



eNEWS ***July 2012***

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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) – Tech Net is on hiatus for the summer. Check 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** - No meeting in July
- **VE Testing Session** - July 14, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. **Please see the important note below about the ongoing road work to the site!**
- **Mid-Month Madness** - Keeping cool: Find a comfortable chair, sip your favorite beverage, relax and enjoy your fond memories of the recent ARRL Field Day.
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** - July 17, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Scott Dunbar N4SBD will take us through the start-up and launch of a balloon into Near Space over North Georgia with APRS tracking through most of the flight and a successful recovery of the balloon. **Please see the important note below about the ongoing road work to the site!**

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT GETTING TO THE MEETING SITE

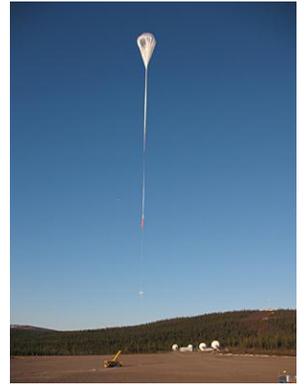
A bridge just south of the meeting site at 13450 Cogburn Road is being replaced. If you travel on Highway 9 from Alpharetta (and other points west) and normally turn left onto Cogburn Road to get to the meeting, you will want to continue on Highway 9 about 2.3 miles until you reach Bethany Bend Road. 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. For a map of an alternate route, go [here](#).

July Program / John Kludt K4SQC

At current prices, a satellite launch can cost a million dollars and take years to arrange. Ever-enterprising amateur radio operators have found alternative ways to probe the region known as Near Space. By at least one definition, Near Space is that region between 60,000 feet and 328,000 feet, the official boundary of space. Please join us as Scott Dunbar N4SBD shares with us the details and excitement of his recent successful balloon launch here in North Georgia. Learn about the role that APRS can play in tracking these balloons once they are on their way.



Scott Dunbar N4SBD will fill us in on the exciting details of the recent balloon launch here in North Georgia.

President's Corner / Wes Lamboley W3WL



Field Day is over and already I am looking forward to next year! Field Day is very important to me, as it is the reason I got started in ham radio back in 1954, and, as they say, the rest is history. One of my high school buddies invited me to go to Field Day with the high school radio club and I was immediately hooked. It is probably true that a lot of engineers, especially electrical, got their starts back in the '50s and '60s through being involved with ham radio.

And, as we do, Jim Stafford (of Quaker Oats fame) and I were reminiscing about our Field Days of yore while in

our CW facility at Waller Park. We were focused on “Is it a contest where you publicize ham radio’s emergency capabilities to the public,” or “Is it a demonstration of ham radio’s emergency capabilities to the public where you also keep score?” Jim, in a flash of insight, likened the question to that posed by Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger with his cat paradox (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schr%C3%B6dinger's_cat for more information), and we decided that there really is no answer that is adequate, but that we enjoy it, whatever “it” is, and one just goes out and does it.

This year’s Field Day was indeed enjoyable, with lots of camaraderie, good food, new people getting involved with operating, many visitors to the site who were curious, 23 Boy Scouts who got on the air

with their new Radio Merit Badges, and we also kept score. Scott Straw KB4KBS did a great job on his maiden voyage as Field Day chairman, and all the various captains who helped in the organization of the event deserve much credit for another successful, no – EXTREMELY successful NFARL Field Day!

In keeping with the Schrödinger's Cat theme, it seems there was another well-known physicist named Heisenberg who also had a cat. Heisenberg was sometimes uncertain where his cat was, but when he did know where it was he was surely not going to let Schrödinger borrow it! It seems that Heisenberg's cat was seen operating Field Day somewhere, but we do not know when the photo was taken.



There better be catnip at the Field Day dinner next year!

73, Wes – W3WL

Field Day 2012 Another Winner / Scott Straw KB4KBS

"People are more important than points."

Once again the North Fulton Amateur Radio League put on a Field Day feat of gargantuan proportions and while we may not have an entry in the statistical ledger that tops our efforts in 2011, in ways not so easily measured, it was a rousing success.

Saturday morning began early as we hosted Boy Scouts eager to earn their Radio Merit Badge. They and their parents arrived beginning at 8:00 AM, and moved on to the makeshift classroom for the lecture and textbook portion of the class. Later they would return to the main area to sit at



GOTA Station Coordinator Bill Weathers
K4WSW works with Scouts at Field Day. /
Photo by Bill Hampton W4OO

one of three stations readied for them. The final requirement was for each Scout to make an on-air contact. They all were able to have a 3-5 minute QSO with another ham radio operator under the watchful coaching of a control operator.

Because of NFARL's commitment to Scouting, and youth in general, 23 Scouts earned a new merit badge, and discovered the wonderful world of ham radio. Jon Wittlin K4WIT deserves a special salute for his efforts to make this important element of the weekend flow without a hitch.



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Meanwhile, final preparations were completed, the last antenna was hoisted, and stations were given one more check-out as everyone waited for the green flag to be dropped at 2:00 PM. We had two HF SSB stations, one HF digital station, and one HF CW station that were "scoring stations." We also had a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station and a satellite station. All were staffed and operational for the entire 24-hour operating period.



Digital station guru Dave Higdon KD4ICT gets up close and personal with an antenna. / Photo by Bill Hampton W4OO

Although we were about 44 names shy of our all-time attendance record set in 2011, we were still blessed with a huge crowd. A quick review of the 226 entries in the guest registry revealed 71 folks who identified themselves as club members, 117 registrants who did not list a call sign and 44 entries who checked the box indicating they were less than 18 years of age. We had a host of local elected and public safety officials visit. They were treated to a grand tour as well as a marvelous take-home brochure – a new item for us this year – detailing each area of activity. Many of them took advantage of the station and made contacts with hams across North America. Jim Paine N4SEC, as well as Keith and Marian Plossl, K4KRX and K4QIK, were the hosts and tour guides.

The high point of the weekend was the annual dinner. Each member was asked to bring a vegetable or a dessert, and the club provided beef and pork from Spiced Right Barbecue. There were more than 80 people who joined together for great food, fun stories, and fabulous fellowship. At its essence, this is what being a NFARL club member is all about – camaraderie. The meal, and all of the food and drink coordination for the weekend, was handled expertly again this year by N4MSK Lynn Kahn and her team of assistants. It is not an exaggeration to say that Lynn was probably the Most Valuable Player at Field Day.

One of the major underlying reasons for Field Day event is to demonstrate our club's ability to establish operating stations in a simulation of an emergency response. Another purpose is to test our ability to contact other Field Day operations around the United States and Canada. While Field Day is not formally a "contest," it has been described as "an operating event where a score is kept."



Nobody went hungry, thanks to the efforts of Lynn Kahn N4MSK. / Photo by Bill Hampton W4OO

There were 33 operators listed in the logs of the four "scoring stations" in addition to the 26 GOTA station operators and the two satellite station operators and the lone 2-Meter SSB operator.

The GOTA station operators were assisted by at least one coach/control operator, so there were roughly 70 people who were on the air, or assisting. The results from the 24 hours of uninterrupted effort by these troupers are displayed below:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Totals
80/75M	96	0	14	110
40M	550	44	728	1322
20M	313	58	480	851
15M	107	5	22	134
10M	0	0	0	0
6M	0	0	0	0
2M	0	0	2	2
SAT	0	0	23	23
GOTA	0	0	203	203
Totals	1066	107	1472	2645
Mult:	x2	x2	x1	
Points	2132	214	1472	3818
Emergency Power 2x Bonus:				7636
Estimated Bonus Points:				1650
Total Estimated Claimed Score:				9286

Thanks to the individuals who served as team captains for the various efforts – Dave Brackett AK4CL served as the architect of the 20M SSB station effort and pitched in to help with 40M at the last minute. Dave Higdon KD4ICT served as the guru for the HF digital station and Jim Stafford W4QO was the big stick for the CW effort. Bill Weathers K4WSW was the GOTA station coordinator while John Kludt K4SQC and Joe Camilli N7QPP piloted the satellite station. Many others were vital to the success of the event as well, providing generators, antennas, radio equipment, computers and other items. Thank you all for your assistance!

In closing it must be noted that annually the North Fulton Amateur Radio League challenges the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society to a friendly wager. Every year in recent history, it seems that the North Fulton club prevails. For 2012, to give GARS a better chance of winning, NFARL allowed them to select the metric that would be evaluated for comparison. They chose the use the sum total of all CW and HF digital contacts. Alas, it appears that they have come in second again, with a total of 1,134 combined CW and HF digital tallies, a deficit of 39 contacts to our 1,173. We applaud the Gwinnett club for their efforts and will allow them the same latitude next year. And on that subject, mark your calendars for June 22 and 23, 2013. The FOURTH FULL WEEKEND in June will be FD13, and once again, we will rally the troops, and the troupes, for another grand and glorious gathering.

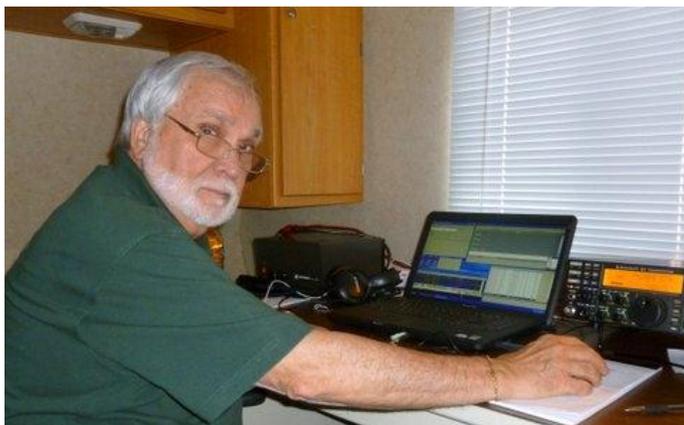
Field Day 2012 – Digital Station / Dave Higdon Jr. KD4ICT

Like most of us, I thought Field Day was only the hottest weekend of the year. Was I ever wrong. Every year I read about Winter Field Day and think that is the way to go. Some day.

Before the official start time of 2:00 PM, the digital station was able to help a group of fine young men earn a Merit Badge. I can say the group we hosted was very polite and they will all be outstanding men in the years to come. All too often we hear of problems with that age group. Their families have something to be proud of.

We made contact with a couple of stations preparing for Field Day. There was just a little “mic fright” to start and with a little coaching, everyone made their contacts. We had help from Tom Wright NN2X in Texas in getting these guys comfortable on the air. He even stayed a bit longer than he had time for, just to help out. He stayed on frequency long enough for the group to get their on-air time. A big thank you is in order for his help.

After lunch, things picked up and after solving a last-minute problem, we were up and going. No matter how many days and hours you prepare, something always happens. But that is part of the drill.



Neil Foster N4FN takes a turn at the digital station. / Photo by Bill Hampton W4OO

The theme of “People Instead of Points” prevailed. Neil Foster N4FN, Mike Parrott N4MEP and Bill Reed K4YJI were on the schedule to kick things off. Later Edward Doyle KJ4NRN came by as did Garry Brass AK4NA to finish out the evening. Scott Straw KB4KBS somehow found the time to operate into the wee hours.

We had visitors throughout the evening. Eventually, sleep came for a few minutes and we were back at it. We missed only an hour between 4:00 AM and 5:00 AM but the bands did not offer that much at that time of day.

I want to thank all who helped get things set up, operated and help tear down. I remember Dave

Brackett AK4CL and Marty Olson WW4MO early Saturday. Thanks Jim Paine N4SEC for the portable air conditioner! I know I am missing others, and I apologize. Your help was certainly appreciated and I will blame my brain for being tired and overheated. Sorry if I forgot to mention your name. Due to work, I was not able to be there for setup on Friday. I know there had to be a bunch helping at that time.

Like every other Field Day, it is the coming together to accomplish a goal that makes it successful. There were many people behind the scenes helping all across the site, doing whatever was asked and getting results. We all learned something and we all taught something. You cannot ask for more than that.

THANKS, EVERYONE!

Field Day 2012 – Radio Merit Badge / Jon Wittlin K4WIT

There were 26 Scout attendees at the BSA Radio Merit Badge clinic at Waller Park Extension. Of those, 23 Radio Merit Badges (including Emergency Preparation Merit Badge requirement 7a) and three 7a-only requirements were earned.

The following troops were represented: Troop 8 Marietta, Troop 27 Johns Creek, Troop 69 Alpharetta, Troop 118 Brooks, Troop 207 Cumming, Troop 245 Cumming, Troop 401 Andrews, N.C., Troop 429 Alpharetta, Troop 623 Sandy Springs, Troop 1818 Alpharetta, and Troop 3000 Milton.

We also worked with the North Augusta Radio Club to help nine scouts from Troop 601 in Merriwether, S.C., get their badges.

Instructors for this group were: Jon Wittlin K4WIT, Wes Lamboley W3WL, Rich Adams KB7WO and Phil Wolf KK4EFN.

A special thanks to the operators who helped the Scouts make contacts.

Next Scout Event: The 55th Jamboree-on-the-Air is October 20–21 across from Bobby Jones Golf Course in Johns Creek.

Contact Jon k4wit@nfarl.org if you would like to help with the Scouts.



Twenty-six Scouts attended the Radio Merit Badge clinic held in conjunction with Field Day. / Photos by Bill Hampton W4OO

Executive Committee Changes

Because of a significant increase in the responsibilities of his full-time job, Dave Brackett AK4CL has found it necessary to resign as vice president of NFARL. Dave has agreed to continue in the role of activities chairman. John Kludt K4SQC will assume the role of vice president for the remainder of Dave's term.

NFARL and Satellites (Part 2) / John Kludt K4SQC

Last month we reviewed NFARL satellite participation in previous Field Days and talked about our plans for NFARL FD 2012. To review, we have moved from a hand-held antenna with a Yaesu FT-817 to a computer-driven antenna and a “real satellite radio” (Icom IC-821H) to a full-blown satellite station with computer control of both the radio and the antennas. I am happy to say things worked out pretty well this year with K4JJ making 23 contacts on all of the active satellites including AO-7, AO-27, FO-29, SO-50 and VO-52. Plans are already under way for NFARL FD 2013, including the use of CW and the capability for digital upload and download files to and from the International Space Station (ISS). It is the ISS that we would like to turn to now.



Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

I am sure you all have seen the headlines: “U.S. Students Rank 23rd in Science in International Standardized Testing,” “U.S. Students Rank 31st In Mathematics.” We rank 27th in the number of college graduates with degrees in science or math. An older generation grew up with the excitement of Sputnik and the race to land a man on the moon. ARISS has as an objective the rekindling of that kind of excitement in the current generation of young students. As part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program, NASA, AMSAT and the ARRL have entered into a partnership whereby children everywhere can participate via amateur radio in conversations with the astronauts on the ISS. NARFL members John Kludt K4SQC and Jim Stafford W4QO along with ARRL Southeast Regional Vice Director Andrea Hartlage KG4IUM participated in an ARISS contact with Parkside Elementary School in Atlanta. That contact was a great success and has been described elsewhere. As a result of that contact we have seen increased interest in the roles that local amateurs can play in an ARISS contact.

The process of making an ARISS contact begins with an application submitted by the school. In this early phase, amateur radio involvement is not required as the goal is to involve as many schools as possible. Once approved, the task is to identify local resources from the amateur radio community who can assist with the mechanics of making the contact as well as some basic instruction in radio communications. Some of you may recall there are two ways to make a contact:

1. Telebridge (for those of you of an earlier vintage, think “phone patch”)
2. Direct RF contact

There are basically two ways that the local amateur radio community can get involved as described on the ARRL website www.arrl.org/ariss-volunteers.



ARRIS Ground Support Team

This is a group of local amateurs who take on the responsibility of developing relationships with the local organizations involved in a successful contact. Given the large audience ARISS contacts usually generate this can include local officials, members of the media, organizations such as the Boy Scouts and local service clubs as well as the school actually involved in the contact. They are responsible for coordination with the assigned ARISS mentor. The ARISS Ground Support Team has the responsibility of providing the equipment for primary and backup stations in support of the contact. A typical ARISS contact lasts at most 15 minutes so there is no time to troubleshoot during the contact should there be a primary station failure. The need is to be able to go immediately to the backup station and get on with the activity. Lastly, this group needs to instruct and to practice with the students and teachers proper radio communications procedures.

ARRIS Technical Mentor

The Technical Mentor is a more experienced individual who has served an internship with another Technical Mentor. This individual is responsible for coordination between the ARISS Ground Support Team, other ARISS technical Mentors and NASA. More details on this position as well as the Ground Support team can be found on the ARRL website listed earlier.

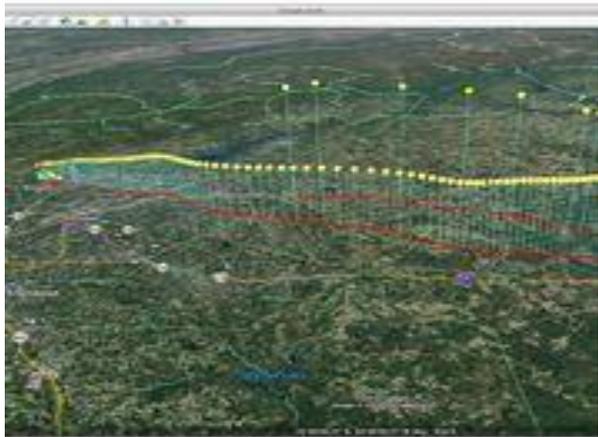
We are working to establish an ARISS Ground Support Team here at NFARL. This is an opportunity for you to represent amateur radio in an undertaking that is national and international in scope. If you have an interest, please contact John Kludt K4SQC at k4sqc@arrl.net

Browsing the Library



Librarian Keith Plossl K4KRX and Marian Plossl K4QIK built this handy library storage unit which will be available for browsing each month at club meetings. Also, to help our upgrade candidates, the NFARL Library requests your help in collecting at least three copies of the current ARRL General Class License Manual. Contact Keith if you have a copy to donate.

NFARES on Track Using APRS in Support Role / Tom Koch W4UOC



At the June NFARES meeting, held at the Sandy Springs EOC/911 center, Scott Dunbar N4SBD and George Lane KI4DSO provided demonstrations of Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) and how it can be used to support emergency preparedness activities.

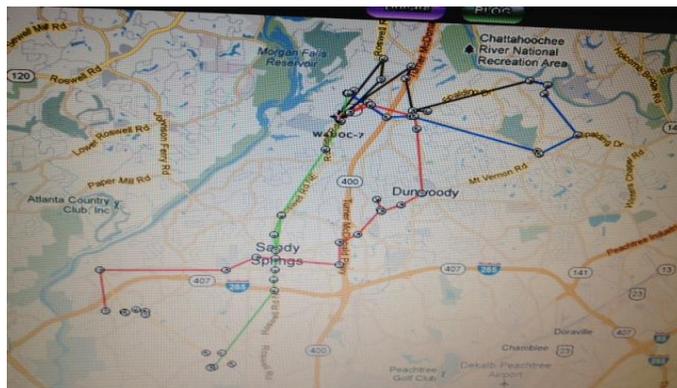
Scott presented a series of APRS positioning charts showing altitude, speed and other telemetry collected during the recent High Altitude Balloon Launch. George described the various capabilities and potential uses of APRS in support of our NFARES activities.

In the days following the meeting several members of the ARES group have started to experiment with APRS.

Although the public safety services in Sandy Springs have tracking equipment for their various vehicles, it probably would not be operational if we had a near-total blackout of the city-county communications system, loss of the phone lines and internet.

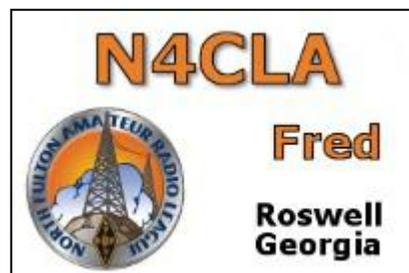
We have placed a Yaesu VX-R8 with a GPS receiver in one of the Citizen on Patrol cars and tracked the path of that vehicle for a four-hour shift.

Although the graphic representation of the area (at right) is not real-time, it does show that we had good coverage of the area over a four-hour period. The APRS frequency used was 144.390. The image is from <http://www.openaprs.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.



Around North Fulton ARL / Snoopy NØSIE

Amazing what you can find when you snoop around NFARL... **Wey K8EAB** and **Jim W4JDS** report receiving their HKØNA QSLs from the early 2012 DXpedition to Malpelo Island... **Ian KM4IK**, tackling the restoration of an old Hallicrafters S-38 with the manuals Wey found for him... Field Day was in June and with it, lots of sneaky stuff – **Jim N4SEC** was able to score some great articles in local newspapers... **Bill K4WSW** just about overdid it by setting up and running a very successful GOTA station where a couple of dozen newbies tipped their toes into HF operating ... **Honda Bill K6WVB** pulls all the strings and gets two of those very quiet gennies for the club to use ... The **Gwinnett ARS** thought they had us this year when they challenged NFARL to total CW+DIG QSOS, but alas they came up short again... **Bill W4OO** snaps over 600 pix at FD and the cream is posted on the NFARL website... **Dave KD4ICT** and friends snagged over 100 Qs at the FD digital station... **Ron NV4U** and **John N4TOL** report having all kinds of fun operating CW at FD for the very first time, helping the CW “tent” hit 1,066 Qs... **Dave AK4CL** leads two big teams on 20/40M SSB to the tune of 1,244 Qs... By all accounts, **Lynn N4MSK** served up a hugely delicious FD dinner/picnic with almost 100 folks attending... And **Scott KB4KBS** made it all happen as the first time CHAIR of a FD operation and does a great job... A gang of five NFARLites agree to work CW as K2G in the always popular “13 Colonies” July 4th event, racking up more than 500 Qs... And a dozen members work the REST STOPS at the GA400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride where 1,000 riders pedaled down Georgia 400 early July 8, showing off ham radio ingenuity... A team of NFARL and SEDXC members working hard to pull off another great HamJam in 2012 set for November 10... Keep sending your news and tips to snoopy@w4qo.com ... Until next time de NØSIE, snoopin' around...

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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