

# NFARL eNEWS

May 2015

**What's happening in North Fulton, Georgia**  
**Activities from the 2010 Dayton Hamvention Club of the Year**

President's news

K1N - W6IZT

Field Day Update

GA QSO Party

GOTA - FD

YLRL UPDATE

## Program for May meeting—



### Navassa— How'd they do that? Gregg Marco, W6IZT

The May 19 NFARL meeting will feature Gregg Marco, W6IZT, renowned DX-er and most recently a member of the K1N team that activated Navassa Island in February. Welcome, Gregg! Don't miss the May meeting on the 19th. Bring the family! For more , go to page 3.....

## Summary of Upcoming North Fulton ARL Club Events and Dates

- **Every Sunday – NFARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (+) PL 100 nfares.org Visitors welcome!
- **Every Monday - Tech Talk** - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 - Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for “how to.”
- **Second Tuesday -- NFARES meeting** -- 2nd Tuesday - **June 9th** -7PM -- Brandon Hall School - nfares.org
- **Every Wednesday – Hungry Hams Lunch** - 11:15 AM - Slope's BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell.
- **Every Thursday – YL Net** – 8:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (-) PL 100 - Check NFARL Nets [website](#) for “how to.”
- **Every Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG) Lodge No. 1** - 9:00 AM - Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). Everybody's welcomed: You don't have to be “old” or a “geezer” to join this breakfast get-together.
- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – May 19th**, Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Pre-meeting activity starts at around 7:00PM. Location: [Alpharetta Adult Activity Center at North Park](#) 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004 [map](#) Talk-in: 145.47+ (PL 100)  
Meeting Topic: **Navassa Island DXpedition**
- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – May 26**, 7:00 PM – Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.



## Report from the Oval Office      president bob beeman, k4bb

**May brings us the beginnings of summer.** Yard care, patio grilling, baseball, and vacations will soon dominate our days. We've had a cold winter and a cool and wet spring. It is time Mother Nature gives us a little break for some outdoor fun.

**Beaches and hotel rooms** are the things I think of when summer comes. Well, I think of these things while plotting to take some sort of radio along for part of my fun. Remember all those QRP projects you did during the winter months? Now is the time to try out those projects and have some fun.

**Some hams will take along full powered transceivers**, and operate from a beach or resort condominium. Others will assemble their QRP stations and accept the challenge of low power operation. Some commercially made QRP stations are full-featured except for the power levels.

You can run your own DXpedition, put a US Island on the air, or light up a mountain top for Summits On The Air (SOTA). Just because you will be operating from a temporary location it does not mean that you can lower your guard on safety issues and harmony with the lesser beings that surround us.

- Keep your antennas far away from power lines and away from busy fingers.
- Make sure your equipment has a good safety ground if you will operate on 120 VAC power.
- Be careful about interfering with other vacationers, i.e., make sure you don't interfere with their TV reception, or pollute their mountain or ocean-view with a homemade mop-and-broom antenna mast towering over the shrubs.
- Leave time to play with your kids or grandkids.
- Remember that sea water and circuit boards do not play together very well. Also, I do not recommend operating among windblown sand dunes. Sand is not good for radios and expensive cameras.

Don't forget sunscreen, insect spray, wasp and hornet spray, and your version of DEET.

Above all else, **make sure you are in town on the fourth weekend in June. Field Day** is upon us, and we all plan to be at Waller Park Extended for the NFARL Field Day dressed in our new T-Shirts and ARRL Field Day ball caps. I can't wait!

73 de Bob Beeman, K4BB

## NFARL Rocks the Georgia QSO Party      John, N4TOL - Activities Manager

**The Georgia QSO Party** is in the books and NFARL had a great effort again this year. Many members have submitted scores to the GQP. The NFARL internal club GQP challenge posted a **52%** increase in the number of entries over last year and a **72%** increase in total club points over the prior year. Our folks warmed up the bands in many categories.



We had a **rover team** of, Mike Roden, W5JR, Tim Lemmon, WK4U, Max Faulkner, N5ZZ who put up astronomical numbers in the multi rover class. There were other rovers, QRPers, high power and low power entries, as well as a record number of rookie operators, 7, which added to our impressive club scoring.

**NFARL GQP Challenge awards** are being prepared and will be issued in the near future to recognize the efforts of these fine operators.

Also, remember to **submit your logs to the GQP by May 15** and to indicate your club affiliation with the North Fulton Amateur Radio League. See details and instructions for GQP log submission under the rules tab at [georgiasoparty.org](http://georgiasoparty.org).

## K1N – Navassa Island: How’d They Do That?



The May 19 NFARL meeting will feature Gregg Marco, W6IZT, renowned DX-er and most recently a member of the K1N team that activated Navassa Island in February.

Gregg has been licensed since 1968. He primarily operates CW and his main interests in amateur radio include DXing, Contesting and DXpeditions. His youngest daughter, Jenna, is licensed as KJ4PQV. He is a member of the Southeastern DX Club and is on the board of directors of INDEXA – the International DX Association.

Over the past 21 years, Gregg has operated from Taiwan (1994), Saint Martin (annually from 2000-2011, and 2014), Hawaii (2007), Costa Rica (2008), and Saba Island (2010, 2011 and 2013). He has contested from Costa Rica (2008), and Saba Island (2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014). He has also participated in the DXpeditions to Desecheo Island (2009), Saba Island (2010), Malpelo Island (2012), and, of course, Navassa (2015). Needless to say his passport is well-worn.



Gregg will be telling us about the team’s adventure to the island that was at the time ranked as the second most needed country for DX chasers behind only North Korea. Thanks to the team’s effort, Navassa has dropped to #8. The effort involved fourteen active operators, seven HF radios, five small amplifiers and four small beam antennas. The rest of the antennas were sloping dipoles hanging from the lighthouse on the island.

He will also be telling us about the behind-the-scenes technical aspects of the effort – networking of the computers, radios, servers, and preparing the logs for upload via the satellite communications equipment so that each of the 140,000 QSOs that included over 30,000 unique call signs, was captured, stored, and uploaded securely.

## **STRAYS - From March 1977 issue of QRP Quarterly ....**

... As of March finally worked DXCC SSB with one watt - also WFX 109 and 51 countries on 75M SSB - got KC4AAA, South Pole one watt to one watt (Ron, W8ILC)

“FD is an opportunity to introduce NFARL members to Radiosport and in the process, demonstrate our emergency capabilities to the community”

Yes, that’s what the tag line says but let’s explore things just a bit more. Behind that “tag line” are opportunities for all hams to participate in this annual operating event sponsored by the ARRL. Amateur Radio



operators all over Canada and the United States will be taking to the field on June 27 and June 28 to try and work as many stations as possible using temporary setups and emergency power in the 24 hours that is Field Day. An interesting challenge for the club or the individual operator is to try and work all 70 ARRL United States sections and the 12 Canadian

sections. How do you get more sections than states? Some states, like Florida, have so many hams it is divided into 3 different ARRL sections. Part of the fun is, to work them all using phone, cw and/or digital modes. So how can NFARL members participate?

#### **Licensed since last June or “generally inactive” for the last three years? Or maybe no license at all?**

Go to our Field Day page, <http://www.nfarl.org/fieldDay2015/fieldDay2015.html>, click the link under “GOTA Station” and select your slot and begin making some QSO’s under the tutelage of our veteran GOTA co-captains Bill Weathers, K4WSW, and Mark Schuman, KK4FOF. Bill and Mark will show you the ropes and you will help NFARL as we strive to reach the 500 QSO mark allowed by the ARRL to maximize the score of our GOTA station NF4GA. Each year we run somewhere between 350 and 400 Q’s so won’t you please help us get to that magic 500 number? And you will have some great fun along the way!

#### **Not sure about “Radiosport” but interested in learning?**

Maybe you have played at contesting a time or two or just wonder what it is all about. Wes, W3WL, will be giving some classes on Radiosport prior to Field Day. We all know Wes likes to tell bad jokes but what you may not know is that Wes has been on several DXpeditions and has hours of experience being on the other end of the pileup. This is truly a unique opportunity to learn Radiosport from a world class operator. Having worked with Wes, you can then sit with Wes or the other operators at one of our three main Field Day stations and depending on your skills and desires either do it or see how it is done. To arrange all of this go to <http://www.nfarl.org/fieldDay2015/fieldDay2015.html>, click the link under “3A Stations” fill out the form and one of our captains, Wes, W3WL, Chuck, AE4CW, or Jim, W4QO will get in touch with you to make further arrangements. If you are even remotely curious about Radiosport, this is the place to be!

#### **Experienced Operator?**

We will be running 3A with multiple antennas and networked N3FJP. With a recent release of N3FJP you will have the ability to monitor your own run rates as well as those of the entire club. We have a number of antennas in the arsenal including an HF beam that is shared between the Phone and All-Mode stations. In addition to the traditional CW and Phone stations we are fielding a third station capable of SSB, CW or digital – operators choice just as long as you keep your run rate up.

This is an opportunity for you to perhaps help those newer to Radiosport and show them the ropes during the 24 hours of Field Day. Please go to <http://www.nfarl.org/fieldDay2015/fieldDay2015.html>, click the link under "3A Stations" and one of our captains, Wes, W3WL, Chuck, AE4CW, or Jim, W4QO will get in touch with you to assist in setting up your operating slots.

### **Interested in VHF (6 M) and/or Satellite Operations?**

Yes, we have those stations, too, and we really need your help to make this all happen. Daryl, K4RGK, will be assisting with Satellites and Joe, N7QPP, has the 6 M duties. On 6 we will have a pair of stacked M2 6M HO loops for omni coverage and a 6 element beam for those band openings that we just know are going to happen. We will have the usual satellite station and it looks like we will have a number of passes this year. A pass lasts about 10 minutes so you do not need to be there full-time unless you want to be. The first satellite Q is worth 100 points and after that it is the usual 1 point for Phone and 2 points for CW. *Except*, we will be playing simultaneously in the AMSAT Field Day event where a CW Q is worth **3, yes three**, points. If interested please go to <http://www.nfarl.org/fieldDay2015/fieldDay2015.html>, click the link under "Satellite and Six Meter Station" and one of us will get back to you.



### **Just Interested in Playing around a Bit?**

On Saturday, there will be a separate HF station under a non-club call in the ARES trailer for those who would just like to play with things a bit. Mike, K4LJG, will be available to assist with this aspect of the operation.



### **Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Members**

Bonus points are available to NFARL if we originate/pass/receive 10 messages. More points are available if we copy the ARRL Field Day Bulletin. Even more points can be had if we send a message to the GA section manager. If you are an NFARES member or maybe just interested in ARES, please check with Mike, K4LJG. In addition to handling traffic, ARES will be demonstrating their capabilities to the general public. There is a lot to do here: we need your help.

### **Kibitzing, Eating and Generally Having a Good Time**

Every year except one we have led the nation in participation. Lynn Kahn, N4MSK, we again be heading up our every popular Saturday night picnic. Bring family, bring friends, bring a dish to pass and just enjoy time with good friends and good food in the pavilion in Waller Park Extension. The park is just off Dobbs Road in Roswell. NFARL members, watch for an email from Lynn asking your help in coordinating the "dishes to pass." Fifty pans of brownies and no salad may sound good but probably would not work out so well!

Field Day always has something for everyone. On behalf of the NFARL Field Day team, I really hope to see each and every one of you at NFARL Field Day 2015.





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, KK4FOF. We are making it very easy for you to "Get on the Air" - register, attend, operate.....experience Field Day the NFARL way.

The station operates for 24 hours, band conditions are looking good - so don't think no one will be operating at 2AM.....this Annual National Event is 24 hours, hundreds of stations will be on the air!!!

Again this year, any GOTA station operator making 20 or more logged contacts; a GOTA Field Day pin (see image above) will be given in recognition of the achievement "on the spot". We had 6 operators earn the GOTA Pin at FD2014, we want to exceed that number this year; additional GOTA award levels at 60 and 100 contacts!!!



See Registration Links on NFARL website to preview operating schedule and secure your operating time - plenty of time slots are available!!!

Contact either Mark or I if you have any questions pertaining to GOTA or Field Day – we look forward to seeing you at Field Day 2015!!!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 6** for the **Kennehoochee/Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest** to be held at Jim Miller Park in Marietta. The club will have a booth at the event so be sure to stop by and share in the fun.

<http://atlantahamfest.org/>



## **NFARL YL Updates**

**Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ**

### **Girl Scouts Thinking Day on the Air Report from Cathy, KI4SBK and Laura, KJ4ECA:**

February 21-22, 2015 was Thinking Day On The Air for the Girl Scouts/Girl Guides around the world.

Girl Scout Milton Troop 3381 hosted a Thinking Day 'lock-in' at the Alpharetta YMCA and accepted NFARL's offer to set up a TDOTA station to enable the participants to make radio contacts with other Girl Scouts/Guides who were also celebrating Thinking Day.



At least 23 girls and 4 leaders/mothers 'sent' their names in Morse code at the keying station. For many, it was their first code experience, but they all caught on very quickly. About 15 to 20 girls and at least one leader/mother made HF contacts in 6 different states: FL, GA, OH, PA, VA, and WI. Thanks go to all the OMs who took the time to carry on some conversations with some very impressed and impressive Girl Scouts. There were many 'cool's and 'awesome's and high-five's as a result of the contacts.



Unfortunately, the time and suggested frequencies available for radio contacts with other TDOTA stations did not align with the local club operation.

NFARL member Laura Northrop, KJ4ECA, who is active with the local Girl Scouts, suggested the club participate and followed up with the arrangements, communications, and operation. John Tramontanis, N4TOL, and Jim Stafford, W4QO, helped with arrangements and equipment loan and setup. Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ, operated the HF station, and Martha Muir, W4MSA, oversaw the CW keyer station. Cathy Freeman, KI4SBK, helped with handouts and setup and the keyer operation.

For more information on Thinking Day, see

For more information on Thinking Day, see

<http://www.worldthinkingday.org>

or for USA Girl Scouts see [http://www.girlscouts.org/who\\_we\\_are/global/world\\_thinking\\_day/](http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/)

### **Other Updates from Catherine, KK4UBQ:**

The YL net continues to grow with the help of all of you, our NFARL club, other local area Clubs including GARS, as well as Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL). If you are a YL and have not yet participated in this net, we highly encourage you to join us! We've had ladies from Australia, Canada, Japan, and all over the United States. We have on average 18 to 20 ladies checking in each week.

In addition to the net, there are lots of opportunities coming up to get out there and get active! The Atlanta Hamfest is coming up on June 6<sup>th</sup> at Jim Miller Park in Marietta – more information can be found at <http://atlantahamfest.org/>. There's also the YL International Sideband System convention coming up June 17 to 21<sup>st</sup> in Erwin, TN being hosted by Patty KB1TUY and John KC2UZZ. Please visit <http://www.ylssystem.org> for additional information! Let's be sure not to forget Field Day coming up June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – be there or be square! Field Day to take place at Waller Park Extension and more information on Field Day with NFARL 2015 can be found here - <http://nfarl.org/fieldDay2015/fieldDay2015.html>



If you'd like to personally schedule some time to come by and operate HF on a weekend, please email me at [kk4ubq@nfarl.org](mailto:kk4ubq@nfarl.org). We are always looking for ideas and suggestions from **you** on what you would like to see and do with regards to YL activities! Please see me at the NFARL meetings or email me at [kk4ubq@nfarl.org](mailto:kk4ubq@nfarl.org) with any thoughts, suggestions, etc you have.

The YL net is every Thursday evening at 8:00pm local time (Currently 00:00 UTC Friday). The YL net will be followed by all YLs who would like to join the YLRL (Young Ladies' Radio League) 20m net at 9:00pm local (Currently 01:00 UTC) on 14.288MHz.

The purpose of the YL net is to encourage YL participation on ham radio, get together on the radio waves, get to know each other and have some fun! Invite all YLs you know! **We want all YLs to feel comfortable getting on the air and have fun!**

Information on how to get set up to participate in the net is located on the NFARL Website at: <http://www.nfarl.org/nets.html>

**33 de KK4UBQ**

### **Club Repeaters**

|   |                 |                     |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>145.470 (-)</b><br>EchoLink Node 560686                | <b>100 Hz</b>   | Sweat Mountain      |
| <b>147.060 (+)</b><br>Primary ARES repeater               | <b>100 Hz</b>   | Roswell Water Tower |
| <b>224.620 (-)</b><br>Joint Venture with the MATPARC club | <b>100 Hz</b>   | Sweat Mountain      |
| <b>443.150 (+)</b>  | <b>No Tone</b>  | Roswell Water Tower |
| <b>444.475 (+)</b>  | <b>100 Hz</b>   | Sweat Mountain      |
| <b>927.0125 (-)</b>                                       | <b>146.2 Hz</b> | Sweat Mountain      |



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