



eNEWS

March 2012

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 - 11:00 AM - Slopes BBQ, 34 East Crossville Road, Roswell
- **Every Sunday** - NF ARES net - 8:30 PM - 147.06 MHz (PL 100)
- **Every Monday** - Tech Net - 8:30 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Check website for “how to”
- **Every Friday** - Youth Net - 5:00 PM - 145.47 MHz (PL 100) - Join Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and others
- **Second Tuesday** - NF ARES meeting - March 13, 7:00 PM at the Sandy Springs City office complex
- **Third Tuesday** - Club Meeting - March 20, 7:30 PM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta - Jim Stafford W4QO, Scott Straw KB4KBS and Chuck Catledge AE4CW will outline three major NFARL operating events and the roles each of us can play.
- **Mid-Month Madness - Kennehoochee Hamfest** – Saturday, March 17, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Boneyard opens at 7:00 AM) - Jim Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road, Marietta - [Kennehoochee Hamfest website](#)
- **Mid-Month Madness - The World of International Ham Radio** – Saturday, March 24, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM – Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek – [Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library directions](#)
- **VE Testing Session** – Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

March Program / John Kludt K4SQC

We have some special activities coming up. Having won the Club Georgia QSO Party competition several years in a row, we have decided to play the game a little differently. This year we are asking all NFARL members to donate their GA QSO Party points to some other club. We all belong to several different specialty clubs such as QCWA Chapter 49, North Georgia QRP etc., and we suggest your points be donated to another organization of your choosing. NFARL is going to have an intra-club competition. The club will be divided into two teams in the spirit of “Shirts vs. Skins” or “Red vs. Blue.”

Jim Stafford W4QO is heading up this effort. Please come and hear Jim as he explains how all of this is going to work. Get involved in the process of setting up the teams. Talk a little trash about the opponents! Get some team rivalry going!

Just to make it a little more interesting, NFARL has obtained the 1X1 calls K4N, K4F, K4A, K4R and K4L. Work all five calls, phone, CW or mixed and you'll earn a beautiful 8½ by 11 certificate suitable for framing. To make this happen, we are going to need volunteers for each of the letters. The goal is to keep each 1X1 on the air on both phone and CW for the entire 20 hours of the contest. If you have ever wondered what it would be like to operate with a 1X1, or to be "rare DX," here is your opportunity. Jim will explain how all of this is going to work and sign up volunteers for 1X1 support.

Field Day Chairman Scott Straw KB4KBS will review past NFARL Field Day efforts, remind us why we do Field Day and share with us his vision for this year. NFARL is turning a page in its history and Scott's presentation will be a look back as well as a glimpse of the future.

NFARL has a number of newly licensed amateurs on its roster. These two events represent a great opportunity for the more experienced club members to work with the newer club members to show them the ins and outs of operating during the GA QSO Party and Field Day. Our last presenter, Chuck Catledge AE4CW, has some excellent ideas for turning both of these events into learning opportunities.

Please join us as Jim, Scott and Chuck outline these major NFARL operating events and the roles you can play.



Jim Stafford W4QO (left) and Scott Straw KB4KBS work with Scouts during Field Day 2011. At the March program, they will be discussing two important upcoming events. Photo by Bill Hampton W4OO.



Chuck Catledge AE4CW helps a kit builder. At this month's meeting, Chuck will talk about Elmering opportunities. Photo by Chaz Cone W4GKF.

Mid-Month Madness

There are at least two activities on the NFARL calendar for March. St. Paddy's Day, Saturday, March 17, is also the day of the Kennehochee Hamfest. So if you don't make the trek to Savannah, put on some green and join NFARL at the hamfest. We will be hosting a "café style" meet-and-greet booth in the main building. If you would like to help, please contact Dave Brackett AK4CL ak4cl@nfarl.org to sign up. Stop by for a chat and a very low calorie doughnut and a cup of coffee and an eyeball QSO with friends new and old. Things get started at 8:00 AM at Jim Miller Park in Marietta.

The second opportunity occurs on Saturday, March 24, at the Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library in Johns Creek. The library will be hosting International Day and for the second year NFARL has been asked to run a radio station. This is a contest weekend and there should be lots of opportunity to demonstrate the ability of amateur radio to reach out to the world. The equipment is in place but we need help setting up, tearing down and operating during the day. Again, please contact Dave AK4CL ak4cl@nfarl.org for details.

President's Corner / Wes Lamboley W3WL

This winter has been most kind to us, and antenna work has progressed here what with warm weather and no leaves on the trees as of yet. Perfect for putting up wires! There is a ham radio adage: "If your antennas did not come down this winter, they were not big enough!" None of mine came down, so I am putting up bigger ones soon. In fact, a Mid-Month Madness is in the planning stages for making wire antennas!

I built one of the baluns at the recent MMM and found out I needed better glasses. Nothing like a good solder bridge to get my attention! Many thanks to Mack McCormick W4AX, Chuck Catledge AE4CW and Jim Stafford W4QO for getting it all to happen.

And, now you can see the meetings on YouTube, thanks to Steve Mays KS4KJ. If you were not at the last meeting, you can learn all about QSLing by going to <http://www.youtube.com/user/nfarlvideos> and watching the most interesting program presented by Bill Barr N4NX and AE4CW.

The money we made for youth at last year's HamJam has been allocated to the Youth DX Adventure (see http://www.qsl.net/n6jrl/2012Team/2012_team.html) and the ARRL Youth scholarship fund in the name of the NFARL. Our own Edward Doyle KJ4NRN and his dad, Jonathan N4JJD, were selected to go on the Adventure and \$250 is being donated to that cause. The remainder (about \$900) will go to the ARRL in our name.

I feel guilty when I call the meetings to order, as everyone is having a great time just chatting. But – our meetings are very interesting, and the March meeting is going to be great as well. It will be a combination of the Georgia QSO Party, Elmering for HF operating, and Field Day all rolled into one! Plus, there is the making for a NFARL intra-club contest in the works. I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

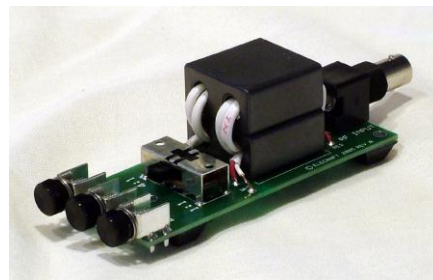
73,

Wes – W3WL



NFARL Hams Melt Solder, Build a Balun / Chuck Catledge AE4CW

On Sunday, March 4, sixteen NFARL hams gathered for the first Build-a-Thon of 2012. Based on a club-wide survey, the project chosen was the Elecraft BL2 Wideband 1:1 & 4:1 (Switchable) 250W Balun (at right). Chuck Catledge AE4CW kicked off the session with a chalk-talk on "What does a balun do, and why do you need one?" Coaches Jim Stafford W4QO and Mack McCormick W4AX helped participants get started and suggested techniques for wiring and soldering. As this was the first soldering activity for a number of the participants, the simplicity of the design and ease of construction made this a great learning experience. At the end of the build, the performance of each balun was tested with a



Vector Impedance Antenna Analyzer. And the results? Every balun tested perfectly, meeting the design SWR from 160M through 6M. Way to go, Build-a-Thon team!! A big thank you goes to Mack for offering his QTH and providing tables, chairs, electrical service and refreshments for each participant. For more photos, click [here](#).



Taking part were (from left): Wes Lamboley W3WL, Christian Kuhtz KJ4VPK, Phil Wolf KK4EFN, Norm Schklar WA4ZXV, JP O'Connor WF4Z, Hal Hubschman W4HAL, Bill Reed K4YJI, Clyde McClain AK4TL, Bill Cobb K4YJJ, Chris Caldwell W4CCH, Dave Brackett AK4CL, Adrian Shamblin KJ4CUY and (not shown) Fred Moore N4CLA and Dick Bentley K2UFT.

So, what's next on the Build-a-Thon agenda? Well, what goes better with a balun than a wire antenna? Preliminary plans call for a mid-spring date. Watch for more information on the NFARL Yahoo group and at the March club meeting.

NFARL Club Survey

We would like to thank those members who submitted feedback on the surveys handed out at the last club meeting. The purpose of this survey was for the club to learn which programs, projects, and other activities would be of interest to our members.



So that all can contribute we have created an expanded survey and made it available via a link on our website's home page in the Hot Topics section. You can also go to it by clicking [here](#).

We look forward to receiving your input.



Mike Cohen AD4MC oversees a QSO with a couple of young people at Brandon Hall as Edward Doyle KJ4NRN demonstrates the finer points of operating a radio.

Brandon Hall Hosts Roundup / Mike Cohen AD4MC and Tom Koch W4UOC

An Atlanta private school, Brandon Hall, <http://brandonhall.org/>, has shown an interest in amateur radio by hosting the ARRL School Club Roundup, <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>.

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Koch W4UOC, working closely with middle school science teacher James Vaught, NF ARES / NFARL supported Brandon Hall School on February 15 during the School Club Roundup. NFARL members installed HF and VHF stations and antennas and invited the students to operate the radios. North American, European and Middle Eastern hams were contacted

Tom W4UOC, Clyde McClain AK4TL, Wes Lamboley W3WL, Chuck Catledge AE4CW, Jim Stafford W4QO, Mike Cohen AD4MC and Edward Doyle KJ4NRN helped with set-up and operation of the stations and antennas. Since Edward KJ4NRN was the same age as many of the students, he turned out to be perhaps our best ham radio ambassador. About a dozen students, parents and teachers took part in the activity.

Wes W3WL and Chuck AE4CW hope to hold HamCram sessions at this impressive campus on the banks of the Chattahoochee River in the Dunwoody area. Mr. Vaught plans to attend the ARRL Teachers Conference this summer. Hopefully, this will lead to the school having a permanent ham radio station.

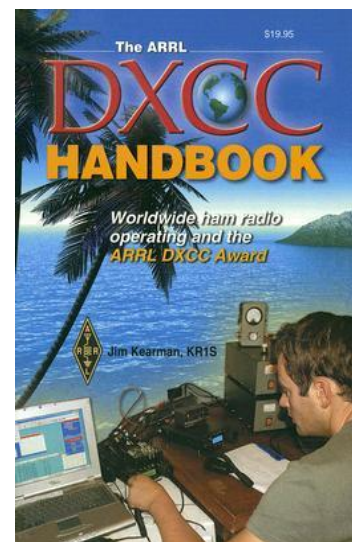
It's a given that a lack of age diversity is a major issue with the growth of ham radio. The interest shown by the teachers, parents and students at Brandon Hall can result in a win-win for our hobby and the school.

Browsing the Library / Keith Plossl K4KRX

DX in ham radio shorthand means distance, literally talking to people in distant lands. Many radio amateurs enjoy the lure of DXing, seeing how far away we can communicate with other amateur radio operators. It's a way of determining how well our stations -- and we, the operators -- perform. DXing is a full-time goal for some hams and a just-for-fun challenge for others. The pinnacle of DXing success is the ARRL DX Century Club, or DXCC award.

Author Jim Kearman KR1S discovered the thrill of DXing shortly after receiving his General Class license in 1963. After more than 40 years, the fluttery sounds of radio signals from faraway places still thrill him. In short, he still chases DX because it's great fun!

We hope this book will inspire you to try DXing, and that you'll use it as a guide to begin your own DX journey.



Scouts Work on Radio Merit Badges / Jon Wittlin K4WIT

NFARL presented the Radio Merit Badge to 15 Boy Scouts in two separate sessions on Saturday February 11 at the Johns Creek UMC Merit Badge Clinic.



Tim Lemmon WK4U explains aspects of radio to Scouts working on their radio merit badges at a session at Johns Creek United Methodist Church.

Heading the morning session were morning session Rich Adams KB7WO, Tim Lemmon WK4U and Scott Straw KB4KBS. In the afternoon session were Wes Lamboley W3WL, Dave Brackett AK4CL, and Mike Cohen AD4MC. Providing support were Jeff Otterson N1KDO and Jon Wittlin K4WIT.



We were invited to do two more sessions (May 5 and September 8) and information will follow if we decide to participate.

There are a lot of technology related scouting events in the works (technology merit badges, JOTA, etc.).

If you are interested in joining a SIG for Scouting, becoming a Registered Merit Badge Counselor or have ideas for NFARL to do with scouts, please contact me directly at k4wit@nfarl.org

Scouts learn about radio with Tim Lemmon W4KU and (right) Dave Brackett AK4CL in the audience.

Club Shirts, Caps, Items Available Locally

Classic Monograms at 3940 Cherokee Street, Suite 302, Kennesaw can provide a variety of woven and knit shirts, baseball caps, etc. with embroidered NFARL logo and customized with individual name and call sign. Jerry Sullivan KD4LZL will be showing samples and taking orders at a table in our meeting room at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center starting at 7:00 PM before the March meeting.



Public Service / Dave Brackett AK4CL

Publix Georgia Marathon

(Sunday, March 18, 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM)

The Publix Georgia Marathon has asked the ham radio community to assist with the 2012 Marathon on Sunday, March 18. This is a large event requiring dozens of amateur radio volunteers.

Our job is to communicate race-related messages for the race officials and race volunteers that ultimately ensure the safety of the runners. A majority of the assignments are for Aid Station communicators. These volunteers will be stationed at one of the 19 Aid Stations and communicate supply needs, lead runner information, and make SAG Wagon requests for injured and tired runners. These duties end when the end of the race passes the station.

You will need to provide your own radio. If you do not yet have a radio but still want to help out, indicate so on the sign-up form and we will work with you to find a radio you can borrow for the day.

Commit to helping by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/GAMarathon2012> and signing up. The official marathon website is <http://georgiamarathon.com>. Michael Gaertner and George Olive, DeKalb ARES are organizing the amateur radio operators recruitment.

Publix.
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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 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 |

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