



eNEWS

April 2012

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 - 11:00 AM - Slopes BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30 PM - 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 Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** - April 10, 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **VE Testing Session** - April 14, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center
- **Mid-Month Madness – Georgia QSO Party** - April 14-15, 2:00 PM to midnight Saturday and 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Sunday. NFARL Yellow team versus the NFARL Green Team. Operate at home station or at Elmer stations. [Go to NFARL website for more information](#)
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** - April 17, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta – John Gorkos AB000 shares his experience with the latest advances in the deployment of the APRS system

April Program / John Kludt K4SQC



As you tune around the 2-meter band, you might encounter some funny sounds on 144.390 MHz. The noises you are hearing are those of the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS). As noted in the ARRL publication *APRS Tracks, Maps and Mobile*, the system was invented by Bob Bruninga WB4APR to integrate hardware and software to allow hams “to disseminate data concerning real-time events quickly, and to graphically represent the data on maps displayed on their computers.” Please join us as John Gorkos, AB000, the APRS coordinator for North Georgia shares with us the latest advances in the deployment of the APRS system. If you have never used APRS, this will be a great introduction to another facet of amateur radio. If you are an APRS pro, you will be interested in learning the latest advances in the APRS system.

Mid-Month Madness

In case you have not been following the NFARL reflector, this month's major activity is the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) April 14 and 15. NFARL has divided itself into the Green and Yellow contest teams for some spirited intra-club competition. Not on a team and you want to be or maybe you have some questions about the GQP? Please contact Jim Stafford W4QO at w4qo@nfarl.org for details or a team assignment. This is your chance to "be the DX" as people from around the globe try to work as many Georgia stations and counties as possible. The club has obtained K4N, K4F, K4A, K4R and K4L for the contest. Work all five and you will earn a nice certificate. It will be a mad time the second weekend of April, indeed, as we all scramble to make as many contacts as possible. Uncle Sam has given us until April 17 to file our tax returns, so please join us on the air for the 20 hours of activity that is the Georgia QSO Party.

President's Corner / Wes Lamboley W3WL

Once again I am in awe of our wonderful hobby. I have often said "We give ourselves away with our antennas," and last week was no exception. My wife, Bev, and I were on vacation and one of the places we went was Venice, Fla. Bev is an avid yoga participant, and she had heard of "Yoga on the Beach with Elin" in Venice, and while she was doing that I was in our camping van with my rig making some HF contacts (I do not do yoga). A guy walking past saw my antenna and asked if I were a ham. We struck up a conversation and it turned out that we had lived a few blocks apart in Fort Wayne, Ind., had gone to the same grade school and college, knew a lot of the same people, and for icing on the cake, he had acquired the equipment I had used in our high school radio club many years later (a Hammerlund HQ-129 and a Johnson Viking I) after he retired from being an engineer and then voluntarily taught electricity at my old high school. He has the rigs on the air now – I would love to twist those old knobs the next time we get to Fort Wayne! Hams are kindred souls all over the world; all it takes is an antenna to start up a conversation!

I have some exciting news to share with y'all, but it will need to wait till next month. It is just one more reason to be a member of NFARL, as if you need any more.

Also, I hope to hear you on the air for the Georgia QSO Party this weekend. I will be using the call K4A. If you do not have a way to operate yet, please call Jim Stafford at 404-281-8185. Jim has done his usual outstanding job of organizing participation in the event; it is a success before it starts!

73,

Wes – W3WL



Tornado Drill Volunteers Needed / Mike Cohen AD4MC



Here's another good chance for us to serve our community. Sandy Springs will be having a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Simulated Tornado Drill on Saturday, April 21, from 8:00 AM to noon at the St. Joseph's Hospital North Parking Lot. Organizers are expecting about 150 to 200 volunteers to be "casualties," so this is a "big deal" drill. What is significant for us is that the drill will simulate that all infrastructure communications are down: that's police and fire radios, cell phones, land lines and local internet. So ... "When all else fails, Amateur Radio." Thanks to Tom Koch W4UOC for building such a strong relationship with Sandy Springs Police and Fire that they have embraced that concept and have called on NF ARES to provide the emergency communications.

We will be providing communications between the following Sandy Springs locations: St. Joseph's Hospital incident site, 911 Call Center, St. Joseph's Hospital Emergency Entrance, Northside Hospital, Fire Stations #2 & #4 and Police HQ.

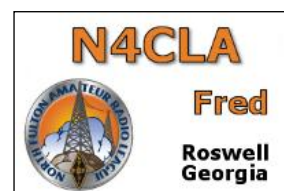
Here's the latest update on the list of ARES communications volunteers who have signed up for this drill:

Location	Primary	Backup	Notes
St. Joseph's Incident Site, 5665 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, NE	Mike AD4MC		Requires cross-band repeater to enable working outside of vehicle
911 Call Center, Corner of Mt. Vernon and Barfield	Tom W4UOC		
St. Joseph's Emergency Entrance, 5665 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, NE	Chuck AE4CW		Requires cross-band repeater to enable working outside of vehicle
Northside Hospital , 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE	Shelia KD4NKE		
Sandy Springs Fire Station #2, 135 Johnson Ferry Road	Bill K4YJI		
Sandy Springs Fire Station #4, 4697 Wieuca Rd			
Sandy Springs Police HQ, 7840 Roswell Road, Suite 301	Stuart AK4EX		

We would like to have two volunteers at each station, so please contact Mike ad4mc@nfarl.org to sign up.

Need a Name Badge?

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



Field Day Update / Scott Straw KB4KBS

The clock keeps ticking and the date of the 2012 NFARL Field Day is past approaching. If you were at the March club meeting, you saw a brief overview of the plans for FD12. There are plenty of positions left to fill; some have a very small degree of difficulty, others are more daunting. The key to success is lots of help. Please volunteer to assist, and to operate, on June 23 and 24 at Waller Park Extension on Dobbs Drive in Roswell.



On Thursday April 19 (two days after the club meeting), there will be an organizational meeting at McAlister's Deli, 1425 Market Boulevard, Suite 1370, Roswell. We will meet for about 90 minutes starting at 6:30 PM.

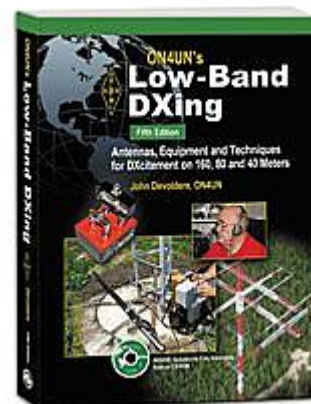
There is an e-mail reflector set up for Field Day discussions. Please send me an e-mail at kb4kbs@nfarl.net if you would like an invitation to join that group.

One specific area of need is "housing." If you have access to portable accommodation (travel trailer, motor coach, portable office trailer, etc.) that can provide a temperature constant of 74 degrees (and lower), and would make it available to the club to serve as an operating location from the Field Day site, send me a message. We need at least four, and could do well with six of these facilities.

Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl K4KRX

There was a discussion about 160-meter antennas on TechNet recently. There was some info sought about what the radiation pattern was for a 160-meter inverted L antenna at 55 feet above ground. Someone suggested that *Low Band DXing* by John Devoldere ON4UN was perfect to help answer questions. You can borrow a copy from the NFARL library and save the cost of buying one.

This classic work includes antenna designs, operating guidelines, and an insider's scoop on low-band DXing. There's something in here for every active low-band operator, contester, and DX chaser. This edition is thoroughly updated with entirely new material on low-band antennas and high-gain transmitting arrays. The book includes new insights and new design techniques for receiving antennas and vertical arrays. This edition is bundled with the fully searchable and complete book on CD-ROM for Windows and Macintosh systems.



When All Else Fails....



It was a dark and stormy night when John Kludt K4SQC prepared for the worst with this bedside array of handhelds all primed and ready to go. “You know how sometimes you can look at something and really ‘see’ it for the first time,” John said. “With all of the bad weather [that night] I looked at my bedside table and started to giggle. Guess you can never have too many HTs! Not sure how useful the Alinco 300-milliwatt 440 unit would be in a pinch, but there it sits, right along with everything else.” We are now in primetime for severe weather events. Are you prepared?

Club Repeaters

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

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