



NFARL eNEWS ***September 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 arrl.org for national news, but here is this month's **North Fulton ARL eNEWS**.



FREE - FREE - BRAVES VS. NATIONALS TICKETS - FREE - FREE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 4:05 PM
STILL AVAILABLE AT [NFARL MART](#) OR CALL WES AT 770-642-2087

HamJam2012 ***November 10*** ***hamjam.info***

Bring \$5 or \$20 to the September meeting or Hungry Hams (or go to NFARL MART) to buy raffle ticket(s) to help pay expenses and boost our scholarship fund. See you there!

Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM – Slope's 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** - September 11, 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** - Individualized mobile antenna analyses and adjustments Tuesday, September 18, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, just before club meeting and Wednesday, September 19, immediately after Hungry Hams. Check the [NFARL website](#) for details.
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** - September 18, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Ed Tanton, N4XY, will show you how you can replace a whole shelf of expensive gear with one piece of test equipment.
- **Technician HamCram** - Saturday, October 6, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Registration ends on Saturday, September 15. Click on the [NFARL Registration Website](#) to register.

September Program / John Kludt, K4SQC

The program this month will be presented by Ed Tanton, N4XY. Ed is a collector of old radio equipment and has in his collection keys, paddles, T/R switches, mechanical RTTY machines and terminal units, test equipment and grid dip oscillators (GDOs). He has probably one of the most extensive collections of GDOs with at recent count 61 models from 47 different manufactures plus almost a dozen homebrew units. Please join us as Ed shares with us some of the items from his collection.

Now I know some of you have asked, “What the heck is a GDO?” A GDO is an oscillator with its coil exposed. When the coil is brought near a tuned circuit when the resonant frequency of the tuned circuit matches the frequency of the GDO some of the energy in the GDO will be transferred to the tuned circuit. A meter configured to measure the energy in the GDO will show less power, “dip,” as resonance is approached. What kind of things can you do? You can find the resonant frequency of an LC circuit. You can find the value of an unknown inductor or capacitor. You can find the Q of an inductor. You can determine the electrical length of a quarter- or half-wave line. And much more. All without a computer, if you can believe that! If you are an ARRL member there is a good article on the GDO at http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/101848



Mid-Month Madness

Have you ever wondered how well your mobile antenna is tuned? Could it be installed a bit better from an electrical standpoint? Some NFARL club members will make available their extensive and expensive test equipment to help you better analyze and adjust your mobile antenna before this month's meeting and after Hungry Hams the following day.

October Program

What in the world are all those funny digital tones you hear on the air? October's speaker will be Kyle Albritton, W4KDA, who will take us on a tour of the world of digital modes.

October Activities



We have two activities coming up in October.

Jon Wittlin, K4WIT, will be leading a contingent from NFARL as we support the 2012 Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), the third weekend in October.

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, has agreed to lead an antenna build, type as yet to be determined. More details on both in next month's newsletter.

President's Corner / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

The Huntsville Hamfest is behind us for another year, and I am already looking forward to 2013! I always enjoy going over there, and this year was no exception. They pitch their hamfest as the "World's Friendliest," and I subscribe. Kay Craigie, N3KN, president of the ARRL, told of her



experience at the recent World Communication Conference in a presentation titled "A Newbie Goes to Geneva: WRC Conference, 2012," and after hearing Kay at last year's HamJam, I was not going to miss her. Kay was not allowed to vote on anything at Geneva, but was there as an observer. There are 192 member nations and each one's vote counts the same as any other. What is interesting is that if there ever is a vote on an issue, the chairman has failed in his job. All decisions are arrived at by compromise! A great way to run a railroad! Kay told of how much the ham bands

were severely threatened by Oceanographic Radar (noise from 7 MHz up near the coast), but the compromise was "No operating in the ham bands," thanks to a lot of talk behind the scenes. There are many good folks working on behalf of us hams!

Our club has a couple of important items coming up at the October meeting. First, the Board of Directors has updated the bylaws of the club written in 1995 and will present them for adoption. You can read them at http://nfarl.org/bylaws/NFARL_Bylaws_Edited_and_Revised_September_2012.pdf. And the old bylaws can be read at <http://nfarl.org/bylaws/By-Laws-Oct1995001-1.pdf>. It is interesting to read through the bylaws of the club and I recommend you do. I continue to be proud to be a member of NFARL and reading the bylaws makes me even prouder!

Second, we will be electing officers for the club in October, and I will be asking for volunteers at the September meeting to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please think about taking part and offering your ideas for this important process.

And lastly, HamJam 2012 is coming together in grand style! Keep an eye on the website (<http://hamjam.info/>) for all the details. We have some really great prizes starting to accumulate, and the speakers this year will be very interesting. Save the morning of November 10 for a great time.

73,

Wes, W3WL

Technician HamCram Enrollment Closing Soon / Chuck Catledge, AE4CW

Only a few days remain to enroll in the NFARL Technician HamCram scheduled for Saturday, October 6, at Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs. **Enrollment cutoff is September 15**, so please encourage your friend, neighbor, son, daughter or relative who is interested in ham radio to enroll now. They will thank you for introducing them to a lifelong adventure of fun, friendships and learning.

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 www.nfarl.org/mart/Technician_Hamcram_10-6-2012



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 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!

NFARES prepares for October SET / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

We are finalizing our plans for the 2012 Simulated Emergency Test (SET), which is scheduled for Sunday, October 14, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The drill will be our response to a simulated tornado. As in the past, we hope that this will be for a simulated tornado and not a real one.

We already have 35 volunteers: see <http://tinyurl.com/NFARES-2012-SET>. This link shows the hams who have already signed up (in black print) and it will be continuously updated. 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 would like to have you join us this year so that we can brag about having even more than the 47 volunteers from last year. So, we are looking for at least another 12 volunteers.

All hams are welcome. 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. 2011 SET Results from the July QST, pages 68-70, listed Georgia as first in the country and North Fulton County (W4UOC) at ninth (533 points) out of the 208 entries (Top 5%).

We'll discuss our plans at our next NFARES and NFARL meetings, Sunday night 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 Mike, AD4MC (ad4mc.mike@gmail.com).

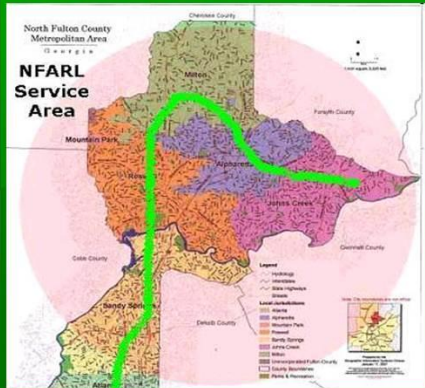
Even if you cannot make a firm commitment yet, you can still sign up as a tentative volunteer.

Thanks from your 2012 NFARES SET Planning Team:

Tom, W4UOC; Wayne, KG5WU; Jim, N4SEC; Bret, N4BTA; Jim, W4QO; Scott, N4SBD; Wes, W3WL; Dave, AK4CL; and Mike, AD4MC.

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

Tornado !



Alpharetta
Milton
Roswell
Sandy Springs
Johns Creek
Dunwoody

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

1

Helpers Needed for October JOTA / Bill Reed K4YJI



The 55th Jamboree on the Air will take place on October 20-21. This year's theme is: How big is your world?

Jon Wittlin, K4WIT, is organizing NFARL support for this event. In addition to conducting the appropriate training for the Radio Merit Badge, including on-the air contacts for each scout, Jon is exploring expanding the actives at JOTA to include Geocaching along with ham station operation.

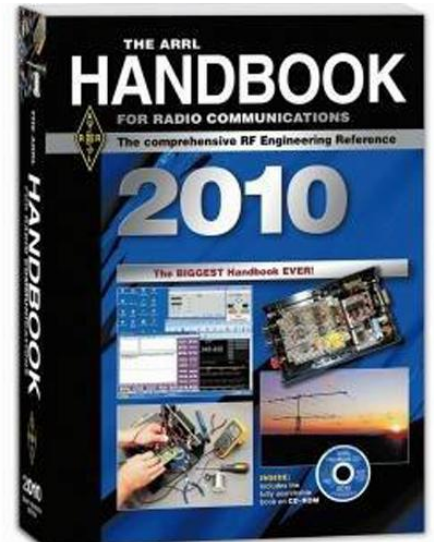
Volunteers will be needed to finalize the planning of the various activities at JOTA and to help set up, conduct activities and tear down. The location of JOTA is the field across from the Atlanta Athletic Field in Johns Creek at the Milton District Scout Expo. Please contact Jon [via e-mail](#) to volunteer.

Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl, K4KRX

A dip meter is used to find a coil's resonant frequency. Couple it to an antenna or coax line to find its electrical length. Or use it as an absorption wave meter for measuring transmitter output, neutralizing tank circuits, or even as a field meter. Other traditional uses include crystal oscillator, monitoring audio signal outputs (it may include a headphone jack) and measuring inductance and capacitance.

This solid-state "grid" dip meter covers 1.5 to 250 MHz in six bands. It has thumb-wheel tuning, color-coded readout, six coils, earphone jack and battery check.

On September 18, Ed Tanton N4XY will talk to NFARL about dip meters. Do you know what they are? Ever used one? Want to know more about dip meters? How many books does NFARL have in the library that talk about them? I can name one, can you? Here is a hint (at right):



Need a Name Badge?

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



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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