



NFARL eNEWS

June 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**.



Don't Miss Field Day at Waller Park Extension in Roswell!

June 22-23

Full Details in This Edition and on the [NFARL website](http://www.nfarl.org)

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](http://www.nfarl.org) for "how to"
- **Every Wednesday – Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch** - 11:15 AM - Slopes BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
- **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** - June 8, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
- **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** - June 11, 7:00 PM and dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** - June 18, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, will provide a final update on Field Day. Also, ARRL officer **Mary Hobart, K1MMH**, will be our special guest. NFARL Library opens at 7:00 PM.
- **Field Day** – June 22-23 - Operating time runs from 2:00 PM Saturday until 2:00 PM Sunday, with setup and tear-down immediately before and after. - Waller Park Extension, Roswell. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Merit Badge Course** – June 22 – Saturday, 8:00 AM - NFARL is again offering a Radio Merit Badge and Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge course. There is no charge for the course, which will be taught by registered Merit Badge counselors. Scouts will have the chance to complete all requirements for both merit badges within a 5-hour period and will also be able to operate over the air from the Field Day stations. [Register here](#).



Program Update / Joe Camilli, N7QPP

Here is a preview of upcoming programs for our monthly NFARL meetings.

June 18

Scott Straw, KB4KBS, will catch us up on the latest developments for Field Day, which will be the weekend of June 22-23.

Mary Hobart, K1MMH, chief development officer for the ARRL, will be our special guest.

July 16

This month we are debuting a different type of program that I am calling the Triple Play: Three topics, each presented in a short 15-minute format.



Mack McCormick, W4AX, will cover the purpose and use of some common test equipment;

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, will discuss the ins and outs of baluns;

Roger Shaddick, N7BU, will fill us in on home weather stations.

August 20

Lieutenant Gary Robinson from the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety will speak on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Many NFARL members have been through this program.

September 17

John Kludt, K4SQC, will update us on the NFARL Satellite adventure.



October 15



Hal Kennedy, N4GG, who brought us the popular Blue Lightning program and spark gap demonstration, will tell us how to use our existing antennas on 160 meters.

And, to round out the year, November brings us HamJam, followed by the Holiday Party in December. Full details on all these programs and other NFARL events will be posted on the website and in future issues of the eNews.

President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC

It is amazing how quickly May has gone. It seems that we went from a late winter straight into summer without too much of a spring. Hopefully, everyone has survived the rain and the storms without too much damage. Summer also means getting a little more serious about your lightning protection program and making sure the insurance on your gear is up to date.



The Girl Scout STEM Expo was by all reports a very successful event. About 1,200 Scouts and 3,000 people overall attended the event. The NFARL booth was constantly busy with girls making their own QSL cards, bracelets and spelling their name in CW for a piece of bubble gum. Thanks to the NFARL members and spouses who made this event so successful.

The big event in May is always the Dayton Hamvention and a number of NFARL members were spotted around the grounds and in the halls. For those of you who couldn't make the festivities this year, the Hara arena still stands, there was little rain and no infrastructure problems. In addition to the usual vendors, there were several new vendors of SDR equipment. The folks with the huge rotating tower from Japan were there and again some aspiring ham purchased said tower. I always find that amazing! This tower is probably four feet across each face at the base. I'd be happy with a little Rohn 25!

June is Field Day month at NFARL and I really do encourage each of you to attend. In addition to operating positions there are many other ways to participate. Help is needed with setup and teardown, gassing generators, security during the wee hours, talking with guests, and copying the ARRL Field Day bulletin for bonus points. There is something for everyone and we would really like to see you there. Details can be found elsewhere in this edition of the eNEWS.

Joe Camilli, N7QPP, NFARL vice president, and I had the good fortune to attend the ARRL Donor Receptions and the AMSAT/TAPR annual banquet.

Interestingly, the speakers at both of these events spent some time talking about bringing more young people into amateur radio. Normally when we hear the terms "young people" we somehow tie it to "youth." And, yes, we would love to have more folks under the age of 18 joining our ranks. But, we would probably benefit from a broader definition of "young people."

My challenge to each of you is to invite someone under the age of 40 to get involved with our many faceted hobby. Bring them to a club meeting. Invite them to Field Day. When that neighbor asks in a friendly way about all those wires hanging in the trees, invite them into your ham shack and show them what we do.

Amateur radio is a wonderful hobby and my goal is to do what I can to make sure it is still around in 2113. Please, won't you join me in this endeavor?

FIELD DAY 2013

***We're Havin' a Family Reunion! Y'all Come!* / Scott Straw, KB4KBS**

The 2013 edition of our annual Field Event is just a few short weeks away, June 22-23. We will be having FD at the same location as last year, the Roswell Recreation and Parks Department Waller Park Extension, 160 Dobbs Drive, Roswell. A quick way to find us is to go to the ARRL Field Day [site locator](#). Type in the club call sign, NF4GA, and our site will appear on the map as a green pin.

Here are some schedule highlights:

Saturday, June 22

8:00 AM Ops Center ready to receive Scouts for Merit Badge course

9:00 AM Radio Merit Badge course begins

11:30 AM or so RMB Scouts begin on-air contacts

If you would like to help with this event, contact [Jon Wittlin, K4WIT](#).

2:00 PM – Operations begin

6:00 PM – Dinner

If you are attending, please [RSVP](#).

Sunday, June 23

6:00 AM Breakfast for overnight operators

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM Ops Center tear-down begins

2:00 PM Event concludes, station/antenna tear-down begins

3:30 PM Last sweep of compound

4:00 PM Vacate premises (leaving it better than we found it)



There are still good operating times available. Go to the [Field Day page](#) at the NFARL website to sign up. If you would like to operate, but are hesitant because of a lack of experience, we will be glad to help you. Just indicate that you would like a logger and you will have someone sitting right with you to coach you through the process.

There will be a lot of things happening and you are invited to attend, whether you are an active member of the club or not. This year the theme is "Family Reunion." We are hoping all of the club's past and current members will make an effort to stop by during the weekend, and especially will plan to attend the picnic dinner Saturday evening. The club will provide the meats, and club members are

asked to bring a covered dish to feed 4-6 people. If you aren't able to bring a dish, you are still welcome to dine with us. In all cases, we need a head count, so please [RSVP](#).

On Saturday evening during the dinner we will recognize the longest continuous member of the club, the oldest member of the club present, as well as the member who traveled the farthest to attend the event. Make your plans now to be there.

NFARL to be Recognized with a Proclamation on June 10

In recognition of the service that the North Fulton Amateur Radio League provides to the residents of Roswell, Mayor Jere Wood will present a Proclamation to the club at the regular meeting of the Roswell City Council on June 10, Monday, at 7:00 PM. All members of the club are encouraged to attend. We will gather in the council chambers on the second floor of City Hall at 38 Hill Street at 6:45 PM. The presentation will occur as part of the preliminary items and we should be able to leave before the beginning of the regular agenda. The meeting usually starts on time, so we should be excused no later than 7:20 PM. If you need directions, an informal talk-in will be on the Roswell Water Tower Repeater at 147.06 (+) PL 100. Please plan to attend and show gratitude to the city for this special honor.

FIELD DAY 2013

Ready to Get on the Air? / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

Reminder to all newly licensed Technicians and unlicensed individuals: The GOTA station is the perfect opportunity to experience operating above your current license class. Grab a friend or two, reserve time, prepare to learn and gain exposure to the next level of operating under the guidance of myself and Mark Schumann, KK4FOF. We are making it very easy for you to "Get on the Air."



The GOTA station will operate for 24 hours. Don't think no one will be operating at 2:00 AM, in fact, hundreds of stations will be on the air.

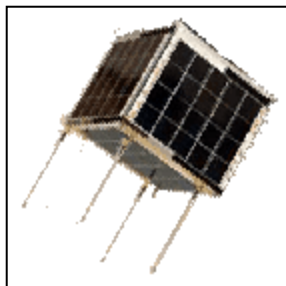
Again this year, any GOTA station operator making 20 or more logged contacts will receive a GOTA Field Day pin, as shown at left, in recognition of the achievement. We had five recipients of the GOTA pin last year and would like to exceed that number this year. Additional GOTA award levels will reward those at 60 and 100 contacts.

Review my [initial invitation](#) in the Yahoo Group. Click [here](#) to see the GOTA Operating Schedule and sign up for an operating time. Plenty of time slots are available.

[Contact me](#) if you have any questions. Mark and I look forward to seeing you.

FIELD DAY 2013

Try Your Hand at a Satellite QSO / John Kludt, K4SQC



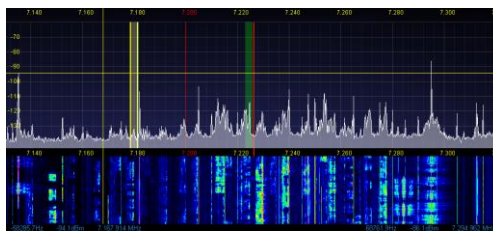
We will again have a satellite station for NFARL FD. The PVC antenna support structure used last year has been replaced with a trailer and a 30-foot crank-up mast. No more setting up right over the sprinkler to give the antenna and rotator a high-pressure water test as occurred last year! This year we will be located in the upper parking lot opposite the HF stations along the center island. A new antenna for the 10-meter downlink from AO-7 has been added. The goal this year is to break 30 contacts. We are going to add CW to the mix as well.

There is no online signup sheet as satellite contacts are 10 minutes here, 15 minutes there. Rather, you will find a poster outside the operating position. If you would like to try your hand at “talking on the birds,” please sign up for a pass or two. In the spirit of NFARL Field Day, we welcome the opportunity to help you with the mechanics of a satellite contact.

FIELD DAY 2013

*20 Meters Promises to be **HOT** This Year / Chuck Catledge, AE4CW*

Sunspot and solar flux predictions are looking positive for Field Day. With a little luck, all the bands will offer good to excellent operation during the 24 hours. How about signing up and trying your hand on the 20/10/75-meter station? The station will be “first class,” featuring an Elecraft K3 transceiver, including a large spectrum display, a 20M and 10M beam and a 75M dipole. Station captains and mentors will be available to assist as needed.



Signing up is easy. Just go [here](#), pick your time and sign up! If you can't find a convenient time, please press the “Contact” button and send your operating preference.

FIELD DAY 2013

Slots Available for SSB Ops / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

This is a great opportunity for those who have not yet tried their hand at HF operation to get a taste of the fun and excitement of making contacts across the country and the globe!

If you are a Technician, you can still operate on the voice segments on 40 meters at this station when paired with a control operator who has the appropriate band privileges - so sign up and we will find you a partner. You can alternate between operating and logging with your partner.

It is also a chance for experienced operators to enjoy the vibrant activity on the bands during Field Day and also to work the station with other club members.

Although some spots for the 40-meter station have been grabbed already, do not procrastinate, as we want to see all who wish to operate have the opportunity. Sunday is still wide open for operators, so [sign up](#) and join the fun.

If you have any questions, please [e-mail me](#).

NFARL to Help in Special Event / Jim Stafford, W4QO

The Fourth of July is just around the corner and the increasingly popular 13 Colonies Special Event is back. To make the occasion especially interesting, NFARL is again providing assigned operators for this event to make sure that Georgia is not a difficult state to work. Last year, Georgia ranked third in overall QSOs, making it easy pickings on the way to the CLEAN SWEEP - working all 13 Colonies. We gave out 5,831 QSOs.



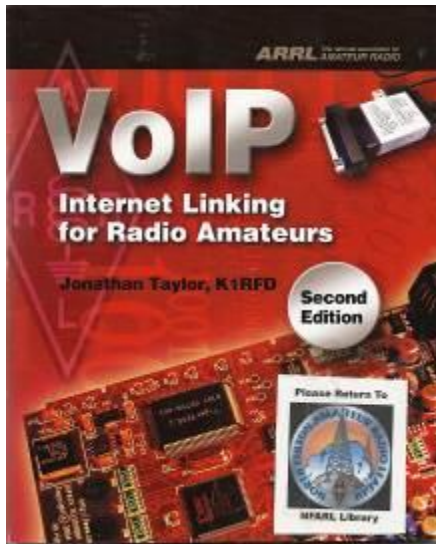
The special call sign to be used by authorized stations in Georgia will be K2G, the same as last year.

The event starts at 9:00 AM on July 1, Monday, and runs until 11:59 PM on Saturday, July 6, so that's almost six full days for stations to complete the sweep. The special William Penn station, W3PEN, will be on the air again this year as a bonus.

If you have never participated before, you will want to get on HF to earn the attractive certificate. For full information, go to the [website](#).

Browsing the Library

The NFARL library now has EchoLink and Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) info in the form of *VoIP Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs* by **Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD**.



Taylor is the creator of EchoLink and one of the top experts in Amateur Radio Voice over Internet Protocol.

Through Internet linking, hams are using the Internet as a relay point between base stations, handhelds and mobile transceivers for long-distance communication. The possibilities for such activity are far-reaching.

The second edition of *VoIP Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs* is a complete guide to several of the most widely used VoIP systems, with a focus on EchoLink and the IRLP. The book is especially helpful for beginners who want to learn how to get started with using these systems. For the more advanced, Taylor's work provides insightful details on the technical aspects of the process.

The book covers everything from the basics of getting connecting to remote control operation and legal issues involved in linking. There is also valuable information on web resources and a glossary of terms.

Some Library History and How You Can Help / John Kludt, K4SQC

It wasn't very long ago that the NFARL library was kept in three plastic tubs in the trunk of a car. Keith Plossl, K4KRX, took those books, built the cases that you see at the meeting and organized the library into the functional endeavor it is today. It has been a long and at times thankless task. As we move forward, we are looking for an assistant librarian to help Keith keep the library growing and moving along. The peak hours of activity for the library are focused around the monthly club meeting. There is a small amount of time required for inventory and maintenance, chasing down overdue books, etc. If you would be interested in helping Keith, please [email me](#).

To allow our librarian to enjoy the meeting, we are going to institute some "open for business" hours for the library. On meeting nights, books will be available beginning at 7:00 PM until about 7:45 PM. We will then close the library so that all may participate in the program. We will reopen the library for 15 minutes at the end of the program.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Keith for his hard work and dedication to the library. The NFARL library is an added bonus of club membership and we hope that one or more of you will step forward to help Keith maintain this excellent resource.

NFARL Promotes Wireless Technology to Scouts

/ John Tramontanis, N4TOL

NFARL members participated in the Girl Scout Super STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Expo at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross on April 27. More than 3,000 people attended the event, which included about 1,200 Girl Scouts. At the club-sponsored booth, attendees were introduced to amateur radio and Morse code. Also, the NFARL booth promoted the new Girl Scout Wireless Technology patch and the proposed requirements to earn this patch which are being developed by the ARRL in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of America.



Sarah Northrop, KK4ATW, (left) and Julia Northrop enjoy hands-on fun at STEM Expo.

Prototypes of the new patch were displayed at the booth, courtesy of the ARRL. The participants, mainly Girl Scouts, were given the opportunity to design bracelets with their names in Morse code, create their own QSL cards, and send their names in Morse code with a straight key to earn a piece of bubble gum. The girls were also able to make 2-meter simplex contacts in the Trade Center. The booth had a high level of participation throughout the day and many Girl Scout leaders were made aware of the Wireless Technology initiative by the ARRL through the introduction of this new patch. Also, over 200 youngsters sent their name in Morse code – and snagged a piece of gum!

NFARL participants in the Girl Scout STEM event included **Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK, Laura Northrop, KJ4ECA, Sarah Northrop, KK4ATW, Julia Northrop, Martha Muir, W4MSA, Lynne Birmingham, KK4PMY, Betty Buran, KK4QPY, Nimet Schumann, John Kludt, K4SQC, Wes Lamboley, W3WL, Mark Schumann, KK4FOF, and John Tramontanis, N4TOL.**



Wes Lamboley, W3WL, (left photo) impresses Scouts with his CW skills. Laura Northrop, KJ4ECA (left in center photo) and Martha Muir, W4MSA, draw a crowd at the NFARL exhibit. Scouts had a blast making their own QSL cards (right photo) as one of several participatory activities.

NFARL Helps Scouts, N4B Special Event / Jon Wittlin, K4WIT



We had a great N4B special event on May 18 at the Bert Adams Scout Reserve near Covington. There were 1,502 registered Boy Scouts at this event and N4B was one of the technology “hands-on” exhibits.

This was a fun, action-packed weekend for the boys that ended with a talent show and a concert. This was also a lot of fun for the operators. We made contacts throughout the continental United States, Caribbean and into Spain.

The Special Event station was staffed as a joint venture between NFARL and Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club/Cobb County ARES. Representing NFARL were **Don Hinds, WD4ON**, and myself; representing KARC and CARES were **Elden Morris, N1MN**, **Ricky Deluco, K4JTT**, **Mike Jenkins, K4MNJ**, and **Anthony Gaito, KC0CSG**. Plus, licensed Scout leaders like **Stacy Jones, KJ4EQI** (who was a fantastic help), and licensed Scouts also participated as control ops.

As always, I could use more help with Scout and Youth events. We have the Radio Merit Badge being offered during our ARRL Field Day and at the Merit Badge Clinic in August.

If you can help, [email me](#).



Everyone had a fun weekend during the Boy Scout event at the Bert Adams Scout Reserve near Covington. NFARL ops helped with the operation of Special Event Station N4B and helped the Scouts make contacts with stations around the country and elsewhere.

Ham Radios in Two New Fire Vehicles / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Sandy Springs Fire Chief **Jeff Scarbrough, KK4ATX**, and Assistant Chief **Mark Duke**, working closely with North Fulton ARES Emergency Coordinator **Tom Koch, W4UOC**, were able to budget for the purchase of amateur radio equipment for the city's two new SUVs.

The fire chiefs can now use hand-held radios to cross-band with the radios mounted in the vehicles so that they can communicate directly with the 911 Call Center from any location in Sandy Springs, even from inside buildings or wherever the Incident Commander sets up an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). As we have demonstrated during our North Fulton Simulated Emergency Tests, communications can be expanded to have direct access to all EOCs in North Fulton and, depending on the extent of an emergency, can be further expanded to statewide or Southeast regionwide, using the D-STAR system. The installation also includes digital messaging capabilities using ICS-213 and other forms.

This newly installed equipment greatly enhances the support and coordination that NFARES can provide to the cities in North Fulton (Roswell, Milton, Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Sandy Springs) when the primary communications systems are not fully operational.



Sandy Springs Fire Chief Jeff Scarbrough, KK4ATX, (right in left photo) and Assistant Chief Mark Duke show off one of two new fire department SUVs equipped with ham radio equipment. Assistant Chief Duke and Mike Cohen, AD4MC, (right in right photo) check out the setup in one of the vehicles.



Wanted: A Few Good Guys or Gals Named 'Elmer'

Remember how you got your start in amateur radio? Chances are there was somebody named Joe or Bill or Fred or Marcia. Nowadays, we know them all as Elmer. Join the NFARL Elmers program and help someone get a start in our wonderful hobby, or help a "newbie" grow. If you need an Elmer or want to be one, please start at the NFARL [Elmers link](#) or send us an [email](#).

ARES to Support Bike Ride / Wayne Chapman, KG5WU

On Sunday, June 30, the Georgia 400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride will start at the southbound entrance onto Georgia 400 at Holcomb Bridge Road. After a four-mile ride on the highway, the cyclists will exit at Northridge Road. From there, riders follow one of five routes, covering 9-, 22-, 45-, 62- or 101-miles. The routes take them through many communities in north Fulton County, with some excursions into Forsyth and Cherokee counties. Organizers expect 2,000 riders this year.



ARES will provide communications support to the ride at seven rest stops, in two or more Support and Gear vehicles, on two (of four) motorcycles, plus a number of other positions at the Finish Line. The mobile vehicles will be

beaconing APRS and their positions will be displayed on a monitor at the command post near the Finish Line.

In addition to NFARES members, we'll be joined by members of the DeKalb and Cherokee ARES groups. An effort of this size requires the support of many people and organizations. NFARES thanks the groups who have offered their support, including NFARL for the use of its repeaters.



Hungry? A ham? You Qualify!

Hungry Hams is a weekly NFARL activity at Slope's BBQ on 34 East Crossville Road in Roswell. No reservations 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?”

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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