take over and got the library from John in late June. See me if you want to check out a publication. In next month's eNEWS, I'll provide details about how the new library system works.

Public Service

There are no Public Service Opportunities and none appear to be on the horizon for August.

The next Hamfest is the **Newton County Radio Club Hamfest** at the Newton County Fairgrounds.



Saturday, July 30. See the web site for more details and directions
<http://www.ncrcga.org/>



In August, the next hamfest is the **Huntsville Hamfest**

Saturday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Sunday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, August 20 and 21. For more details and directions go to the web site at <http://www.hamfest.org>

NFARES Update / Jim Paine N4SEC

The facilitator for the July 12 meeting will be Tom Koch W4UOC, NFARES Emergency Coordinator. Topics to be covered will be:

1. Review of 2010 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) and a postmortem on what we could improve even though we had a very high score as published in QST as Metro Atlanta, although we were not recognized specifically as NFARES.



2. Initial planning session for the 2011 SET Lt. Humble is planning a Tornado Preparedness SET for the fall in Sandy Springs and we may be able to work it into the NFARES SET which is detailed later in this report.
3. Review of NFARES involvement in the 2011 Field Day. (Power point)
4. Update on Sandy Springs "Grant" award for 10 D/Star radios. Hopefully Chief Scarbrough and Lt. Humble will be there to discuss the placement/installation of this equipment.

NFARL Simulated Emergency Test

Now that the NFARL Field Day is a fond memory, it's time to plan for our next big event, the NFARES Simulated Emergency Test. Both the NFARL FD and NFARES SET are recognized as being among the best in the country.

SET Coordinator Mike Cohen AD4MC reports our tentative date for the 2011 NFARES SET is Sunday, October 9, from 3:00-6:00 PM. In addition to the five North Fulton cities of Alpharetta, Roswell, Milton, Sandy Springs and Johns Creek, we are welcoming the adjacent City of Dunwoody for the first time this year.

Ham radio operators will be working closely with the fire and police departments in those six cities as well as several major hospitals.

We'll be sending more detailed information soon on how you can sign up to join us in this fun community service event demonstrating our emergency communications resources and skills. Mark your calendar now to save the date.

Check out the NFARES website at nfares.nfarl.org for additional information



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

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Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
927.0125(-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mountain