



NFARL eNEWS

August 2015

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.
- **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 – August 18th**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.

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: **How I Had Fun on Old TV Channel Two**

Gary Pearcey, WB4RLW has been an amateur radio operator for over 40 years, Gary holds an Extra class ticket and resides in Stone Mountain near Atlanta, Georgia. He was once known under the novice call WN4RLW.

Gary attends Rehoboth Baptist Church in Tucker, Georgia, where he works on the A/V team.

Married to Karen Pearcey, they are blessed with 4 grown children and 5 grandchildren.

He worked his way through college employed at area radio stations as on-air personality and chief engineer. After leaving college, he was employed at Audichron Corporation as Product Manager of their ROH Broadcast division. Gary is currently the transmitter supervisor and chief operator for Cox Broadcasting television station WSB-DT.

A member of the ARRL and the Society of Broadcast engineers, he is a Certified Senior Television Engineer.

Hobbies include exercising at Stone Mountain, drama, photography, computers, and electronics.

At home he like to work CW and SSB on the HF bands with an offset fed dipole. At work he usually operates a 50,000 watt digital rig into a skeleton slot antenna up 1,000 feet for an ERP of about a Megawatt.

- **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting – August 25th**, 7:00 PM . Meetings are open to NFARL club members.

Coming Events

• **September 2015**

- **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting – September 15th**, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.

President's Corner / Bob Beeman k4bb



The earth's battery is running low (link - <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2015-08-11/the-earth-s-battery-is-running-low>). The universe is wearing out as star and galaxy formation slows. Football season is still a month away. Propagation is not good.

What's a ham to do? I'm glad you asked.

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League has lots of stuff going on, and the NFARL.ORG website is the place to go for NFARL activities. There are lots of things happening such as hamfests, contests, and various club meetings. The NFARL meeting is

Tuesday, August 18th at 7:30 PM.

Gary Pearcey, WB4RLW, a Broadcast Engineer at WSB will be presenting. I am looking forward to meeting Gary, and seeing his presentation. Some in the club may not know that I worked my way through college as a Broadcast Engineer on the graveyard shift at an AM/FM/TV station transmitter house. That was at WMC in Memphis. The program will be a walk down memory lane for me.

In spite of lagging propagation and dangerous solar events there are simply scads of contests, sprints, and special events going on all over the country. Surf over to the Contest Calendar (link -<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>) for a look at all the stuff going on in August, or any other month for that matter.

The Southeastern DX Club meeting is two days after the NFARL meeting, and features Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. Carl was one of the speakers at our HamJam last year. He will be talking about sunspot cycles and DXpeditions.

Speaking of HamJam...

HamJam will be held on November 14, 2015. Expect an all-star lineup of speakers. Jamie Dupree, Cox Radio news reporter stationed in Washington, DC has agreed to speak at HamJam. You can hear Jamie everyday on the Herman Cain show on WSB radio (link - <http://www.wsbradio.com/s/dupree/>).

Besides being a famous journalist, Jamie is also an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator, NS3T. He loves contesting. After being inundated daily with politics in the news, it will be interesting to see what Jamie has to say about the world of amateur radio.

NFARL club members need to get ready to buy their HamJam raffle tickets. I don't know what the prizes are for this year, but they were terrific last year. Plus, the proceeds go to our youth education effort spearheaded by the NFARL YESA (Youth Education, Scholarship and Activities) group.

Speaking of tickets, we will be giving away a Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate at Tuesday's meeting. There is no purchase necessary to win. Every attendee gets a free ticket for this one.

Plan on buying tickets for the 50/50 raffle. You never can tell who the lucky winner will be. If you have junk to give away, we will have a table for you to display you treasures, but if no one wants your stuff, you must take it home.

Have a great rest of the summer, and keep it cool.

73,

Bob Beeman – k4bb

President North Fulton Amateur Radio League

NFARL Equipment Loan Program / John N4TOL



A benefit of NFARL membership is access to the club's equipment loan program.

The club has a variety of transceivers available to members who are interested in getting started with operating on the HF bands. If you have an antenna, we have a radio to loan you so that you can get exposed to this aspect of the hobby. This will also allow you to evaluate the type of features and characteristics that you may need or desire in a radio before you make that first purchase.

If you do not have an antenna yet, we can help there too. Just contact us and we will get our antenna team to set you up. There is a lot of success to be had on the HF bands with simple wire antennas, so don't let the perceived need of an elaborate antenna system keep you from enjoying HF operation.

There is also a variety of test equipment available for club member use as well.

See the link on the club webpage for more details:

<http://nfarl.org/LoanProgram/LPOverview.html>

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

73 John N4TOL

n4tol@arrl.net

Youth Net - To Begin In August / John N4TOL



Please encourage young hams and young people interested in amateur radio to join in Youth Net. Young people will have the opportunity to chat with their peers across the metro Atlanta area, across Georgia, and perhaps across the country via this net. Youth 18 and under are invited to participate.

The net will meet on Wednesdays, starting on August 19, beginning at 7PM EDT.

It will be held on the NFARL 145.47 Sweat Mountain repeater. Echolink participation is encouraged. Connect to node NF4GA-R (number 560686).

The Youth Net is a project of the Mill Springs Academy RC.

Questions? Contact Martha W4MSA See qrz.com for email address.

SOTA on the Web



You can't "do SOTA" without using the web. There is one essential site, several which are almost indispensable, and some that are somewhat useful. You may find it helpful to open a web browser and visit the referenced sites as you read this article.

SOTADData - Essential

sotadata.org.uk - You can't get by without SOTADData. This is where you record your QSOs. Some of the key activities on the main menu include:

- **Logon/Logoff** - You'll need to visit the "Register" sub-menu to sign up for an account. There's no cost to register and they don't spam you. Registering is not a commitment to activate or chase!
- **View Results** - You can view metrics about SOTA such as the count of registered summits (73,548), rankings of activators and chasers, and there's a special sub-menu for viewing your own results including your activations, unique summits, summit-to-summit (S2S) contacts, awards, etc. After each activation I check the "Activator Roll of Honor"... and confirm that I *still* haven't earned enough points to move up in the national ranking. :-)
- **Summits** - If you're an activator, you'll research a summit here before you head out on an expedition. This is where you find the list of official summits, how many points each summit is worth, who has activated it. (Tip: If lots of people have activated it, it is an easy summit.) Once you locate a summit, the "Extra Info" link will take you to a page where prior activators write-up how to get to the summit and what to expect when you arrive. One of the first places to visit when planning an expedition.
- **Submit Log** - This is where you record your QSOs. There's a sub-menu for entering QSOs one at a time. You'll probably use this for your first few activations/chases. You'll want to quickly move up to uploading CSV files. The [CSV format](#) is unique to SOTA, but several logging apps now support SOTA format.

SOTAWatch - Very Helpful

SOTAWatch is where activators post *alerts* to tell you when/where they plan to activate. Once a chaser hears an activator, he will typically *spot* the activation here too. Self-spotting is considered acceptable for SOTA.

If you have an iPhone, [SOTA Goat](#) uses SOTAWatch data to bleat a notice whenever a new spot is posted. There are also apps for Android, Windows, and OS X that perform similarly. The data from SOTAWatch is also posted to [Twitter](#).

SOTA Goat and its ilk are particularly helpful if you're interested in S2S contacts. If you're on a hill with cell csotawatch.org coverage, you can get notified when other activators are on the air, giving you the info you need to call them.

SOTAMaps - Very Helpful

sotamaps.org shows the location of summits on a map. This helps you visualize just how far you're going to have to drive. [Here's a helpful URL](#) which plots 700+ summits within driving

distance from Atlanta. The left panel is color coded to show you which summits have/haven't been activated.

North American SOTA Mailing List - Helpful

groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits hosts the official mailing list for the North American SOTA community. (Yahoo login required.) This is where you can ask other activators and chasers for how-to information. There are some clever antenna and balun designs posted here on occasion.

Like many Yahoo groups, a popular pastime is complaining about Yahoo. If you visit the site once, you can sign-up to have postings delivered to your email and you'll never have to look at Yahoo again.

My SOTA Site - Somewhat Helpful

k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu may also be of interest. It has how-to information, an archive of newsletter articles, and a library of trip plans for southeastern summits.

AR

See you on the summits! 73 DE [K4KPK / Kevin](http://k4kpk.com)

Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. He has completed more than 150 activations.

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Twenty thoughts for new (and maybe OLD) hams

Jim Stafford, W4QO



(Does this raise questions? Bring them to Tech Talk, Mondays @8:30PM)

1. Don't spend a lot on your first 2M radio – get a cheapie and get on the air for \$35.
2. Build a better 2M antenna to use at home such as the SO-239 ground plane or roll up J-pole - \$5
3. Although only a Tech, figure a way to get on HF/ 10 meters ASAP; that's where the fun is.

Finally, be nice, do your part to help, be a credit to ham radio. Make friends and have FUN!

-more to come-

13 Colonies Special Event 2015 another success

Jim Stafford, W4QO

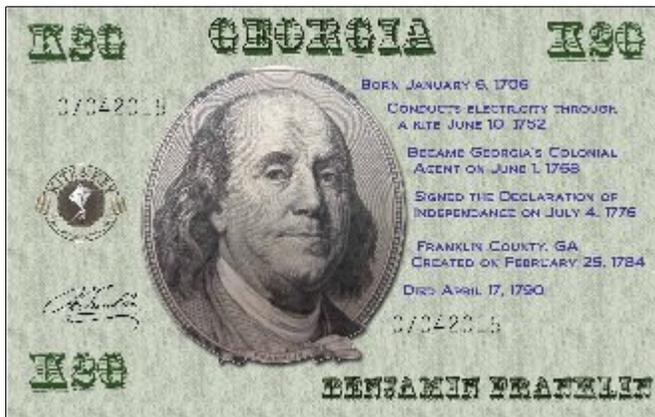


Well, the 13 Colonies SE went over great again this year and many NFARLiteS were a part of that success once more. I know many of you were actively seeking contacts with "the colonies" or were actually giving out K2G contacts. K2G is the callsign assigned to GA. From a macro standpoint, there were 126,296 QSOs made with special event stations in the entire 13 original colonies. This is up by 17,438 from 2014. In a nutshell, this is a very popular event. For full details – go to 13colonies.info

From our club standpoint, I think I heard from about 20 of you who made a clean sweep of all 13 colonies this year. There is a very nice certificate available for those of you who did, by mailing

\$5 to Ken Villone, the event organizer. Use the details at:

<http://www.13colonies.info/CertRequests.htm> to request your certificate. In fact, you do not even need to work all 13 to get a certificate but if you did work'em all, you get the CLEAN SWEEP stamp. And there were bonuses for working WM3PEN and GB13COL but those are beyond what's considered a CLEAN SWEEP.



Our club, NFARL, is the official QSL manager for all contacts made as K2G for the state of Georgia. Last year, we mailed out over 700 QSLs. This year's QSL was designed by club member Nathan Wood, K4NHW and is a beauty! If you want a SAMPLE QSL, just stop by the table at the August meeting and pick one up. Looks great, doesn't it?

Now there were 19 operators in GA "giving out" contacts to the world. Twelve of them were members of NFARL competing with other clubs in the 13 states to see who could

make the most contacts during the week of June 20 to July 5. NFARL did not quite win that competition but were not too far off. The Skyview Radio Society in PA came in first with 6213 contacts whereas the NFARL team only garnered 4920 contacts. But we should congratulate the NFARL team for attempting to win. The NFARL operators were:

K4NHW, Nathan
KM4IK, Ian
AE4CW, Chuck
N1KO, Jeff
N4BFR, Jim
K4LJG, Mike
K4WSW, Bill
W5JR, Mike
KB4KBS, Scott
W6IZT, Gregg
N4FN, Neil
K4VBM, Bob

These operators averaged 400 contacts per person. Let me make one comment. **Nathan who designed the QSL also was the NFARLite who made the most contacts for the club: 1079!** Congrats Nathan. We appreciate the effort you put into the QSL and the event.

So looking ahead to 2016, the dates are July 1 - 6. We hope you all will play in this exciting and interesting special event next year!

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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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