



NFARL eNEWS

January 2013

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**.



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday** – Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch – 11:15 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) – Check [NFARL Nets website](http://www.nfarl.org) for "how to"
- **Second Tuesday** – **NFARES meeting** – January 8, 7:00 PM – Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
- **Third Tuesday** – **NFARL club meeting** – January 15, 7:30 PM – Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. World Class DXer Dan Nesbitt, N4HH, will share some of his experiences along with tips and tricks when working through the pileups
- **Mid-Month Madness** – January 12' – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – GARS TechFest at Gwinnett Medical Center, Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville. NFARL will be guiding youth in an electronic kit-building activity. For more details, see the TechFest article elsewhere in this newsletter
- **VE Testing Session** – Saturday, January 12 – 10:00 AM – Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

January Program

We are fortunate to have many world class DXers here in the Atlanta area. One of those is Don Nesbitt, N4HH. Veteran of many DXpeditions, Don will share with us some of his experiences as well as some tips and tricks when trying to work through those pileups.

In addition to DXpeditions, Don is a contest participant. What could be better than a contest and a DXpedition? Witness Don (at right) operating PJ2T during the 2009 ARRL SSB DX contest.



We are honored to have Don as a speaker. Please join us for what we are sure will be an entertaining and informative evening.

February Program

A few meetings ago we were surprised at the number of hands that went up when we asked, "Who would like to more about EchoLink?" We heard you! Join us in February as a group of NFARL experts leads us through EchoLink from home, over the repeater, and through your handheld device. Details will follow.

President's Corner / *John Kludt, K4SQC*

Welcome to 2013 and thank you for the opportunity to be your NFARL president for the next 12 months. Wes Lamboley, W3WL, did a wonderful job as president in 2012 and I want to thank him for his many contributions to the club. From a successful HamJam to a revitalized interest in young people and amateur radio, Wes gave us great year. Thank you, Wes, and we look forward to your continued guidance as the past president on the board and in the day-to-day activities of NFARL.



Many of you know me, but for those who do not, let me give a quick introduction. I was first licensed as KN7SYS in Seattle, Washington, in 1962 and I have been active in amateur radio ever since. Living in a covenant-restricted subdivision has had its challenges. I do, however, enjoy chasing DX with "100 watts and wire." While I occasionally pick up the paddles, most of my work has been either on phone or the digital modes. Over the past five years I have gotten serious about paper chasing and have earned WAS, DXCC and WPX awards. My latest endeavor has been to try to work 100 grids for VUCC via satellite. I am sure that will keep me busy for a while!

NFARL has always had as its strength an active membership involved in radio sport, youth outreach and public service. With your help, we have done well in the Georgia QSO Party and Field Day. After a timeout last year, NFARL will re-enter the "run for the gavel" in the Georgia QSO Party this year. We are looking forward to another excellent Field Day outing with maybe a twist or two just to keep things interesting. Interactions with schools and youth have always been a NFARL focus and we are looking for ways to make them even better in 2013.

Many of you have requested more emphasis on "building something" and your board is looking very actively for build projects for 2013. One of the things that has been talked about for some time but has never quite happened is a hidden transmitter hunt, a "fox hunt." This would be an interesting undertaking as it involves some building of equipment and antennas, learning new skills, and some exercise, as we actually look for the "fox," and maybe even some competition as we challenge other clubs to a hunt. If you have other ideas, please get them to our activities manager, Dave Brackett, AK4CL, at ak4cl@att.ent

Public service has always been an important part of NFARL. Be it participation in NFARES, radio support for a sporting event or Chattahoochee Halloween Hikes, or International Day at the Spruill Library, there is always something to do that supports the communities in which we live.

As your president I hope to continue to support you in the things you are doing and maybe introduce you to some new things you might want to try.

73, John, K4SQC

Club Plays Big Role in TechFest / Dave Brackett, AK4CL

NFARL will be well-represented at the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society TechFest on Saturday, January 12. Club President John Kludt, K4SQC, will be holding a forum about Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) at 9:15 AM. He will be followed by NFARL member and SOTA Association Manager for W4G Georgia Christian Kuhtz, AK4VV, with a presentation on Summits on the Air (SOTA) at 10:15 AM.



Also, seven members of the club will participate in a youth lounge where we will give people an opportunity to learn to solder with an electronic kit-building activity. The kit this year will be the [Velleman MK102 blinking LED module](#). A detailed description of the project is provided [here](#).

The culinary highlight of the day is the annual chili cook-off.

Admission is free. Raffle tickets at \$5 each or five for \$20 are available for the grand prize, a Yaesu FT-857D with separation kit.

TechFest will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Gwinnett Medical Center, Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville 30046.

For full details on the event, check out the [GARS website](#).

VHF Contesting – Give It a Try on FM!

Monster arrays, kilowatt amplifiers and hill-top locations all come to mind when VHF contesting is mentioned. And that is all true. But there is another way. In the upcoming ARRL VHF contest January 19-21, you might want to give the *FM-Only* category a try. This category has been established with the typical station in mind. The requirements are:

- Single operator
- Emission type, FM only
- Power input of 100 watts or less
- All bands 6m – 70 cm
- No spotting assistance

As stated on the ARRL website, the purpose of the contest is:

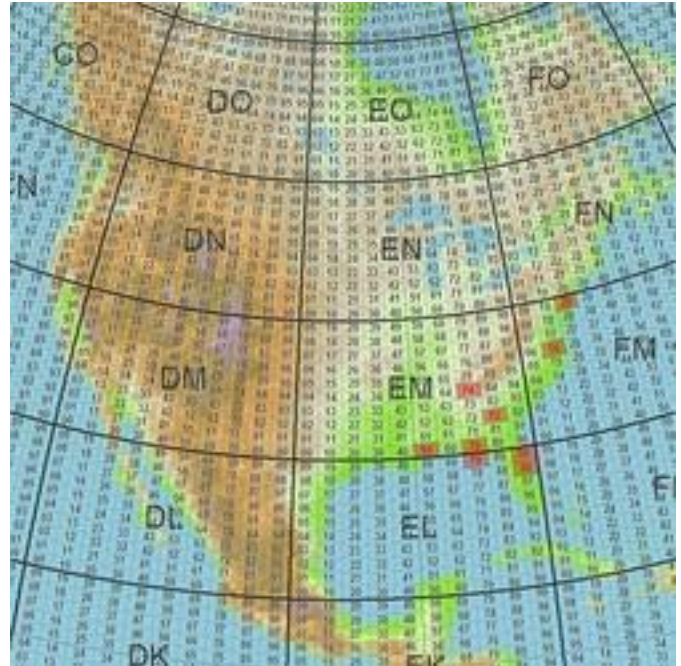
“For amateurs in the United States and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible, using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the United States and Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the U.S. (and its possessions) and Canada.”

Don't know your grid square? There are a number of grid square calculators to be found on the web. For example, one can be found at the [AMSAT website](#).

To help support this category, our local VHF contesting group, the FourLanders, will be looking for FM contacts every hour on the hour between 1500 and 2200 on Saturday, January 19. Look for them on 146.55/58. 223.5 and 446.0. Watch the NFARL reflector for further details as their plans become finalized.

This is a great opportunity for all of us to try another way of operating with our existing VHF FM gear. It is a real opportunity for Technician class licensees to give contesting a try. It is always amazing to discover what can be worked when everyone is on. So give it a try! See you on FM!

More information and the complete rule set can be found at the [ARRL website](#).



Help Wanted for Field Day Planning / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

It is time to start planning for Field Day and if you would like to be a part of the team, consider yourself invited. Please confirm your interest by sending an email to nfarl-fd-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, the Yahoo reflector that has been set up for our use. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of February, March, April, May and June from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The location of the first meeting will be announced on the Yahoo Field Day reflector.

Our first meeting agenda will be a review of the 2012 effort with an eye toward what we could do differently and/or better. One teaser thought to be batted about is the conversion of the Digital Station to be a second CW station after midnight to allow more brass pounders to get on the air. In future meetings we will try to have a single main subject that we will completely thrash and shred, and then put to bed as completed.

We had a great event last year, and I look forward to an even greater event this year. Whether you are able to help with the planning or not, plan to participate. Remember, the dates are June 22-23. This is the fourth full weekend in June, not the last. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget.



Holiday Party a Festive Success / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

We were again blessed with a great time at our holiday party. The food was excellent, thanks again (for the third year) to the efforts of Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT, and his friends at Babinelli's Italian Restaurant. Bob was able to get a great menu at an affordable price, and over 70 attendees at the party truly enjoyed it. We also honored Oscar of Oscar's Villa Capri and his wife as our guests.



Bill Weathers, K4WSW, (right in photo at far left) receives "Ham of the Year" award from NFARL President Wes Lamboley, W3WL, at the December holiday party. Also, Fred Moore, N4CLA, (photo at left) was honored for "Distinguished Service" to the club. Photos by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

Oscar provided the food at his expense the previous two years and was widely applauded for his efforts!

Much of the preparations behind the scenes and helping with the serving was handled by Joe Urso, KJ4IXJ, and his wife, Claudia. Joe has helped "make it happen" for the past three years as well.

The lovely centerpieces at each table were provided by Jim Paine, N4SEC, and his partner, Sandra. Jim and Sandra have provided the centerpieces for the past three years, and a lucky person at each table received the centerpiece as a gift.

A great number of presents were collected for children at the Children's Hospital, as we have done in the past. More than 50 gifts were delivered to the children by Fred Moore, N4CLA.

Several NFARL members were honored, among them Fred Moore, N4CLA, for "Distinguished Service" and Bill Weathers, K4WSW, as "Ham of the Year." Ham Radio Outlet provided a \$100 gift certificate and Brian Doud, W1DOC won it in the raffle. "Doc" promptly stated he was donating the money to Children's Hospital as well.

It was a great event, and I am looking forward to the next holiday party and all the warmth and good feelings it brings!

Membership Update / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

Welcome to 2013 and what looks to be another great year for NFARL! We look forward to many great events and welcoming new faces to our club and the amateur radio hobby. As membership chairman this year, please let me know how I can be of assistance to anyone – no matter if current member, inquiring prospects or visiting parties; we welcome anyone and everyone to experience friendship, service and hospitality.



A few friendly reminders:

- Membership renewal notices are emailed 30 days before expiration date, please renew in a timely manner.
- During the renewal process, please review and update membership information for accuracy of address, email and phone number.
- If you have questions, concerns, comments or suggestions pertaining to NFARL membership please contact me [directly](#) or at membership@nfarl.org.
- We all are ambassadors of NFARL and the hobby – we achieve sustainability and member loyalty by:
 - Maintaining status as a leading amateur radio organization locally, regionally and nationally
 - Encouraging service, learning, collaboration and Elmering
 - Participating regularly in club meetings, Field Day, HamJam, JOTA, GQP, Special Events, ARES and many other activities.

I want to offer a special welcome to our new members. We had 56 new members join the club in 2012, bringing membership to 247.

New members in November and December include: **Aaron Conaway, KK4EHJ; Natalie Conaway, KK4LOJ; Bryan Carl, AG6R, Richard King, KK4MUQ; Mark Steele, KK4LDH; Pavel Anni, KK4NJX; and Vinton Land, WA4LIR.**

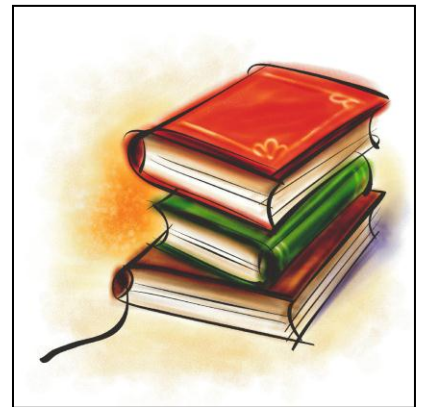
Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl, K4KRX

The library contains books, magazines and CDs with software for or about amateur radio. These resources are designed to be loaned to NFARL members and returned to the library within 90 days. That three-month loan window has not worked well in practice. Several resources have vanished altogether. Others have been on perpetual loan and evaporated (sublimated might be a better term for solids going to the vapor phase).

Please be considerate of others and return resources before someone else needs them. Keeping resources tied up beyond 90 days is inconsiderate of all club members. As librarian, I don't like to have to confront those who have had resources more than 90 days.

Also, some resources have been taken from the library without being checked out properly. Currently, there are nine items missing from the library. A couple of those were checked out but the owners cannot be contacted, so those resources are gone. I'm glad to see the library being used, but I'm a bit miffed by resources that just "sublimate."

Please play by the rules: If you borrow a book, check it out properly and return it on time so everyone can have a turn at it. That's a New Year's resolution everyone should be able to keep!



NFARES to Look at D-STAR, D-RATS Training



The January meeting of the North Fulton ARES will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 8, at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. The program will be D-STAR and D-RATS digital voice and data system training for Sandy Springs, presented by John Davis, WB4QDX.

NFARL Useful Ideas

There are any number of things we have all learned over the years that make amateur radio a little easier or a little more fun. Share your useful ideas with your fellow NFARL members by sending them along to president@nfarl.org. Here are some recent useful ideas:

From Mack McCormick, W4AX:

1. Listen to your transmitted signal on a remote receiver. Use the spectrum analyzer in the waterfall to examine your signal for distortion or spurs. Also use the remote receiver to potentially copy stations that the receiving antenna at your QTH will not pick up. <http://w4ax.com> or <http://www.websdr.org/>

2. When in the car locally or while traveling, use EchoLink on your Android or iPhone to connect to the club repeater (NF4GA-R).

Android: <http://tinyurl.com/asv2guu>.

iPhone: <http://tinyurl.com/bqbjwz8>.

3. Copy almost any digital signal using just the microphone in your laptop. Configure FLDIGI to use the internal microphone and speaker in your laptop. <http://www.w1hkj.com/Flidigi.html>



From Joe Camilli, N7QPP, some “tool tips”:

- Ask your dentist for used bits that may be too dull for teeth but are great for projects.
- Step drills are a great and inexpensive way to drill holes of various connectors in sheet metal.
- For HF and 100-watt or less, consider using RG-11 cable - low cost and easy to find

From Jim Stafford, W4QO:

Harbor Freight!

HF always has lots of coupons and mailers with offers to attract you to some great deals and gadgets. I'm amazed at how many hams have not been to HF. Here is some stuff I have or wish I had:

1. Angle drill (at right). How many times have you needed to drill a hole in a tight space? My angle drill is the one of the most useful drills I have. Here's a [coupon!](#)



2. From [this ad](#), here are some things I saw that really work for ham radio:

LED flashlight. I have a couple of these and they have magnets on the back to hold them to the fridge!

6" digital caliper

And many more items of interest can be found at Harbor Freight.

Stay tuned for more NFARL “Useful Ideas” in the February NFARL eNews. We look forward to publishing *your* contribution in upcoming issues.

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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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