



eNEWS

June 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** - **NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) – On hiatus for the summer. Check NFARL website for restart date.
- **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** - 5:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Join Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday** - **NFARES meeting** - June 12, 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** - June 19, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Scott Straw KB4KBS and Field Day captains will make last briefings on NFARL Field Day activities and will be recruiting volunteers and operators for the event. Join us at 6:00 PM for dinner before the meeting at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 13075 Highway 9 North, Alpharetta. **Be sure to see the important note elsewhere in the newsletter about road work affecting travel to the meeting site.**
- **Mid-Month Madness** - NFARL Field Day - June 23 and 24 at Waller Park Extension, Roswell. See the Field Day article in this issue and go to [NFARL website](http://www.nfarl.org) for full info.
- **VE Testing Session** - July 14, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

June Program / John Kludt K4SQC

The annual ARRL Field Day event is almost here. Our June meeting is the Tuesday before the big weekend. Please join us as Scott Straw KB4KBS, NFARL Field Day chairman, brings us last-minute details. In addition to an overview of the 24 hours that is Field Day, there will be updates by the band captains on the status of the CW, SSB, Digital, GOTA, VHF and Satellite operations. Here at NFARL we tend to play pretty hard on Field Day. We hope you will join us for the program and again on the weekend.



Scott Straw KB4KBS (center) with Steve Knittel KC4YBO and Lynn Kahn N4MSK at FD 2011. Photo by Bill Hampton W4OO.

June Activities

It should come as no surprise that June's activity is Field Day. For those of you who participated in the Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest on June 2, a big "thank you!" By all accounts, it was a very nice and well-attended outing.

July Program



Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes in an amateur radio balloon launch? Join us in July as Scott Dunbar N4SBD (at left) shares the story behind his recent very successful balloon launch.

July Activities

July is usually hot and humid here in Georgia. Many folks are on well-deserved vacations. And here at NFARL we are all worn out from Field Day! There are no formal NFARL-sponsored activities for the month. This doesn't mean that nothing is going on: it is just a little more informal. Enjoy the mid-summer break and watch the newsletter for upcoming events in August.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT GETTING TO THE MEETING SITE

A bridge just south of the meeting site at 13450 Cogburn Road is being replaced. If you travel on Highway 9 from Alpharetta (and other points west) and normally turn left onto Cogburn Road to get to the meeting, you will want to continue on Highway 9 about 2.3 miles until you reach Bethany Bend Road. Turn left onto Bethany Bend, go about 0.4 mile and turn left onto Cogburn. The meeting site will be on your right after about 0.8 mile. If you reach the sign at right, you have gone too far! If you normally arrive via Windward Parkway off Georgia 400 Exit 11, you will want to turn right onto Highway 9 and follow the same route as above. In either case, you will go past Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 13075 Highway 9 North, Alpharetta, so come early (6:00 PM or so) and stop in for food and fellowship. That way, you can just "follow the crowd" to the meeting. For the latest update on the bridge work, click on the Cogburn Road construction link at <http://cityofmiltonga.us/> And, if you need further help along the way, there's always the 145.47 repeater for a talk-in.



President's Corner / Wes Lamboley W3WL

May is always an exciting month for me, because it means DAYTON! I had an amazing time as usual, and got to see many of my dear friends and celebrate the myriad facets of our hobby that are always showcased in many ways at Dayton. This year I arrived early on Wednesday night and spent some of Thursday at the Air Force Museum. I had not been for many years, and the museum has expanded with new exhibits that define our progress from the humble beginnings of Dayton's own Wright Brothers to the present day. It is worth going early to see the museum if you have not been recently.

I spoke with Kay Craigie N3KN, president of the ARRL and last year's HamJam keynote speaker. She told me again how much she enjoyed being with us, and how many people had taken the time to thank her at Dayton for her participation at HamJam. HamJam is starting to materialize for this year, and we have the auditorium at Georgia Gwinnett College reserved for November 10. It is a beautiful facility and will be perfect for our event.

Also, our club librarian, Keith Plossl K4KRX, has designed and is building a mobile book cart for the club library. It is a highly functional design and will be stored at the Adult Activity Center where we meet (thanks to Jim Paine N4SEC!). We have many interesting books available, and now we will be able to check them out at the meetings. Thanks, Keith!

I hope to see you all at the next meeting where we will finalize our Field Day plans for the event on June 23/24. In addition, John Kludt K4SQC is in the process of building a superb satellite communications station and we will all be able to see it in operation on Field Day. Y'all come, ya hear!

Best,
Wes



Field Day 2012: Be There! / Scott Straw KB4KBS

Plan now to be at the biggest club event of the year. Even if you can't stay for more than half an hour, please stop by to say "hello" and check in. Also, please pass the word to friends, family, co-workers and anyone else that all are invited to stop by and see what our hobby is all about.



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Here are a few reminders:

- Antenna raising will be on Friday, June 22, starting at 3:00 PM. We will meet at the site and start the process of laying out the antennas, shooting the lines over the light poles, and getting the wire antennas in the air. We have two 80M loops, an 80M dipole and a 40M loop to get aloft. If you can help, but can't be there at 3:00, come by when you can.

- We plan to knock off about 6:00 PM and adjourn to Lucky's burgers at 1144 Alpharetta Street, Roswell, just north of Woodstock Street for Dutch treat dinner. I want to alert them that we might have a large party, so if you think you might be joining us, email me at kb4kbs@nfarl.org so I can count your head.
- If you haven't signed up for an operating time, DO IT NOW.
 - a. Go to www.signupgenius.com
 - b. In the middle of the top bar, click on the tab titled FIND A SIGN UP.
 - c. On the next page that loads, type my email address, kb4kbs@nfarl.org, in the blank and click search.
 - d. Choose the station you want to sign up for and click it.
 - e. Scroll down to the roster and click on the buttons labeled "sign up" next to the time you want to operate.
 - f. Provide your name, email address, and a password (so that you can edit your selection if needed). You will receive a reminder at the email address you provide on Wednesday before FD.
 - g. Check the box to receive a calendar entry file if desired
- The best part of Field Day is the big family-style dinner on Saturday at 6:00 PM. If you can't be at any other part of Field Day, plan to come for dinner. Members are asked to bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert. The club will provide drinks, BBQ, hot dogs and burgers. Lynn Kahn N4MSK will coordinate so please email her at FDFood@nfarl.org to RSVP and let her know what dish you will be bringing.

The Field Day site is Waller Park Extension, at the end of Dobbs Drive in Roswell. There is a map on the Field Day page on the NFARL website: [FIELD DAY](#). On the day of the event, we will have talk-in assistance on the 145.470 club repeater. Don't miss this great event!

CW Ops Needed for Colonies Event / Jim Stafford W4QO

It's about time for the 13 Colonies July 4 event again. This has been very popular in the past with NFARLites emailing, texting, and on the 145.47 machine with info about working all 13 stations. I just happened to run across this year's info and since not many states had CW stations operating, I suggested several NFARL ops would probably want to help.

The event runs from 9:00 AM ET on June 30 (Saturday) until end of day on July 5. So if you would like to operate CW a few or a lot of hours during that six-day period, let me know. We can have multiple stations operating on multiple bands at the same time. Based on how many would like to play, I'll come up with a simple scheme to divide up the time or bands. I'll provide the guidelines and it's pretty simple! Bob Smith K4PHE of Leesburg will handle the QSLs.

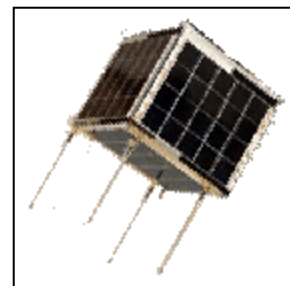


The main website is www.13colonies.info if you want to check it out. Let me know if you are interested in CW operating. You do not have to be fast or skillful, just interested in helping out.

Please reply direct to: w4qo@nfarl.org

NFARL and Satellites (Part 1) / John Kludt K4SQC

Over the past few years NFARL has shown an increasing interest in working the satellites carrying amateur radio during Field Day. I cannot speak to NFARL satellite activity in the “good old days.” What I can do is recount the resurgent NFARL satellite activities over the past three or four years. These activities fall into two broad categories: ARRL Field Day and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS).



ARRL Field Day

Three years ago, Joe Camilli N7QPP and I (then K7SYS) decided it would be fun to try putting K4JJ on the FD books with a satellite contact. The initial contact is worth 100 bonus points and 100 points is 100 points! Armed with a Yaesu FT-817 and a handheld Arrow antenna, we began our saga. SatPC32 running on a laptop told us where to look for a satellite. In those days we were looking for the premier “Easy Sat”, AO-51. This satellite was considered “easy” because it could be worked with a dual band HT and a simple antenna like an Arrow. Recall that AO-51 carried an FM transponder. Here on Earth they are “repeaters”: in orbit they are “transponders” – go figure! Also recall that FM is known for the capture effect: the strongest signal wins. And *everyone* was going for an AO-51 contact on Field Day 2010! With our 5-watt peanut whistle we never did make a contact. But everyone had a good time and the satellite station got lots of attention.

Fast-forward to two years ago and NFARL was getting a little more serious about satellites. One of the goals of Field Day is to improve communications capabilities and we were into the spirit of the event. The rig was upgraded to an Icom 823H satellite rig capable of full duplex. The antenna was still the Arrow but it now sat on a YAESU G-5500 az/el rotor with CAT control provided by a laptop and SatPC32. The rig was still manually controlled. We were really off and running now! Given the pass predictions, over which we have no control, the satellite passes over EM74ta (Waller Park Extension, our Field Day site) were not too numerous. Again, lots of attention *and* a single CW contact for K4JJ. Success! Now manually tuning for Doppler shift while sending CW was not especially easy but we did manage the feat. As well as anyone can remember this was the first satellite contact ever made by NFARL.



This brings us to this year and the current effort. We have again upgraded the station. We will be fielding a pair of M2 switchable polarity satellite antennas, again sitting on a Yaesu G-5500 with CAT control provided by SatPC32 version 12.8b and a newer laptop. The rigs - now there are two - are an Icom 910H for main communications and an Icom R75 for 10-meter receive. Both rigs are under CAT control. Assisting with the receive tasks are two mast-mounted RF switched preamps for 144 MHz and 435 MHz. We have come a long way from the FT-817 and the handheld Arrow!

While NFARL has been improving the station, the number of working satellites has been decreasing. And those that are left are not particularly easy to work. We are basically down to four “targets” plus

the International Space Station (ISS). Three “targets” are analog transponders design for SSB/CW operation: AO-7, FO-29, and VO-52. AO-27 carries the lone remaining FM voice transponder. So this year we will have better and more complex equipment and fewer, harder targets to hit. And with complexity comes increased opportunities for Murphy to come to Field Day. It should be a very interesting time!

The story of AO-7, if you have not heard it, is interesting and informative. The death knell for so many of our satellites is the loss of one or more cells in the batteries. AO-7 is a Phase II satellite first launched in 1974. After seven years of service, the satellite “died” of battery failure in 1981. Folks who are really into the satellites continued to monitor the beacon frequencies and, surprise of all surprises, heard the AO-7 beacon in 2002. AO-7 had come back to life after 21 years of silence and 27 years in space! The batteries on most spacecraft are recharged by solar cells. We can think of those solar cells as being in series with the batteries. If the battery fails open, all power to the spacecraft is lost. Those who know about these things tell us the battery in AO-7 failed closed. This means that when the ship is in the sun, AO-7 has power and becomes operational. It is currently fully illuminated and spends 24 hours in mode U/v (435 up/144 down) and then switches at 0000 UTC to mode V/a (144 up/ 29.450 down). Hence, the need for a 10-meter receive capability on Field Day.



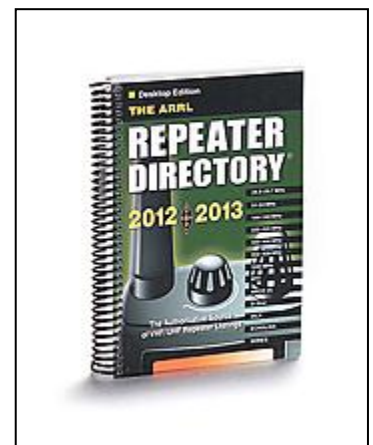
The NFARL FD satellite saga continues. While operations are being finalized for this year an eye will be kept on “lessons learned” so that we can have an even better chance in 2013. And, who knows, with some luck and lots of hard work by AMSAT organizations and universities around the world we may begin to see some new birds over the next couple of years. Placing a functioning satellite into orbit is an expensive endeavor. The current AMSAT-NA project is FOX-1. It is intended to be an immediate replacement for AO-51 and is designed to be worked with an HT and simple antennas. More information on FOX-1 and an opportunity to donate can be found at www.amsat.org.

In Part 2 next month, we will detail NFARL efforts to become a coordinator for the ARISS school contact program in the metro Atlanta area.

Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl K4KRX

The library is being moved to the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, where a bookcase is under construction to make materials more accessible on meeting nights. The librarian is involved in the project and construction has begun. The library will be in place soon.

We also have a new 2012-2013 desk-size Repeater Directory donated to the library by a NFARL member.



NFARES Topics: Balloon Launch, APRS / Jim Paine N4SEC



The NFARES meeting on June 12 will include a presentation and discussion about the high altitude balloon launch and the importance of APRS in collecting that data. The other portion of the program will be George Lane and a training program for our group on APRS and its application to ARES operations.

Additional Information:

- Weekly NFARES Net is every Sunday night at 8:30 PM on the 147.06 MHz repeater (PL 100). All ARES members from other groups as well as non-ARES amateurs are encouraged to check in.
- NFARES meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The location is usually the City of Sandy Springs Council Chambers. Meeting participants frequently gather for a pre-meeting dinner at 5:45 PM at [Tijuana Joe's](#) restaurant (between Sandy Springs City Hall and QuikTrip).
- Check out the NFARES website at nfares.nfarl.org for more information.

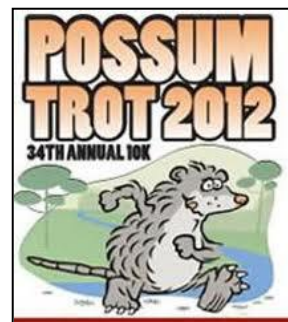
Around North Fulton ARL / Snoopy NØSIE

Reporting recent activities from **NFARL** club members... **Tim WK4U** has been enjoying short wave radio again with a recently purchased Drake R8A (and VHF converter) for a great price... **Gary WB4SQ** got his 6M QUAD installed, and has been heard on the band, thanks to some great NFARL helpers... **Wayne KG5WU** and **Mike AD4MC** were among the many Atlanta area hams who volunteered their time and talents to ensure the success of the Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games, held every summer at Emory University... **Bill K4WSW** worked and confirmed (via LOTW) YB0MWM (Indonesia) and A65BP (United Arab Emirates) on 17M this week, barefoot on his 66ft long wire; he also got his DXCC certificate... **Mack W4AX** restored, and is on the air, with the ART-13 he acquired at the Dayton Hamvention... **Jim W4QO** worked 93 countries in the recent WPX contest – at 5 watts... **Bill W4OO**, with help from **Shane KF4TJY**, installed a new HF antenna mount on his vehicle... **Tampa Bob AK4O** did some extensive testing on a Flex 1500 transceiver, satisfying some of his curiosity... **Clark WU4B** picked up a Ten Tec Century 21 at Dayton but alas it doesn't work so now to the workbench... **Claire McCarthy**, our official door prize ticket drawer at club meetings, passed her Technician test and was issued **K4JJT**; Claire is 10 years old; hope she will operate **K4JJ** at Field Day. Plus she and her dad, **Brian NX9O** operated the June 9/10 ARRL contest with the Fourlanders, W4NH, in NC at 5,400' ASL ... In case you hadn't heard, **TechNet**, our ever-popular Monday night net, is taking a break for the summer. See you in September... **Ian KM4IK** was issued the Triple Play Award, for working all 50 states in each of the three modes – SSB, CW, and Digital; this is a very challenging award... **Dave KD4ICT** has a new Cat-Nab loop antenna designed, built and installed by **Roger AA2HT** and he's worked a couple of new ones, Azerbaijan and Israel, with it. **Eddie KC4AWZ** has just finished building a 5-element 6M beam and is working hard toward getting his EXTRA... **JP WF4Z** showed off his new (hard to get) Elecraft KX3 at the ATL Hamfest and was a big hit... **James KK4IZN** at the Brandon Hall School has a 2M rig and a Yaesu FT-101 installed, thanks to **Tom W4UOC**... **Mike W4MJA** did WAC (Worked All Continents) the other night on 20 and 17M in 15 minutes, wire antennas at 100 watts... And one more for **Dave KD4ICT** -

his new KX3 QRP rig from Elecraft just arrived, so that makes three in the club as **Roger N7BU** got his a couple of weeks ago. You lucky dudes. Oh, a club member from way back, **Ned WC4X**, got his this week. He now lives up near Helen... That's about all the news we could find for this time. Keep sending yours to snoopy@w4qo.com...

Public Service

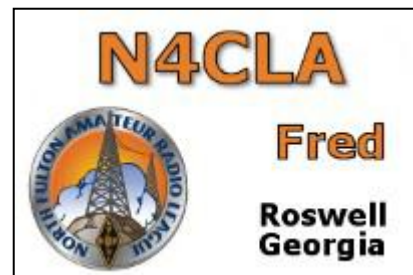
Annual **Possum Trot 10K/1 Mile Fun Run**, Saturday, June 16. For more information, contact Charles Turner K0CZR at k0czt@bellsouth.net



AJC 2012 **Peachtree Road Race**, Wednesday, July 4. For more information, contact David Ziskind KE4QLH at ke4qlh@arrl.net

Now's a Great Time to Order a Name Badge

If you have been considering ordering a NFARL Name Badge, now would be an ideal time to do so. These badges have magnetic backs so they will not poke holes in your clothing. They are NOT etched badges, they are made using a photographic full-color process and the information on the badge will NOT wear off. This is an example of what the badge will look like, but with rounded corners and NO black border. So if you are interested, they are \$9.00 each. All you have to do is go to www.nfarl.org/mart, log in, and click on the badge icon. We accept PayPal, personal credit cards or checks sent to the club mailbox, **NFARL, P.O. Box 1741, Roswell, GA 30077**. See Fred Moore N4CLA at the meeting or go to the mart to place your order. The next order will go out on Wednesday, June 20.



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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