



NFARL eNEWS

August 2012

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is "what's happening" in **North Fulton** and surrounding area! Check out each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrrl.org for 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 - 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 down for the summer. Check website for restart date.
- **Second Tuesday** - **NFARES meeting** – August 14, 7:00 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs.
- **VE Testing Session** - Saturday, September 15, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
- **Mid-Month Madness** - Saturday, August 18 - 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Sunday, August 19, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. Click on the [Huntsville Hamfest website](#) for more details.
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** - August 21, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Edward Doyle, KJ4NRN, will share his experiences from his recent Youth DX Adventure in Costa Rica.
- **Cogburn Road bridge replacement is finished and the road has been reopened to traffic!**

August Program / John Kludt, K4SQC

Ever wonder what it must be like on the other end of a DX pileup? You may have had a taste of this during this year's Georgia QSO Party. Edward Doyle, KJ4NRN (at right, with dad, Jonathan Doyle, N4JJD), is just back from his trip to the QTH of Carlos "Keko" Diez, TI5KD, in Costa Rica and the Youth DX Adventure program. Each year, six licensed radio amateurs between the ages of 10 and 17 are chosen to spend a week at the contest/dx superstation TI5N. During that time they are schooled by top DXers on the finer points of being a successful operator on a DXpedition. Please join us as one of our own shares his adventure and this most interesting of opportunities.



August Activities



This month's premier activity is the Huntsville Hamfest, August 18-19, in Huntsville, Alabama. If you have ever been, I think you will agree this is an excellent hamfest in a very nice venue. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, will be there this year in support of the Southeastern Division Conference. In addition to a large array of commercial vendors, there will be the usual flea market activities with a twist: the flea market is all indoors in air-conditioned comfort! The Saturday grand prize is a TenTec Omni VII and the Sunday grand prize is a TenTec Eagle. And then there are all the usual forums and camaraderie that accompany a hamfest. Please join your fellow NFARL members as we explore the Huntsville Hamfest 2012.

September Program

At some point, you may have heard the word "grid dip oscillator" but never understood what one is or what it does, much less seen one. Ed Tanton, N4XY, has a large collection of these interesting pieces of test equipment that he will be sharing with us at our September meeting. Join us as we learn what they are, how they work and the role they can play in amateur radio.



September Activities

While still in the planning stages, we are pulling together an opportunity for interested NFARL members and friends to have their mobile antennas HF-UHF analyzed and tuned. Stay tuned for details.

President's Corner

I hope all of you can make it to the meeting this month. The guest speaker is going to be 14-year-old Edward Doyle, KJ4NRN. Edward has just returned from the Youth DX Adventure in Costa Rica, where he actually was the DX! What makes me look forward to seeing and hearing Edward's presentation is the natural excitement and enthusiasm he brings to the room when he presents. We



at NFARL helped sponsor him and his dad, Jonathan Doyle, N4JJD, on the trip, using some of the money we collected for youth in last year's HamJam. I feel a sense of pride that Edward is a member of NFARL and enjoy seeing young folks like him in our great hobby.

And, speaking of HamJam, we are spooling up for November 10, which is the Saturday after the Stone Mountain Hamfest. We are putting together a slate of speakers now, and if you know someone that you think would make a good addition to the list, please send me an email (w3wl@nfarl.org) and tell me about them ASAP.

Also, the time is fast approaching for the Holiday Party, and we have reserved the Alpharetta Adult Center again this year. The date is December 15, a Saturday, so mark your calendars. Unfortunately, Oscar of Oscar's Villa Capri will not be preparing the meal this year, so we are looking for alternate sources. There will be an opportunity to offer ideas for the event at our August meeting, so please give it some thought. So far, catered barbecue seems to be out, but there is mixed interest in having a pot luck with the club furnishing the meat and drinks.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

73,

Wes, W3WL

NFARES Prepares for October SET / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Our 2012 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for Sunday, October 14, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. The drill will be our response to a simulated (hopefully not real) tornado.

All hams are welcomed to take part. You don't need to be an ARES member or be experienced in emergency communications. A special welcome goes out to newly licensed hams!

Our goal is to address the strengths and weaknesses of last year's SET and to significantly improve our performance this year. Yes, we had a great SET last year, but we can certainly improve. The 2011 SET Results from the July QST list Georgia as first in the country and North Fulton County (W4UOC) at ninth (533 points) out of 208 entries (top 5%).

Here is the link to the past locations and volunteers to use for our 2012 SET:

<http://tinyurl.com/NFARES-2012-SET>

This link shows the hams who have already signed up (in black print) and it will be updated continuously. Note the revision date in cell B1 (names in gray print volunteered for the 2011 SET). All locations are available plus any new incident or shelter sites that you would like to create.

We'll discuss our plans at our next NFARES and NFARL meetings, Sunday NFARES 8:30 PM nets, 147.06 (+) PL 100.0Hz, and by email.

Please let us know if you are interested in being part of our 2012 SET program by replying directly to me at ad4mc.mike@gmail.com . Even if you cannot make a firm commitment yet, you can still sign up as a volunteer.

Thanks from your 2012 NFARES SET Planning Team: Tom, W4UOC; Wayne, KG5WU; Jim, N4SEC; Dave, AK4CL, Bret, N4BTA; Jim, W4QO; Scott, N4SBD; Wes, W3WL and Mike, AD4MC.



Simulated Emergency Test
October 14th, 2012 3-6PM

Tornado !

North Fulton County Metropolitan Area
NFARL Service Area

Alpharetta
Milton
Roswell
Sandy Springs
Johns Creek
Dunwoody

<http://nfarl.org/ares/ares.html>

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The image is a promotional graphic for a simulated emergency test. It features a green background with white and yellow text. At the top, it says 'Simulated Emergency Test October 14th, 2012 3-6PM'. Below that, in large white letters, is 'Tornado !'. In the center, there is a map of the North Fulton County Metropolitan Area, with a green line indicating a simulated tornado path. To the right of the map, a list of locations is provided: Alpharetta, Milton, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, and Dunwoody. Below the list is a URL: http://nfarl.org/ares/ares.html. At the bottom right, there is a small number '1'.

Technician HamCram Signup Under Way / *Chuck Catledge, AE4CW*



Do you know a friend, neighbor or relative who is interested in ham radio but needs a little extra help to make the leap? Well, here is your opportunity to introduce them to a lifetime of learning, making new friends and just plain great fun!

NFARL, in cooperation with Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs, will conduct a Technician HamCram on Saturday, October 6. The cost is only \$25 which includes a full day of classroom instruction, lunch, snacks, drinks and the FCC license examination. Enrollments can be made on the NFARL website at

http://www.nfarl.org/mart/Technician_Hamcram_10-6-2012 . The enrollment cutoff is September 15.

A team of NFARL volunteer instructors will lead the students through a review of all that's required to pass the FCC license exam. Each student will be provided with a free set of study materials plus recommendations for additional low-cost self-study guides.

You know how much you enjoy ham radio. How about encouraging someone you know to take advantage of this great opportunity to join the hobby!

Browsing the Library / *Keith Plossl, K4KRX*

The new clamshell bookcase has increased library usage dramatically. The plan to have the library at the NFARL meeting was a great idea. Opening the bookcase easily without the use of tools is the only issue remaining and this should be resolved by the next meeting.

The club needs more books to be donated to the library. We need current license study guides for all three license classes. Question card decks are also useful for each current license classes. It would be great if members would consider donating the items they used to pass their exams. We'd like to have three copies of the current manuals for each license class in the library for others to use.

With our meeting presentation on DXpeditions, there are several excellent books on DX in the library, so look over the selections at the next meeting and discover a book you might find useful.



NFARL Membership Explained / Fred Moore, N4CLA

There have been many questions asked about how the memberships in NFARL run. The basic process is now controlled by a computer and not by a human. Each membership is based on a 365-day year from the date it was started. Memberships are created by going to www.nfarl.org/mart, signing in and selecting the membership icon on the home mart page. There are three ways you can obtain a membership and one is by using PayPal or a credit card. The second way is to complete your order and indicate you will be paying by check, and mailing the check to NFARL, Post Office Box 1741, Roswell, GA 30077. And the third is to pay with cash or check directly to a club officer. Once you have completed your membership application on the web, an expiration notification will be sent electronically to your email address on file 30 days before your membership expiration. (If you are using an ARRL email address and you are not a LIFE ARRL member, please use a "REAL" email address and not your ARRL email address since the ARRL address is ONLY a forwarding service. If you choose NOT to renew your ARRL membership, then your ARRL email address goes away, and no notice is given senders that your ARRL email address has vanished and is no longer active. The senders get no "BOUNCE" messages, and YOU receive NO messages indicating your email address is inactive. Therefore NFARL cannot communicate to you electronically. If you are an ARRL LIFE member, that email address is yours until you become a SK (Silent Key).

You can renew at any time through your current membership period and the new/additional year/s will be added to your existing membership. You do not need to wait for the email message telling you of your upcoming expiration.

If you have any further questions, contact me at n4cla@nfarl.org.

Looking Ahead to Field Day 2013 / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

Field Day 2013 is only 10 months away. Are you ready? Here are some of the things that we're considering and/or planning to do:



- Operate four scoring stations, a GOTA station, a Satellite station, and a VHF station.
- Operate two CW stations between midnight and 6:00 AM.
- Network all stations and have Internet access.
- Have a significant NFARES presence.
- Demonstrate D-Star and use this mode to send and receive NTS traffic messages.
- Have another Radio Merit Badge class and possibly even a HamCram for the Scouts so they not only

can earn a merit badge, but sit for a Technician license exam as well.

- Continue the tradition of a big covered-dish dinner on Saturday evening.

It takes a team of folks to make Field Day a success each year. If you came out this year and had a great time, we would surely like to have you help ensure next year is even better. Send me a note and let me know you want to help. If you have an idea for Field Day, send me that as well. My email address is kb4kbs@nfarl.org.

Contest Calendar

The SSB portion of the North American QSO Party will begin Saturday, August 18, at 1800 UTC/1400 EDT and runs for 12 hours. An individual operator can work 10 of the 12 hours and, if you take a time-out, it must be for a minimum of 30 minutes. The exchange is your name and your state (e.g. Wes, Georgia). All contestants are limited to 100 watts, so everyone is playing on a level playing field. This is a great opportunity to add states that you need for your Worked All States award.

On Sunday, August 19, the RTTY version of the ARRL Rookie Roundup takes to the air for six hours starting at 1800 UTC/1400 EDT. For this event, hams licensed in 2010, 2011 and 2012 are considered "Rookies." The exchange is call sign of station worked, your call sign, your first name, two-digit number of the year first licensed ("check") and state. (e.g. W1AW de K4WSW Bill 11



Georgia). This is a bit of a mouthful, but most contest software will help you put it all together for a RTTY transmission. If you were licensed before 2010, you are encouraged to participate as well, but you may only contact Rookies. Rookies can contact anyone.

For more information on these and just about every other contest, visit the comprehensive Contest Calendar maintained by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php

Around North Fulton ARL / Snoopy, NØSIE

John, N4TOL, experiments with a 4-element 2M beam to reach the club's 145.47 repeater from Blue Ridge but alas NO GO... **Ian, KM4IK**, snooping around to get info on building a QRP SSB kit he can use as he travels on his new job... New ham/member **Darren, KK4KNH**, works his 10 numbers during the TEN-TEN contest to qualify for membership ... in one hour... **Edward, KJ4NRN**, back from his Costa Rica DXpedition with Youth DX Adventure and will speak at the August meeting... **Walt, KJ4HE**, retires and is now on the bands 24 hours a day and most nights too... **Scott, KB4KBS**, issues the special certificate for stations working K4N, K4F, K4A, K4R, and K4L in the spring GA QSO Party... **Christian, AK4VV**, with his new call sign, categorizes Georgia summits for Summits on the Air and has submitted all his work for approval... **Jim, N4BFR**, goes to St. Croix and "roughs it" during his DXpedition, providing many contacts... **Gary, WB4SQ**, received his CW and Digital Worked All States award... **W4QO and KJ4HE** work the Flight of the Bumble Bees event from Leita Thompson Park on Sunday afternoon, July 31... send your activity reports, awards, trips to snoopy@w4qo.com or post them on the reflector so we can all be motivated to find new ways to have fun... Until next month...

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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