



NFARL eNEWS

May 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**.



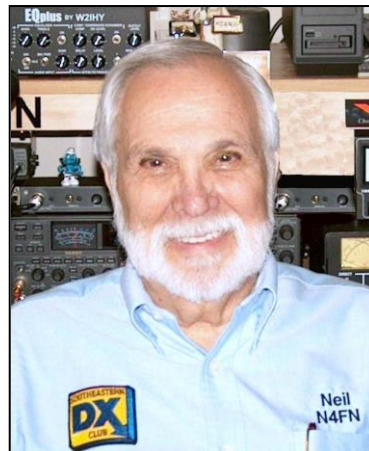
Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every 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](#) for "how to."
- **Every Wednesday – Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM - Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **VE Testing Session** – Saturday, May 11, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** – May 14, 7:00 PM and dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs.
- **Dayton Hamvention 2013** – May 17 to May 19 and **Four Days in May (FDIM)** - May 16 to May 19, Dayton, Ohio. Go to websites for [Hamvention](#) and [FDIM](#) for more information.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** - May 21, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. Neil Foster, N4FN, and Ian Kahn, KM4IK, will take us on a tour of Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) version 6.0.

Program Update

Neil Foster, N4FN, and **Ian Kahn, KM4IK**, will present our May program on the latest version of [Ham Radio Deluxe](#) (HRD), an integrated suite of software products for amateur radio. The five components in the suite provide rig control, logging, digital communications, satellite tracking, and rotator control. Neil and Ian have been involved in the development and testing of the latest version, HRD 6.0.

HRD has been around since 2003 and was developed by **Peter Halpin, PH1PH (SK)**, and **Simon Brown, HB9DRV**. By late 2005, the number of registered users stood at 20,006. In 2011, HRD was sold to **Rick Ruhl, W4PC**, **Randy Gawtry, KØCBH**, and **Mike Carper, WA9PIE**.





The program will include a live demonstration of how HRD 6.0 works. So, whether you are unfamiliar with HRD or if you are using an earlier version, you should find something of interest in this presentation. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, as our NFARL insiders take us “under the hood” for a close-up look at this intriguing and useful collection of ham radio software.

President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC

Thanks to all NFARL members for what was a very interesting and successful April in the world of amateur radio. As you will read elsewhere in this edition of NFARL eNews, we had a number of folks who worked the Georgia QSO Party. With more than 840,000 points, I think we will be the club to beat this year. We are the sponsors of the award for the highest-scoring club outside of Georgia so I am anxious to see how that turns out. If the winner is not too far away, I would really like to present the award in person.



With spring, my attention turns to the outdoors and my radio time tends to drop off. **Christian Kuhtz, AK4VV**, shared with us a most interesting program on [Summits On The Air \(SOTA\)](#). This group's activities combine amateur radio with an opportunity to be out of doors and accumulate points in the process. There are Mountain Goats, who accumulate a specified number of points by activating the summits. Equally important are the Shack Sloths, who accumulate points by working the guys and gals on the summits. Christian stressed the importance to the program of those who work those on the summits so even if you can't get out, these folks really appreciate your contacts. We all thank Christian for an entertaining introduction to yet another way to “play radio.”

May brings two annual events to the amateur radio community. For those with even a passing interest in QRP there is [Four Days in May \(FDIM\)](#), an event run in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention. FDIM is a real opportunity to meet the movers and shakers who make things happen in the world of QRP. If you have never been to FDIM, I highly recommend it. Good conversations, QRP vendors, interesting talks, FDIM has it all. Sessions are timed such that FDIM does not compete with Hamvention. This is one time you can truly have your cake and eat it too!

The other event is, of course, [Hamvention](#), held in Dayton, Ohio, or simply “Dayton.” Last year 25,000 amateur radio operators from around the world attended. Each year there is a theme and this year it is DX. Casual operator or Honor Roll member, we all enjoy working a “new one” and this year's Dayton, as always, should have something for everyone. If this is your first go 'round, don't hesitate to reach out to NFARL members who are “old hands” at Dayton for advice and maybe a guided tour of the boneyard. And, please don't forget the traditional “bring your own sack lunch in the stands behind the HRO booth” on Saturday.

I would be remiss not to put in a comment or two on [Field Day](#). This annual ARRL event is always the fourth full weekend in June and we are planning a full-boat effort again this year. In addition to

the usual CW and HF phone stations, we are planning to really go after 6 meters this year. We want to expand our digital efforts. The satellite gang will be there. And we will again feature our Get On The Air Station (GOTA). If you were licensed after June of last year or have been inactive for the past two years, GOTA is just for you. Expect details in this and the next edition of NFARL eNews. And I really do hope to see each and every one of you at Field Day, even if only for an hour or two.

Till next month, 73!

NFARL Family Reunion at Field Day / Scott Straw, KB4KBS

This year at Field Day, we want to celebrate the collegial and familial aspects of our association as ham radio operators by declaring a Family Reunion! Family reunions are a tradition in the Old South, serving as events where relatives from all over gather to swap stories, share a meal, and instill in the next generation the importance of community and camaraderie.

On the weekend of June 22-23, all members of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League, past and present, are invited to reunite at Waller Park Extension in Roswell for two days of fun and excitement. The highlight of the event will be the covered-dish dinner on Saturday evening. At that time we will recognize the oldest club member

present (age), the longest tenured member of the club in attendance, and the club member present who has been licensed the longest. This is a family event and all spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, significant others, as well as any other assorted relatives are invited. We will have a great time, but it will be even better if YOU are there. Make plans now.



Digital Station Needs Operators

The Field Day Digital Station, which will be running RTTY and PSK-31, needs operators. If you would like to help by "diddling" for an hour or so, please sign up [here](#). The Digital Station will be located in the picnic pavilion next to the GOTA station and assistance will be available if you've never operated digital modes but would like to try them.

Time to Make the Supper Menu

The highlight of Field Day each year is the fabulous covered-dish dinner on Saturday evening. Hams and/or their spouses prepare a salad, vegetable, or dessert that will serve 4-6, and bring it for the buffet tables. We want you to be a part of this grand feast. Please e-mail [Lynn Kahn, N4MSK](#), regarding what item you plan to share.

HamCram Produces Six New Techs / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

Six students earned their Technician licenses on April 20 at Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs. For these students, HamCram culminated four weeks of self-study with a review of the exam material, an opportunity to ask questions and have points clarified, a practice exam and then the official FCC exam. As a special treat, two of these new hams are youths! Six instructors from NFARL volunteered their time to help the students earn their Technician license.

Congratulations to the NFARL HamCram Honor Roll!

Technician Class

- **Patrick Bevon**
- **Jay Karner**
- **Betty Buran**
- **Bill Hatherley**
- **Jack Wexler**
- **John Harris**

Special thanks go to Brandon Hall School and **James Vaught, KK4IZN**, for hosting HamCram in their outstanding facility. Special thanks also go to the HamCram

instructor team: **Jim Stafford, W4QO**; **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**; **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**; **Mike Cohen, AD4MC**; **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF** and **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**. Additional thanks to the NFARL VE team: **Lee Juckett, AF4IA**; **Roger Anders, AA2HT**; and **Verne Fowler, W8BLA**.



NFARL Ops Take Part in ARRL Rookie Roundup

On April 21, the Rookie Roundup for SSB took place with more than 100 logs submitted across North America in three categories: Single Operator, Multi-Operator and Team. Call Area 4 led the Single Op participation effort with 23 participants; six of which were from Georgia and three representing NFARL: **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**, **Mike Birmingham, KK4LJG**, and **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**. See the following link for [results](#).



The goal of this event is to encourage newly-licensed operators (“rookies”) in North America to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive amateur radio operating. Experienced operators (“non-rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

The next Rookie Roundup event is RTTY on August 18, followed by CW on December 22. NFARL is considering promoting these annual events locally to encourage participation of our newest members/licensees across all three operator categories – a great way to experience radiosport across the various modes.

Look for additional details on the potential NFARL approach for Rookie Roundup after Field Day. If you are interested in participating, contact [Bill, K4WSW](#).

NFARL Shines Again in GQP / Jim Stafford, W4QO

The Georgia QSO Party for 2013 is now history and NFARL had a great effort again this year. As of this writing, 28 people competed for the club. We need everyone to indicate North Fulton ARL as the club they are supporting when submitting their logs by the May 15 deadline. For full details on log submission, see the [GQP website](#).



We had folks in just about every conceivable category. **Mike Roden, W5JR**, **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, and **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, were rovers again through dozens of counties. We had a multi-op effort under the call **W4WOW** with **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, a teacher from Mill Springs Academy, as one of the operators. We had QRP operators, high power, low power, multi-mode, single mode – even digital!

If you do not see your call sign below as a participant, be sure to send your score (not your log!) to [me](#) for inclusion and recognition at an upcoming meeting. Based on past history, NFARL is well on its way to claiming another club gavel for the highest point total among clubs in Georgia. Thank you for your support!

K4KRX	1	KB4KBS	11004
K4BB	8	WC4X/QRP	33500
N7BU	12	KM4IK	34540
N4MEP	20	N4GG	35604
K4QIK	48	N4TOL	53062
WA4TA	60	AE4CW	61793
N4FN	122	W4QO/QRP	65072
W4WOW	320	W4G(W3WL)	79272
NZ4CW	400	K4M(AK4O+KR4X)	86360
K4DLI	520	N4N(W5JR)	101896
K4WSW/QRP	1071	W4IZT	106590
AK4VV	1200	N4NX	154648
AC4PA	1782		
W4JNM	2430		
KC4YBO	2898	Total	840819
N1KDO	6586		

Hungry? A ham? You Qualify!



Hungry Hams is a weekly NFARL activity at Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road in Roswell. No reservations are required – just show up on Wednesdays at 11:15 AM (or so) to “chew the fat” and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow hams. It's a great way to meet others in the club and to get answers to life's deepest questions, such as, “My SWR is 15:1 on 40 meters, what should I do?”

Our Fine Adventure in the GQP / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

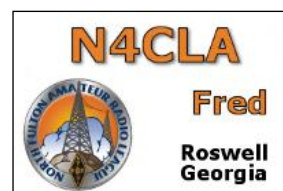
George Nicholson, N4GRN, and I went roving for the second year during the Georgia QSO Party and cannot wait to do it again! We saw some more interesting aspects of Georgia, and, thanks to **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, telling me about them, visited the [Georgia Guidestones](#) in Elbert County. The county seat, Elberton, lays claim to being the “Granite Capital of the World,” as more granite products and memorials are shipped from there than anywhere else in the world. People are dying to get Elberton granite!

Below is a photo of George and me at the Guidestones.



Name Badges Available at NFARL Mart

For those of you who have recently joined NFARL, as well as our newly licensed amateurs, you may not be aware that NFARL has a Name Badge available for purchase at [NFARL Mart](#). It is not your typical two-color engraved badge with a pin back. It is a very nice multicolored, rounded corner badge with a magnetic back so it does not pierce your clothing. It contains your name, city, state and call sign for \$9.00. Order yours today!



Because I am a Ham, I . . . / Gail Sheehan, K2RED

- Have made some of the best friends of my life.
- Am grateful to have had so many Elmers to help me along the way.
- Have traveled to places in the world that would not have been possible otherwise.



- Have met in person and/or contacted on the air some of the truly great DXers and Contesters, and many others who love the hobby and have expertise in so many ways.

• Have brought their knowledge and expertise to fruition through my Associate Editor position for N4AA's The DX Magazine, Managing Editor of CQ magazine since 1979, Managing Editor of CQ Contest magazine (which no longer exists), Managing Editor of CQ VHF magazine in its second incarnation, and just being there for others to support DXers and Contesters. Also, there are many whose interest in ham radio in the various other aspects of the hobby is needed and appreciated, and that list is a long one. I am pleased and honored that so many have willingly and warmly accepted me as one of you.

- Don't know where else I actually could have met astronauts (the Garriotts, father and son), FCC officials, ham radio operators very high up in government and the military in the U.S. and in the world . . . those who have made their lives important to others in whatever way possible. I will always treasure those moments.
- Have gladly volunteered my time to various clubs, conventions, and other ham venues to contribute to the hobby in ways I can.
- Have learned so much about operating, technology, history, geography, people of all cultures, the customs of other lands, and the list goes on far beyond that.
- Felt that no matter where I go in the world, if there are ham radio operators, I would be welcomed.
- Found a "home" in a far-reaching world, when that is not an easy thing to do.

For all of the above, Because I am a Ham . . . I am grateful and always will be.

To all of you, please be glad that you are a part of this hobby, a passion that is unique among us. Be the best you can be in all ways, and whenever possible, in whatever way you can, give something back to the hobby that has made a wonderful place in your life.

You won't regret it. I know I never will.

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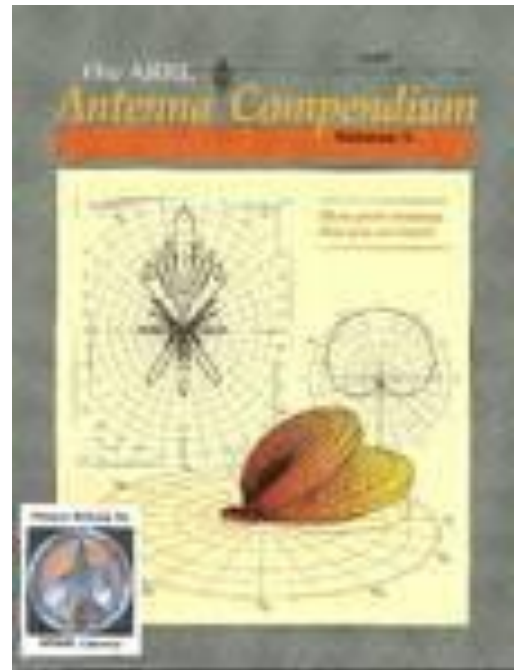
Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl, K4KRX

All hams use antennas and there are lots of subdivisions today with antenna restrictions. Stealth antennas and hard-to-see wire antennas hung in trees may help significantly.

The ARRL Antenna Compendium Volume 3 is now in the NFARL library. This book does not address antenna covenants, but it does address lots of antenna types, including:

- verticals, ground planes and slopers;
- miniature, trap and multiband dipoles;
- yagis;
- loop antennas;
- and the list goes on.

I prefer difficult-to-see wire antennas hung in trees. Trees hide wires and provide natural tower equivalents to get the wires high in the air while only looking like trees. Even in the winter, trees have branches that camouflage wires hung in them.



This book may describe how to build an antenna that you might want to try. Look this book over and check out the book if you see something that is interesting. There just might be an antenna that is just right for your location. Library materials are available at each NFARL monthly meeting.

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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