



eNEWS August 2011

www.nfarl.org

eNEWS is “**what’s happening**” in **North Fulton!** Check the headlines of each item and mark your calendar. Go to arrl.org or eHAM.net for the national news, but here is this month’s **North Fulton ARL eNEWS.**



Summary of Upcoming Events and Dates

- **Every Wednesday** - Hungry Hams Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM - Slopes BBQ
- **Every Sunday** - **NF ARES net** - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday** - **Tech Net** – (on summer hiatus – to resume in fall) 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Check website for “how to”
- **Every Friday** - **Youth Net** – (on hiatus for August) 5:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Join Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday** - **NF ARES meeting** – 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **Third Tuesday** - **Club Meeting** – August 16 – Rich Arland K7SZ – “The Ten Things a New Ham Should Know”
- **August Mid-Month Madness** – Huntsville Hamfest – August 20-21
- **VE Testing Session** – August 27 – 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

Program Update / John Kludt K7SYS

Our speaker is Rich Arland K7SZ (at right), who will speak on “The Ten Things a New Ham Should Know.” Rich comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, being a prolific author of amateur radio articles and books. His writings have found their way into the pages of QST, CQ, CQ-VHF, Popular Communications, Monitoring Times, Worldradio, National Communications and various club newsletters and quarterly magazines. From January 2000 through December 2003, he was QRP editor for QST. He has written six books, the last three for the ARRL on QRP. He is a member of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and the Gwinnett County ARES group. Also, he is a member of NoGA, SEDXC, SECC, QRP ARCI, NJ-QRP, Nor-Cal, MI-QRP, SKCC, FISTS and QCWA. Please join us as Rich shares some real nuggets of information useful to new and not-so-new hams alike.



Pre-meeting

There is no formal pre-meeting activity this month. So have a cup of coffee, chat with fellow NFARL members or welcome newcomers.

Mid-Month Madness

This month's event is the Huntsville (Ala.) Hamfest on Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21. While NFARL will not have a table there, we will be sharing rides to the event. If you are interested in sharing a ride or if you are looking for a ride, please drop a note on the reflector. We hope to see a number of NFARLers at this long-established and well-respected event.

President's Corner for August

Our July meeting was highlighted by a fascinating and enlightening discussion about QRP operations by Ken Evans W4DU. Ken demonstrated the challenges and enjoyment of both building low-power gear and successfully operating this equipment on the HF bands. After seeing what success can be had on the HF bands with this minimalist approach, we should all be encouraged to give this type of operation a try.



That being said, as I write this column, the Solar Flux Index (SFI) is above 120, and has been for several days. With the onset of solar cycle 24, band conditions should be improving considerably on HF in the coming weeks and months and the opportunity to work some fine DX is at hand. So whether you are running QRP, or higher power, now is the time to get on the HF bands and take advantage of these conditions as the cycle is on the rise.

To get more out of the HF bands, I encourage you to sign up for the club-sponsored General Class HamCram on October 1. With an upgrade to General class, your opportunities to enjoy sunspot cycle 24 will be greatly enhanced through the expanded HF privileges that license allows.

At our August 16 meeting we are very fortunate to have Rich Arland K7SZ as guest speaker. Rich's program will be "The Ten Things a New Ham Should Know". This presentation promises to be informative for our new hams and also for the more seasoned hams (I myself am intrigued as to what these items will be). Be sure to join us.

Many of you should have received a ballot from the ARRL for the Georgia 2011 Section Manager election. Please remember to return this ballot to the ARRL before Friday, August 19. The Board supports and recommends you vote for NFARL member Verne Fowler W8BLA for Georgia Section Manager.

73 - I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and I hope to hear you on the bands!

John N4TOL

Let's Go Out to the Ball Park! / Bill Reed K4YJI

Bob Citronberg KI4GHT has generously donated (again!) to NFARL 61 tickets for the Atlanta Braves-Los Angeles Dodgers game on Sunday, September 4 at 1:35 PM. These upper deck tickets have a great view of the field and are available to NFARL members and their guests on a first-come, first-served basis.



To claim up to four tickets, please go to NFARL Mart.

<http://www.nfarl.org/mart/catalog/14/reservations>. Please indicate the number of adult and children's tickets you are requesting. Tickets will be available for pickup at the club meeting on August 16.

If you need extra tickets, contact me at k4yji@nfarl.org with your request.

Attendees will have access to the exclusive 755 Club for refreshments and a cool atmosphere and the ability to bring food and drink that will fit under a seat.

This would be a great time to invite some of our youth or prospective youth members to ride with you to the game. What a great way to get to know them better. And, of course, this is an opportunity to share some baseball with family and friends. I hope to see you at the ball park on the September 4!

HamJam 2011 Coming on October 22

NFARL and the SEDXC will again host HamJam this year. The date has been set for October 22, so mark your calendars. This will replace the



regular October meeting for NFARL and we hope you will attend. The admission is again FREE and we make this an OPEN meeting for all of hamdom or anyone with an interest in the goings-on. We do hope you will invite younger folks and college students to hear some great speakers! We will have three speakers and will try to have one each covering the areas of technical, contesting/DX and general ham radio. We have confirmed that ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN (left) will be our lead-off speaker and we know you all will want to hear her views on the future of amateur radio.

Also confirmed is Tom Rauch W8JI of Barnesville, Georgia. Tom is a noted authority on antennas and maintains an excellent website at www.w8ji.com.

This year's location and the remaining speaker are still being determined (we're close) but we wanted you to be ready for a fun Saturday morning. And yes, we'll again have a paid raffle of wonderful prizes to offset expenses and hopefully provide a small profit for our scholarship fund.

So, mark your calendars! HamJam2011 is on the way. Latest info: <http://hamjam.info>

Calling all NFARL Technicians!

A General Class HamCram will be held on Saturday, October 1. Cost is \$25.00, which includes drinks and pizza for lunch. The class will start promptly at 8:30 AM and will conclude after testing at 4:00 PM. Location for the class will be announced shortly.

This is a special General class, as students who upgrade will be offered the opportunity to get on HF immediately from other club member's stations and talk around the world to DX stations! The September Club meeting will be devoted to "How to operate voice on the HF bands" (it is a bit different from your VHF repeater operations) and will also be a general introduction to the Christmas Island T32 DXpedition (www.T32C.com) that NFARL is helping to sponsor.

Don't miss this opportunity to upgrade and have a lot of fun on the HF bands! Plan to sign up early on the NFARL mart (http://www.nfarl.org/mart/General_HamCram_2011), as this class will probably fill up quickly.

Volunteers Needed for SET / Jim Paine N4SEC

Now that we have a firm date for the 2011 NFARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Sunday, October 16, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, we need your support to volunteer to be at one of the 40+ locations. Check out [set2011_station_locations-master](#)

Ideally, we will have up to four volunteers at each location, so let Mike Cohen AD4MC (ad4mc@nfarl.org or 404-981-8624) know which location you want.

You can always get the latest information at <http://nfarl.org/ares/ares.html> and <http://nfares.nfarl.org/>

Please join us at our next NFARES Meeting on Tuesday, August 9 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. For more details, see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nfares/cal>

Sign up now. We already have 21 volunteers, but are aiming to have over 40 again this year.



Youth Taking Active Role / Jim Stafford W4QO

We had an excellent showing at Field Day of club youth and many youth visitors! Almost 20 youth "operators" attended FD and many operated the GOTA station. More importantly, two of the teachers from Living Science made contacts or "coached" on the GOTA station, helping NFARL attain an all-time high score for the club. You can see many photos of youth operating the station in the FD photo section of the NFARL website.

Also, you probably know that several NFARL members go "to the park" each Sunday to operate their QRP rigs. Many of you have visited. The Flight of the Bumble Bees sprint took place during a recent weekend and Jacob Caldwell KJ4VWL came and operated Walt Woron KJ4HE's HW-8 rig to make a contact! Jacob is considering the General HamCram but at the present is a Technician who operates CW and has made contacts in about 25 states on 40 meter CW! How many Techs use this little-known privilege of CW on 80, 40 and 15 meters to make contacts? Jacob does, and

informs me he is having a ball, and he even QSLs via LoTW!

Can't be more than a dozen nationwide to be a Tech and operate 40 meter CW! Oh, Jacob is a highly motivated 10 year old! Way to go, Jacob.

The Youth Net has been on hiatus for the summer but should pick up soon. Edward Doyle KJ4NRN has been an NCS along with sister Frances AJ4JQ. He will undoubtedly pick up more of a role as Frances heads off to college this fall. Edward says that he has almost 200 countries on the HF bands and he is only 13 years old! I hear Edward on quite regularly and he is an excellent operator. Chris Howard WA4YG is also coming on board to help with the Youth Net on Fridays, once we resume!



Jacob Caldwell KJ4VWL (left) operates at Roswell Area Park on a recent Sunday. Photo by Christian Kutztz KJ4VPK

Looking Ahead to Field Day 2012 / Scott Straw KB4KBS

The dates for Field Day 2012 are June 23 and 24, the last FULL weekend of the month. This is significant. The event will fall on the FOURTH weekend since the following Saturday is June 30 and Sunday is July 1. Don't forget this when marking your calendars!

Ideas are still trickling in for ways to improve an already great event. Some of the suggestions being considered are:

- Running more RTTY on the digital station and improving the staffing of that radio.
- Having a legitimate Satellite station set up with a dedicated operating table, and assigned space with signage
- Offering a "Morse Trainer" station for a short window of time on one of the stations to allow fledgling CW operators a chance to operate in a contest setting.
- Putting a beam antenna on an aerial lift device such as a bucket truck.

These are just suggestions but will be given full consideration, as will your ideas if you send them to me as your new Field Day chairman. I won't ask for commitments now, but start thinking about what role you would like to play in the organizing committee for Field Day 2012.

My hope is to construct an organizational chart based on the National Incident Management System concept, where individual small tasks and responsibilities are assigned to a large number of people so that no one individual or group is overwhelmed. The key to the success of a plan like this is to have an adequate pool of personnel to draw from. If you are new to ham radio and/or NFARL, this is an invitation to become more involved. Drop me an e-mail: kb4kbs@nfarl.org and I will make sure that you are included in the planning for NFARL Field Day 2012.

KC4YBO Takes Top Gun Honors

Steve Knittel KC4YBO took Top Gun honors in the 3905 Century Club's 10th Annual Mobile Shootout in Connecticut last month. There were 19 participants, using seven different varieties of antennas. Steve took first place using a Tarheel 200A in a Town and Country minivan.

Full details can be found at

<http://www.3905ccn.com/newsite/files/pdf/shootout-2011.pdf>



New Library System in Place / Keith Plossl KK4BTA

When I took over, I began getting familiar with what was in the library and my wife and I inventoried the library over the July 4 weekend. This required identification of every book, magazine, CD, etc. and comparing it to the catalog. We believe some resources are on loan and some seem to be among the missing. The resources are in good shape and I added four volumes to the library myself.

The library really consists of two distinct sections. The first section consists of books, manuals, flash cards, CDs and the like. The second section consists of other resources made available by other NFARL members to other club members from their personal libraries. I separated these two into different sections of the catalog to make keeping the library records easier. To get a resource from another member one needs to contact that other member to borrow that resource. To borrow resources from the library takes less than two minutes to check something out or return it. The library is physically housed in plastic storage boxes and we now know which resource is in which box making finding resources much simpler. Each resource is identified with a NARFL number so signing out and returning resources takes seconds for members and for me to maintain the library records. A dated sign-out sheet only needs the resource ID number and your call sign to get or return a resource. As resources are added to the library, we only need to assign a resource ID number and a box number to the catalog and it is available to members. This library system is designed to be very simple for everyone.



Please check the catalog and see if you are listed as having resources signed out to you. If you do, please return the ones you have finished with and let me know if you have returned them already. That way I'll add them to the "Among the Missing" list. If any members find or have resources on the "Among the Missing" list, please let me know and consider returning them so others may use them.

Thanks again to former librarian John Dendy N4CUS for his diligent service to the club.

Summer's Hot; DXCC Quest Hotter / Dave Higdon Jr. KD4ICT

As summer bakes on, we continue our quest for DXCC via LoTW. We have had a few more contributions, but not many more matches, at least just yet. So, we will march on, and try to accomplish our goal by year's end.

In recognition of those who contribute contacts, you will receive your copy of the DXCC certificate. All you need to do is use the club call sign, NF4GA, and submit your QSO info to award@nfarl.org and

Entity	Mixed
ALASKA	KL7DX
ARUBA	P40L
BARBADOS	8P5A
BELIZE	V31RR
BRAZIL	PY2MTS
CAMEROON	TJ9PF
CANARY ISLAND	EB8AH
CAPE VERDE	D4C
COSTA RICA	TI5N
CURACAO	PJ2T
EUROPEAN RUSSIA	RJ3AA
FRENCH POLYNESIA	FQ8RZ
ICELAND	TF3Y
ITALY	JR3Z
LIECHTENSTEIN	HB0/I2LSC
MADEIRA ISLANDS	CR3A
MARTINIQUE	TO5A
MONTENEGRO	4Q3A
NICARAGUA	YN2ET
PORTUGAL	CR6K
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	ZS2EZ
REVILLAGIGEDO	4A4A
SLOVENIA	S52OP
SUDAN	ST2AR
SWITZERLAND	HB9AUS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	NX6M
VENEZUELA	YW4V

we will add you to the list. Just stay within the limits of your license and submit a few contacts. It can be any mode, any band.

A few resources to help find LoTW contacts include:

<http://www.lotw-online.com/> which is spotting page with current LoTW users extracted.

<http://www.dxwatch.com/> which shows LoTW users along with other DX.

At left is our list of confirmed contacts as of August 3. As you can see, there is plenty of opportunity for everyone.

Questions? You can reach me at award@nfarl.org

Thanks for everyone's assistance.

NFARL Membership

We currently have **258** active members as of the writing of this newsletter. The following members joined during June and July 2011.

first name	last name	call	mbr since	class
Garrett	Brass		2011-07	Not Licensed
Mike	Stark	N4MSS	2011-07	Technician
David	Harris		2011-06	Not Licensed
Jack	Grisham	KK4AUE	2011-06	Technician
John	Harris	KC4JVJ	2011-06	Novice
Lance	Henderson	KK4CKH	2011-06	General
Omar	Cordial		2011-06	Not Licensed
Paul	Manno	KG4UVU	2011-06	Amateur Extra
William	Hurley	K4GDR	2011-06	Amateur Extra
William	Ravenel	AI4VE	2011-06	Amateur Extra

Please greet our newest members and welcome them to the organization the next time you see them.



Click any of the logos above to visit our NFARL supporters and affiliates

Contact Us

President	John Tramontanis N4TOL 770-789-9188	n4tol@nfarl.org
Vice-President & Training and Education Leader	Wes Lamboley W3WL	w3wl@nfarl.org
Secretary & Community Service Projects	Bill Reed K4YJI 770-993-5758	k4yji@nfarl.org
Treasurer & Repeater Trustee	Fred Moore N4CLA 404-434-4499	n4cla@nfarl.org
Past President & Special Events	Chuck Catledge AE4CW 770-641-7729	ae4cw@nfarl.org
Program & Mid-Month-Madness Chairman	John Kludt K7SYS	k7sys@nfarl.org
Field Day Chairman	Scott Straw KB4KBS	kb4kbs@nfarl.org
ARES Liaison & Community Relations	Jim Paine N4SEC	n4sec@nfarl.org
Repeater Operations	Mike Roden W5JR	w5jr@nfarl.org
Web Master	Bill Cobb K4YJJ	k4yjj@nfarl.org

Club Repeaters

145.470 (-) EchoLink Node 560686 NF4GA-R	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
147.060 (+) Primary ARES repeater	100 Hz	Roswell WaterTower
224.620 (-) Joint Venture with the MATPARC club	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
443.150 (+)	No Tone	Roswell WaterTower
444.475(+)	100 Hz	Sweat Mountain
927.0125(-)	146.2 Hz	Sweat Mountain