



NFARL eNEWS

October 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
 - **First Saturday – NFARES Simulated Emergency Test** - October 5, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Contact [Mike Cohen](#), AD4MC, to participate.
 - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** - October 12, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** - October 8, 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** - October 15, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta. **Hal Kennedy, N4GG**, will present a program on how to use your existing antennas on 160 meters.
 - **Third Sunday – Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA)** - October 20, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM - Johns Creek United Methodist Church, 11180 Medlock Bridge Road, Johns Creek. JOTA links Scouts around the world and requires no travel other than to a nearby radio amateur's ham shack. Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers. Contact [Jon Wittlin](#), K4WIT, for more information and to volunteer.
 - **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Committee Board Meeting** – October 22, 7:30 PM - IHOP at the corner of Windward Parkway and Highway 9, Alpharetta
 - **2013 HamJam** – November 9, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta. Admission is free and a raffle with many great prizes will generate funds for youth scholarships and activities. For more information, see the [2013 HamJam](#) website. For travel directions, see the [Metropolitan Club](#) website.
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Program Update / Joe Camilli, N7QPP



Hal Kennedy, N4GG, (at left) brought us into the era of “Blue Lightning” with his presentation on “The History of Spark” in April 2010. The presentation was excellent and many of the attendees were able to operate “Blue Lightning,” his fully functional replica of an early spark rig.

Now, Hal will be back on Tuesday, October 15, at 7:30 PM, with what promises to be another interesting NFARL presentation, answering a common question that many



of us often ponder without finding a solution: **How do we utilize existing antennas on 160 meters?** Come early, get a seat down front and bring your questions, seeking answers. This promises to be another interesting, informative session!

President's Corner / John Kludt, K4SQC

September was yet another very busy month for NFARL!

For starters, we had the Mill Springs Academy ARISS satellite contact. The event was a great success and we cannot thank enough all of those club members and others who took part. Satellite contacts don't “just happen,” and it took a lot of work and effort before, during, and after from NFARL members to make it happen. Thanks to all who rolled up your sleeves and pitched in!



We also had the on-air Peanut Power QRP Sprint. Whatever your category, it was a great time for those who took part. Elsewhere, the September VHF/UHF contest was a real adventure with tropo all up and down the East Coast and into the Southeast. On HF the last few days of September we saw great propagation on 15, 12 and 10 meters. With 100 watts and wire I managed to pick up several new ones on 12 meters, a band I tend to skip over. Sometimes I think 12 meters is the 222 MHz of HF – “the forgotten band.” And yet, when things are good there is a lot happening on both bands!

October is shaping up to be an equally busy month for everyone in NFARL. If you are looking for a club activity to take part in, bring a big plate and pile it high with fun and fellowship.

Events involving or sponsored by NFARL include the NFARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 5, a HamCram session on October 19, and Scouting's Jamboree on the Air on October 20, in addition to all our usual activities such as Tech Net (every Monday) and our monthly VE testing session on October 12. Information on how you can take part in any of these events is covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

In fact, if each of us just picked one activity this month, there would be an opportunity for everyone to actively take part in a club-related event.

For example, we always eagerly seek more operators for the SET. Remember, “no experience required”! This is a learning activity and even if all you can do is participate for an hour from home, you can perform an important role as a simulated shelter operator. Contact [Mike Cohen, AD4MC](#), if you are interested.

We can always use more instructors for HamCram. Recently licensed folks who are still fresh on how the process works make excellent instructors (again, don't use “lack of experience” as an excuse!) and [Bill Weathers, K4WSW](#) would be happy to work with you on this project.

And, JOTA, the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air, is an annual event in which NFARL always plays a leading role. [Jon Wittlin, K4WIT](#) is the head wrangler for this activity and is always looking for help. Drop him a line: This activity always provides a good time for a good cause.

Further, in our continuing efforts to involve more of the NFARL membership in activities beyond Hungry Hams and the monthly club meeting, we are looking at putting together five different Special Interest Groups (SIG). In a club of our size, no one activity will please everyone, but by offering several SIGs we hope to have something for everyone. If there is some area you would like to see included, a SIG that interests you, please drop me an [email](#). This is your chance to speak up and help plan the club's activities!



Finally, the October meeting will be the last regular club meeting for the year. The November meeting will be HamJam on November 9. The December meeting will be the annual holiday party on December 14.

There are two items of interest at the October meeting. We will elect next year's officers and then **Hal Kennedy, N4GG**, will give us some tips on getting on 160 meters for the winter without a 10-acre plot of land for antennas. It also will be a great opportunity to buy raffle tickets for our annual scholarship fundraiser, HamJam, an activity sponsored by NFARL and SEDXC. There is no admission but each ticket gives you a shot at some great pieces of amateur radio equipment donated by some very generous sponsors, including Kenwood, Icom and Yaesu. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances! The funds go toward our scholarship fund administered by the ARRL as well as sponsoring local youth activities. It is a great opportunity to see old friends, hear some great speakers and support our young people in the greatest hobby of them all, amateur radio.

73 and thanks for your support of NFARL in all its many activities!

How You Can Help With HamCram

NFARL, in cooperation with Brandon Hall School in Sandy Springs, will conduct a Technician HamCram on Saturday, October 19. The registration deadline is past for prospective students, but NFARL members, especially those who have recently successfully completed a HamCram session, are asked to take part in this club activity.

You can volunteer to help with the day's activities by contacting [Bill Weathers, K4WSW](#).

HamJam: Big Prizes, Top Speakers / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

Prizes are beginning to pile up for the 2013 HamJam! And more are on the way. So far we have the following:



Yaesu FT-DX1200 HF transceiver (at left, list price \$2,400).

Kenwood TS-590S HF transceiver (below, right, list price \$1,964)

Icom ID-51A Dual Band VHF/UHF transceiver with D-STAR (below, left, list price \$650)

Diamond Antenna (anything in catalog up to \$400)

Buddistick Deluxe Package (list price \$199)

SteppIR CrankIR (list price \$379)

TenTec FG-01 antenna analyzer (list price \$249)

Begali keyer (list price \$170)

MFJ SWR/watt meter #868 (list price \$139)

Vibroplex iambic keyer (list price \$119)



PLUS numerous ARRL manuals and CQ books and subscriptions! All of these prizes are being donated by the manufacturers, with proceeds going for youth scholarships and activities. Please check out hamjam.info for more information on our fabulous guest speakers and raffle ticket purchasing information. There is no charge for attending, and there will be a \$100 gift certificate from HRO as a door prize with no purchase required!

HamJam 2013 is sponsored by NFARL and the Southeastern DX Club and will take place Saturday, November 9, at the Metropolitan Club, 5895 Windward Parkway, Alpharetta. Raffle tickets are available for a \$5 donation (five for \$20). Click [here](#) to visit the NFARL Mart to purchase tickets via the internet. You may also purchase raffle tickets from NFARL and SEDXC officers and at our ticket sales tables at HamJam until the mid-morning break. You do not have to be present to win one of the top three prizes. You must be present to be awarded one of the other raffle prizes.

Three outstanding speakers will share their insights into ham radio at the 2013 edition of HamJam:

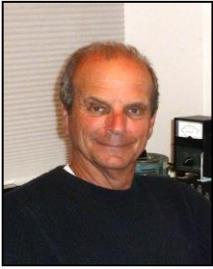


Bob Allphin, K4UEE, has been a ham for more than 55 years. He is one of the best known operators and DXers in the world, and has significantly impacted the DX side of ham radio with his abilities as an organizer and participant in numerous expeditions, nine of which received the coveted "DXpedition of the Year" award. Bob will share some of his highly interesting "behind the scenes" stories at HamJam. For more information on Bob please click [here](#).

Dan Henderson, N1ND, has been a ham for more than 43 years, and is the ARRL's regulatory information manager, where he strives to help hams operate legally, safely and appropriately. Dan has been involved in many facets of the hobby, which



supports his broad range of interests in general. Dan will share some of his insights into the fascinating hobby we share. For more information on Dan, please click [here](#).



Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has been a ham since 1960 and after earning his law degree served in several capacities with the FCC, from which he retired in 2008. In his words "I enjoyed every day of my career at the FCC, but my last 10 years there in the amateur radio enforcement segment was the greatest privilege of my life and gave me an opportunity to pay back in some way all of the joys and rewards amateur radio gave me." Riley has many interesting stories to share from his FCC days. Please click [here](#) for more information on Riley.

Officers to be Elected for 2014

The election of NFARL officers will take place at the October meeting. The nominating committee recommends the following members to officer positions for the 2014 year:

President

Neil Foster - N4FN

Vice President

Walt Woron - KJ4HE

Secretary

Mike Birmingham - K4LJG

Treasurer

Fred Moore - N4CLA

Membership

Bill Weathers - K4WSW

Activities

John Tramontanis - N4TOL

All of the above recommended officers have agreed to serve if elected; nominations from the floor will be received at the meeting before each officer position standing for election. Please plan to be at the October meeting and cast your vote.



NFARL Will Take Part in JOTA / Jon Wittlin, K4WIT



NFARL members will join other hams worldwide participating in "Jamboree on the Air" (JOTA) the weekend of October 19-20. JOTA is an annual Scout activity that focuses on the strength of Scouting: to act and support in unforeseen circumstances. This year's theme is "Let's Share."

NFARL members will be operating a station at Johns Creek United Methodist Church, 11180 Medlock Bridge Road, Johns Creek, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 20. Help is needed with operating the station, as well as with setup and take-down. If you would like to assist,

please contact [Jon Wittlin](#), K4WIT.

JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted for many years. Ham radio offers Scouts the chance to make friends in other countries without even leaving home.

With no restrictions on age, on the number that can participate and at little or no expense, JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to contact each other by amateur radio.

Troop 1818 is in part sponsoring JOTA and offering a 'Mini Merit Badge Clinic'. NFARL will teach the Radio Merit Badge and Electronics Merit Badge. Teaching volunteers are needed. If you would like to assist, please contact [Jon Wittlin](#), K4WIT.

NFARES Emergency Test on October 5 / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

We are finalizing our plans for our 2013 NFARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET), which is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, from 9:00 AM till 2:00 PM. (Other Georgia ARES groups always hold their SET on the first Saturday in October so we're joining them this year.)

If you read this before Saturday, October 5, we sure would like to have you join us this year even if you can only check in and be with us for a short time.

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 again improve our performance this year. Yes, we had a great SET last year, but we can certainly improve. 2012 SET Results from the July 2013 QST, pages 70-72, listed North Fulton County (W4UOC) with 604 points, eighth out of the 204 entries in the USA (Top 4%).



Here are links to ARRL SET information and to a file we will use for our 2013 SET planning: [2013](#)

[NFARES SET Files](#)

[NFARES 2013 SET](#)

Let me know if you would like to sign up for the same or a different location as last year or if you would like to sign up for the first time at any location. If this is your first time, we can team you up with an experienced SET volunteer. Again, helping for only part of the event is fine.

Please let us know by replying directly to [Mike Cohen](#), AD4MC, if you are interested in taking part. All locations are available plus any new incident or shelter sites that you would like to create. Thanks from your 2013 NFARES SET Planning Team, **Tom Koch, W4UOC; Wayne Chapman, KG5WU; Jim Paine, N4SEC; Stuart Williams, AK4EX; Scott Dunbar, N4SBD; Jim Stafford, W4QO; Bob Gross, KE3EM; Chuck Catledge, AE4CW; John Kludt, K4SQC; Wayne Rand, W4CJV; Clyde McClain, AK4TL; Bill Hatherly, W2ASL; Stu Mitchell, KK4KKF; Jeff Scarbrough, KK4ATX; George Olive, AI4UR; and Mike Cohen, AD4MC.**

NFARL Enjoys Day at the Ballpark / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

More than 50 NFARL members and their families enjoyed the Atlanta Braves baseball game on September 14 (except for the 4-0 shutout by the visiting San Diego Padres). The weather was perfect! Our host, **Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT**, also made sure everyone got a very nice Braves key fob. And, Hannah McGee, daughter of **Roger McGee, K4RNM**, won an autographed baseball from Braves pitcher Brandon Beachy!



Host Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT, takes in the game. At right, a view of one of the NFARL sections.



Sneak Peek at More Activities / John Tramontanis, N4TOL

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, October will be a busy month for NFARL. However, even though we break in November from our regularly scheduled club meeting because of HamJam 2013, our weekends will be chock full of activity.

The largest hamfest in Georgia, the [Stone Mountain Hamfest](#), will take place on November 2 and 3 at



the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Our club will have a table at the hamfest to promote both NFARL and HamJam 2013. All are encouraged to participate to staff the table in this effort and also to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow club members. This event sports a huge boneyard both indoors and outdoors, as well as many vendor exhibits.

On the following weekend, HamJam 2013 will take place on November 9. This is one of the premier amateur events in the state of Georgia. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter and check out the [website](#).

Another fine event you will not want to miss is "Manufacturers Day," which will be held at our local Ham Radio Outlet store on Saturday, November 16. NFARL will be supporting our good friends at HRO by having a table on site. This is another chance to promote our club to the local ham community. In addition, this day provides the chance to visit with representatives of many of the vendors of the gear sold by HRO, as well as learning more about their products, services, and future developments. More details to follow. Here is a link to some [photos](#) from a past "Manufacturers Day." Take a look, you might see some familiar faces!

If you want to take part in our club activities at the Stone Mountain Hamfest or "Manufacturers Day" at HRO, please [contact me](#).

Contact Us

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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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