



NFARL eNEWS

July 2014

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**.



IN THIS ISSUE: Field Day Wrap-up From Start to Finish

Great weather and great crowds made for great times at NFARL's Field Day 2014. Check out all the stories and photos in this edition of the 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 Saturday – Royal Order of the Olde Geezers (ROOG)** - 9:00 AM - Reveille Café, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta (at Sandy Plains and Shallowford). You don't have to be "old" or a "geezer" to join this breakfast get-together.
 - **Third Tuesday – NFARL Club Meeting** - **July 15**, 7:30 PM -- Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
 - **Fourth Tuesday – NFARL Executive Team Meeting** - **July 22**, 7:00 PM - Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell. Meetings are open to NFARL club members.
 - **Second Saturday – VE Testing Session** - **August 9**, 10:00 AM - Alpharetta Adult Activity Center, 13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta.
 - **Second Tuesday – NFARES meeting** - **August 12**, 7:00 PM with dinner at 5:55 PM at the Brandon Hall School, 1701 Brandon Hall Drive, Sandy Springs. Talk-in station on 147.06 repeater.
 - **Third Saturday and Sunday – Huntsville Hamfest and Regional ARRL Centennial Event** - **August 16**, 9:00 AM CDT to 4:30 PM and **August 17**, 9:00 AM CDT to 3:00 PM -- Von Braun Civic Center, 700 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801. Click on [hamfest](#) website for more information and directions.
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Program Update / Walt Woron, KJ4HE

Fox hunting is an exciting aspect of ham radio that has generated a loyal following of enthusiasts over the years. For hams who like to "get out in the field," fox hunting offers a challenging and entertaining alternative to sitting at a desk and calling that hard-to-raise DX station over and over and over again.



Mike Roden, W5JR, will reveal the ins and outs of fox hunting at NFARL's July 15 meeting.

Using radio direction-finding techniques, groups of fox hunters compete to discover the hidden transmitter(s) in a fast-paced game of hide-and-seek.

Join us on July 15 at 7:30 PM as NFARL's own **Mike Roden, W5JR**, reveals the techniques and tricks involved in putting on a successful fox-hunting event. Mike will be assisted by **John Kludt, K4SQC**.

As always, arrive early and take a peek at the books that are available in the NFARL Library.

Here's a look at our program lineup for the remainder of the year:

August: The Art of QSLing and Logbook of the World – **Neil Foster, N4FN**, and others

September: The FT5ZM DXpedition to Amsterdam Island – **Bob Allphin, K4UEE**

October: Setting Up Your First HF Station

November: HamJam 2014

December: NFARL Holiday Party

NFARL Takes a First in GQP / John Tramontanis, N4TOL



Congratulations to NFARL for achieving "Top Club Score" for the state of Georgia in the 2014 Georgia QSO Party!

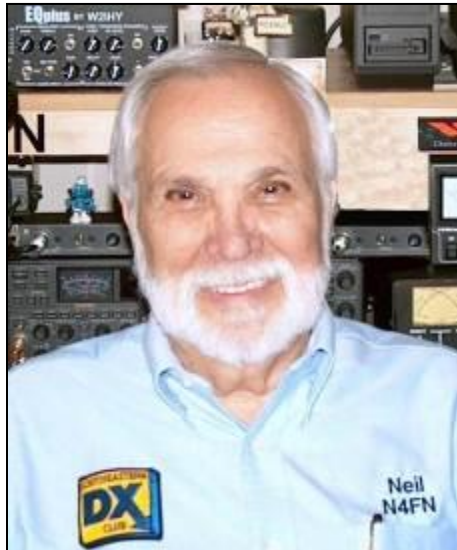
Thanks to all the operators who participated and to all the club members who provided support.

Dozens of club members participated and earned certificates in the "NFARL GQP Challenge." The bar has been set for next year, so we look forward to increasing our member participation, improving our scores, and defending our title.

For its win, the club will receive a gavel. The plaque acknowledging NFARL's achievement is shown at left. For details on all GQP winners, click the GQP 2014 button on the [website](#).

President's Corner / Neil Foster, N4FN

I am sure that everyone who attended Field Day enjoyed the experience. As always, it is great to see the turnout we had and to have the opportunity to visit with friends in a casual and relaxed manner. I believe this year we had a record number of Boy Scouts take the merit badge class that **John Wittlin, K4WIT**, and his staff organized. I believe all but two of the attendees qualified for the radio merit badge. Well done, Scouts. It is nice to see the smiles on their faces when they make that first radio contact.



It appears we had a record number of visitors from our various communities. They sure did get an earful about ham radio and its benefits to the community at large. Thanks to **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, for his efforts. We received several proclamations from the state and local governments, and I am sure that you will hear more about them in this issue of eNews.

Our catering team led by **Lynn Kahn, N4MSK**, and her capable staff provided an outstanding picnic followed by a great breakfast and lunch on Sunday. If anyone came away hungry, it was their own fault.

The GOTA station was a big hit and there was always a queue of folks waiting to operate. Some folks came back on Sunday for another shot at being awarded one of the coveted GOTA pins for making over 20 contacts. I believe the record was 52 contacts. I am sure that **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**, can fill us in on that. The GOTA station was ably managed by Bill and **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**.

There was quite a bit of activity in both the big tops with many ops filling in the slots. The CW guys had it made, chilled out in **Joel Myers', W4JNM**, air conditioned trailer. I guess Quaker Oats (**Jim Stafford, W4QO**) said that the blazing fingers need to stay cool. **John Kludt, K4SQC**, our sterling Field Day chairman, sent me some preliminary numbers on the scores we had running 3A and it appears we did quite well, better than last year, and that is always good.

At the June meeting, we celebrated going over 300 members and all enjoyed a delicious and beautiful cake (at right) presented by **Martha Muir, W4MSA**. Speaking of meetings, **Walt Woron, KJ4HE**, has the programs all set for the rest of the year. I am looking forward to **Mike Roden, W5JR's**, presentation on fox hunting. I have not participated in a hunt in many years and, believe me, they are a lot of fun.

Coming up August 16-17 is the Huntsville Hamfest. Although not really a local one, but it is well attended and a great one. One of the nice things about Huntsville is that it is all indoors and air conditioned. It is



Photo by Mike Cohen, AD4MC

also the Alabama State Convention for the ARRL. Typically, all the "big guys" are there.

While I am penning this article we (NFARL) are heavily engaged in not only providing operators for the 13 Colonies event which ended on July 6 but also providing the QSL card service. This is the fifth year for this event and although I am not a contester, I look forward to this activity each year. NFARL is also the manager for any QSL card requests and Jim Stafford is chairing that as our Ringmaster. This year, in addition to the 13 original colony stations there were two special stations honoring William Penn and Francis Scott Key. I made a concentrated effort for the clean sweep and did so after dinner on Monday, working all 15 stations. After that, I switched roles and joined the other Georgia stations as K2G, running digital modes (PSK 31 and RTTY). It was a lot of fun, and I worked a surprising number of DX stations. It seems to be a popular event with many non-U.S. stations. Working RTTY was a bit of a challenge since we were competing for bandwidth during the popular DL RTTY contest. I hope all who worked the event had a clean sweep!



See you at our meeting on July 15 for Mike's presentation on fox hunting!

NFARL Assists GA 400 Bike Ride / Wayne Chapman KG5WU

The sixth annual Georgia 400 Hospitality Highway Bike Ride was held on Sunday, June 29. About 1,600 bicyclists rode down Georgia 400 from Holcomb Bridge to Northridge before splitting off into five routes ranging from 9 to 101 miles, passing through Fulton, Forsyth and Cherokee counties.

Twenty-one hams from NFARES and NFARL teamed up to provide communications support, connecting seven rest stop and several mobile units to the event staff located at the finish line. Some hams rode along in support and gear (SAG) vehicles as they helped riders with mechanical problems and/or ferried them back to the finish line. Two hams, along with several others, patrolled the course by motorcycle, watching for cyclists in need of assistance..



All radio traffic was conducted on the NFARL 70cm Sweat Mountain repeater. Coverage was excellent, with most using HTs. How fortunate we are to have such a valuable resource available for events such as this.

Photo by Stu Mitchell, KK4KKF

FIELD DAY 2014

Another Stellar Effort / John Kludt, K4SQC, Field Day Chairman

As I write Field Day 2104 is completed. We had a lot of fun and only a few visits from Murphy. Scores are being calculated, logs checked, and documentation for bonus points collected. It is still too early to give any details but by all accounts we did well in our quest to accumulate QSOs. Whether it was enough to beat Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) is an open question as we have had no indication from them as to how they did. They were running 8A and we were 3A so this was clearly a “David and Goliath” event. Here’s hoping we repeat David’s success – I am looking forward to the GARS ice cream! For those new to NFARL, every year we have a Field Day bet with GARS on some aspect of Field Day with the loser providing the ice cream to the winning club. This year the bet was on total number of QSOs.



Field Day is a team event and so many people pulled together with contributions large and small to make our success possible. A big thank you to our band captains is in order. **Jim Stafford, W4QO**, as always, ran the CW Trailer. **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, and **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**, did excellent work with the SSB station. **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, and **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**, teamed up with the Swing station. This station, by the way, a station that could go to SSB, CW, or RTTY as the situation required, was a new concept and something I am sure you will see again next year. As always, **Bill Weathers, K4WSW**, and **Mark Schumann, KK4FOF**, ran an excellent GOTA operation. **Joe Camilli, N7QPP**, led us through our first go with network logging. Everyone seemed to like logging on the network and we have already made some plans to make it more robust next year. **Jim Paine, N4SEC**, did his usual superb job with proclamations and dignitaries. **Brian McCarthy, NX9O**, again loaned us his 15 kw generator for Field Day. The generator was just loafing but it sure is nice to add some diesel, turn it on and then not worry about power for the rest of Field Day. Thanks, Brian.

There are a number of bonus points to be had for sending traffic (messages) over the National Traffic System (NTS). We got all of those points thanks to the efforts of **Mike Cohen, AD4MC**, and North Fulton ARES (NFARES). If you did not get a chance to tour the Emergency Communications Vehicles from the Sandy Springs and Alpharetta police departments you missed something special. Thank you to **Tom Koch, W4UOC**, for making the arrangements with these two supported agencies.

Thank yous would not be complete without a special thanks to **Lynn Kahn, N4MSK**, and the food team. There was always plenty of water, soda, and other liquids to be

had. Snacks were plentiful. As always, the Saturday night picnic was a special treat. For those of you who stayed the night, fresh pancakes and sausage prepared by **Martha Muir, W4MSA**, were so good after a night of QSOs.

To all those who helped pull antennas, set up Yagis, run power cables, gas smaller generators, post signs, and all of the other activities that go into Field Day, thank you. Without operators, all of these activities would have been for naught and so I give a special thanks to those of you made the extra effort to put a voice or a fist behind K4JJ and NF4GA and get us on the air.

If you have comments or suggestions to make FD even better in 2015, please drop a line [here](#). I am not sure who will head up NFARL Field Day 2015 but for now I will collect your comments. It was an honor and privilege to be your Field Day chairman for 2014. Thank you to everyone for a job very well done!



Field Day 2014 was the culmination of a year's work by many NFARL members. A highlight of the occasion is the always wonderful dinner orchestrated by Lynn Kahn, N4MSK (in the purple Field Day T-shirt, photo above right). Photos by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

FIELD DAY 2014

GOTA Draws a Large Turnout / Bill Weathers, K4WSW

The Get On The Air (GOTA) station at Field Day 2014 was again a very busy and popular venue. GOTA is the designated station for anyone interested in amateur radio to gain an introduction, new hams to explore the next level in operating or any licensed ham not active in recent years to rejoin the fun.



In summary, here's how the GOTA station did:

- 315 QSOs

- 32 operators
- 13 operators under 18
- 6 GOTA pins awarded
- 4 operators with 20+ QSOs, 2 operators with 40+ QSOs
- Worked 66 of 84 ARRL sections
- 8 DX stations - Bahamas, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hawaii, Canada, Puerto Rico, Germany, Brazil
- Station open for 22.5 hours
- Assisted 11 Boy Scouts to achieve merit badge



NFARL's GOTA station proved to be a popular spot during Field Day. Bill Weathers, K4WSW, (photo above right) draws a crowd. Photos by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

Some memorable moments:

- Family Matters: Five members of the Kent Family operated GOTA. **Steve Kent**, and children **Rebecca**, **Sara**, **Johnny** and **Jacob** contributed over 20 contacts. Rebecca made the first DX contact of the day to Czech Republic. Steve and Sara achieved their Technician licenses during the Spring HamCram, obtaining call signs **KM4AUU** and **KM4AUM** respectively.
- Mill Springs Participation: Numerous GOTA participants attend Mill Springs Academy. Most notably Headmaster **Robert Moore** made his first contacts, **Sagan de Castro**, **KK4WPW**, earned a GOTA pin by achieving 40 QSOs
- Ladies lead the way: **Catherine Todd**, **KK4UBQ**, and **Lynn Kahn**, **N4MSK**, had very successful runs Sunday morning. Catherine achieved 50+ QSOs in less than an hour, while Lynn collected 35 QSOs while feeding the masses.
- Anthony on the spot: **Anthony Phillips**, **KK4SYE**, was operating the 6-meter station Sunday morning, a little slow as there were very limited band openings. With the schedule open at the GOTA Station, Anthony slid in some operating time and knocked out 33 QSOs in an hour ... a very cool operator.
- To close the day, **David Harris**, son of **John Harris**, **KC4JVJ**, worked the final QSOs of Field Day, bringing in 13 contacts which included the Bahamas. We look forward to David achieving his Technician license in the not-too-distant future.

- Other HamCram graduates operating GOTA: **Ana Maria Marin, KM4AUP**, **Charles Srour, KM4AUS**, and **Gerry Werber, KK4USI**.
- First GOTA pin went to **Stew Tarkington, N1DQC**, who operated from midnight to 2:00 AM, putting in a great effort as conditions were not very favorable Saturday evening.

There are many, many additional stories from the GOTA Station and Field Day 2014. I hope you enjoyed the few highlighted above – we look forward to many more next year and the years that follow, who will make the GOTA Highlights next year in 2015?

FIELD DAY 2014

CW Station Goes All-Out / Jim Stafford, W4QO

It was my honor to serve as the CW “trailer” captain this year as things really fell into place for a record performance by an outstanding crew. Key to our success started with **Joel Myers, W4JNM**'s almost ever-present CW trailer. Joel (with YF Camille) has provided his travel trailer for many years now, parking it in roughly in the same location between the baseball and soccer fields. Yet this year, something seemed to be missing: the large trees that had shaded the trailer from the morning sun were gone. The



Pavel Anni, AC4PA, hangs the CW station banner. Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

Roswell park folks said they were cut down to avoid fallen leaves on the new artificial turf soccer field. But the air conditioner did its job and Joel's trailer was pleasant the entire weekend.

Thank you, Joel!

Now to the CW station. I started about three months early to “reserve” time with some outstanding CW ops for our crew. CW ops are not an easy resource to nail down for FD. Folks are on vacation, go with other FD crews, just don't want to operate, haven't done much contesting lately and don't feel competent or a dozen other reasons. Yet, this year a first-class crew came together to fill the

schedule for the entire 24 hours: **Ralph Bates, K1ZZI**; **John Tramontanis, N4TOL**; **Jim Worthington, AD4J**; **Bob Beeman, K4BB**; **Hal Kennedy, N4GG**; and **Charlie Fox, AA4CF**. Together we amassed 1,352 CW QSOs for an average of over 56 per hour. A hefty thanks to each op for their contribution to a great effort. And this year, we used CW assistants (CA) in the trailer during peak visitor hours to answer questions and keep the “joyousness” down to allow the operators to stay focused. Thanks to the CA crew for “trailer management.”

Lastly, we used just about every piece of technology we could muster. This was our first year being networked and it worked great! **Joe Camilli, N7QPP**, did an over-the-top job of fixing quickly any small bugs that crept in! In the trailer, we used N3FJP software, F keys to minimize operator fatigue, WINKEY, and the club's TS-480 transceiver at 130 watts. In the air, our antenna team of **Garry Brass, AK4NA, Pavel Anni, AC4PA, Tony Fullard, K4AWF**, and me, erected **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW's** 80-meter horizontal loop at 60 feet and it performed flawlessly, being resonant on all bands with no tuner. We used an LDG autotuner to bring an already acceptable SWR on 80 meters down to "flat" as needed.

Again, thanks to everyone for making this a memorable and record-setting event!



Pavel Anni, AC4PA, consults with Jim Stafford, W4QO, in the CW trailer, as Club President Neil Foster, N4FN, observes. (photo above right). Photos by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

FIELD DAY 2014

SSB Shines Under the Big Top

/ Bill Cobb, K4YJJ, and Chuck Catledge, AE4CW

Wow – the SSB Team had quite a Field Day under the Big Top! Team Co-captains **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, and **Bill Cobb, K4YJJ**, along with the diverse SSB team pulled together all weekend to make our effort a success. Thanks to all who worked with us throughout the event, including **Pavel Anni, AC4PA; Mike Birmingham, K4LJG; Stew Tarkington, N1DQC; Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ; John Weber, AE4LZ; Craig Willison, NZ4CW; Wes Lamboley, W3WL; Bob Citronberg, KI4GHT; Claire McCarthy, KK4JJT; Ian Kahn, KM4IK; Steve Mays, KS4KJ; John Tramontanis, N4TOL; Anna McCarthy, N9KHC; Brian McCarthy, NX9O; Ron Gill, NV4U; and Tony Vitolo, W4AV**. Your support enabled us to have a great weekend and be packed and away from the park headed toward home and a cool shower / nap by 3:30 PM Sunday.

Despite sometimes spotty band conditions, the SSB team had a successful Field Day, making 1,197 contacts on the 20m (710 contacts), 40m (230 contacts), 80m (185 contacts), 15m, and 10m bands and we had a lot of fun doing it.

We have a few team special recognitions:

Phone Station Iron Man award goes to John, N4TOL, who made 280 contacts at the Phone station, and then relaxed by going to the CW station and making another 83 contacts. His gross contact count and hourly run rate were both the highest on our team.

Up and Coming award goes to Catherine, KK4UBQ, who successfully ran the table for three hours Saturday afternoon after a brief stint logging for team co-captain Chuck, AE4CW. This was her first Field Day experience. We are proud of you, Catherine!

Families Playing Together award goes to the McCarthy family – Claire, Anna, and Brian – for their Sunday morning contributions: Claire operated under Ian's tutelage for an hour plus while Ian was tracking down his first cup of coffee; Anna and Brian took a shift later in the morning to see if they could keep up with the torrid pace set by Claire.

We really enjoyed operating under the Big Top and feel that it added a positive dimension to our Field Day experience. It was a bit warm at times, but the fans kept us cool and working the contacts. The critical mass of people created by having four stations under the tent provided lots of opportunities to observe the other stations and chat with our many visitors.

Thanks to all who participated in the SSB Team, and a special thanks to **John Kludt, K4SQC**, for setting the stage for a successful 2014 Field Day.



Scott Straw, KB4KBS, Wes Lamboley, W3WL, Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, and Bill Cobb, K4YJJ, prepare operating positions (left to right in photo above left). Catherine Todd, KK4UBQ, offers pointers to Lori Young, K4UPI (left to right in photo above right). Photos by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

FIELD DAY 2014

Swing Station Proves Its Worth / Wes Lamboley, W3WL

This year at Field Day we entered the 3A category, which means we had three transmitters on the air at the same time. Traditionally, we would have two pure phone stations, one digital station and one CW station, but this year we opted to have three stations only, with one on CW, one phone and one capable of CW, phone and digital. The idea was to try to optimize the three modes on the Swing station to earn



That's Swing Station Co-captain Scott Straw, KB4KBS, at the keyboard, making beautiful Field Day music! Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

the most points, based on band conditions, operator preferences and optimal Field Day point accumulation potential. We did not do bad for our first attempt! What we learned will be valuable for next year, as the approach will certainly improve our overall score, which was the goal this year's approach to Field Day – i.e. "Field Day is a contest where emergency preparedness is also demonstrated."

Several growing pains were worked out in the Swing station concept, and the captains (**Wes Lamboley, W3WL** and **Scott Straw, KB4KBS**),

were able to recover after a few hours of down time during the contest period. One of the major assets was an antenna switching system that allowed the Phone station and Swing station to share antennas. The antennas, as designed and analyzed by **Chuck Catledge, AE4CW**, worked very well, and will probably be used again in the same configuration next year. In general, if there were no rig problems and an operator was available, the Swing station was making contacts very rapidly. Now that the bugs are worked out, we cannot wait for next year!

FIELD DAY 2014

VHF Station: CQ, CQ, CQ . . . Bingo!

/ John Kludt, K4SQC, and Joe Camilli, N7QPP

By the ARRL rules we are allowed one "free" VHF station. Our "class" is determined by the number of HF transmitters, excluding GOTA, which we had in operation for Field Day. We had three: CW, SSB and Swing. To complete the thought, the "A" means we

were a club station running on emergency power: hence, “3A.” Our 6-meter station is “free” in the sense that it does not increase our transmitter count.

Six is a funny band in that when it is open it is really open and when it is closed, it is a pretty lonely place. This year’s station sported a 4-element 6-meter beam and a Yaesu FT-2000. This particular FT-2000 has been modified such that the first IF at 65 MHz has been brought out to a SMA connector on the back. This we used with a Funcube Dongle ProPlus and SDR# as a poor man’s panadapter. **Bob Mantell, W4GA**, referred to it as a “fish finder” and that has some truth in it. Our “fish finder” was pretty empty most of the time!



A four-element beam was one of the weapons in the VHF arsenal this year. Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

One of the tricks of making contacts on a “dead band” is calling “CQ” and that we did. We worked a number of Georgia stations including rival, **W4GR** (Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society). In addition we worked Alabama, South Carolina and Tennessee. While watching the “fish finder,” **Brian McCarthy, NX9O**, noticed some new beacons to the west. He then picked off two sections: North Texas and West Texas. The “Best DX” award for 6-meters has to go to **Anthony Phillips, KK4SYE**, who managed to snag **K7CW** in Western Washington. It is “The Magic Band.”

With sunspots on the decline, 6 meters could be a bit of a challenge next year. So I have been thinking about a bigger beam and WJST. Anybody up for a try at some meteor scatter during NFARL FD 2015?

FIELD DAY 2014

Satellite Station Scores a Coup / John Kludt, K4SQC

Satellites have become kind of a fixture of NFARL Field Day. We set up, work a few Qs and generally have a good time “workin’ the birds.” Field Day 2014 was planned to be no different. About a week before Field Day it was announced that astronaut **Reid Weisman, KF5LKT**, would be making Field Day contacts using the call NA1SS during the 1800 UTC pass over North America. Now this was interesting! A quick check

showed that this was a pass of only 7 degrees of elevation for those of us here in Georgia beginning for us at 1822 UTC.

Some basic facts about FM and the ISS or SO-50, the FM satellite currently in orbit, are in order. This is FM and so “the big dog wins!” For those of you of a more technical nature this is known as the capture effect: the strongest signal is the one that gets through. Imagine yourself 240 or so miles up in space and hundreds of signals headed your way. What you will hear is a word here, a syllable there – complete chaos!

With only 7 degrees of elevation to work with (the ISS barely made it above our horizon) I gave us a 1 in 10 to a 1 in 20 chance and I was being generous. Very generous! But this was the chance of a lifetime. The station was solid in that this is exactly the same



John Kludt, satellite band captain, shows off the operating position to Michael Parrot, N4MEP. Photo by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

station we used at Mill Springs Academy for their ISS contact. We could at least listen. As the time approached the Big Tent filled up with other hams and dignitaries. We began to listen. And there he was, “NA1SS, QRZ?” Pretty loud signal, too. I seem to remember someone with a call of **W4QO** saying “If the SWR is less than 10:1, call CQ.” There is a trick I use when working DX with “100 watts and wire.” When the DX station says

“QRZ” I literally count to 10 and then call. If I jump on it right away I just get buried under everyone else. 1,2,3 ... 10 “K4JJ” and again “1,2,3,4,5” (OK,

I was excited!) “K4JJ.” And, by gosh, the next thing we all heard was “I heard K4JJ.” Cheers! Applause! Really cool! Really cool, indeed!

We had a good run on satellites as the rest of the event progressed, working 29 more stations. FO-29 was a real workhorse for us with a run of eight stations on one pass alone. But nothing will ever beat “I hear K4JJ.”

FIELD DAY 2014

28 Scouts Earn Radio Merit Badges / Jon Wittlin, K4WIT

There were 32 scout attendees at the BSA Radio Merit Badge clinic. Twenty eight Radio Merit Badges (including Emergency Preparation Merit Badge requirement 7a) were earned and credit for Emergency Preparation item 7a was earned by four scouts.

The following troops were represented: Troop 51, Alpharetta; Troop 69, Alpharetta; Troop 75, Marietta; Troop 200, Marietta; Troop 429, Alpharetta; Troop 463, Sandy Springs; Troop 795, Marietta; Troop 1776, Marietta; Troop 2000, Johns Creek; Troop 2143 Milton; Troop 2206 Sandy Springs; Troop 3000, Milton; and Troop 4056, Canton.

Instructors for this group were: **Jon Wittlin, K4WIT**; **Ian Kahn, KM4IK**; **Wes Lambole, W3WL**; and **Brent Allen, W4WBA**.

A special thanks to the operators who helped the scouts make contacts. Coming next: 57th Jamboree-on-the-Air JOTA is October 18-19.



John Wittlin, K4WIT, and Wes Lambole, W3WL, (left to right in photo above left) conduct a Radio Merit Badge session. Chuck Catledge, AE4CW, (photo above right) assists with a headset as scouts take a turn at the radio. Photos by Bill Hampton, W4OO.

FIELD DAY 2014

NFARES Contributes to Effort / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Grant Register, KK4PCR, headed up the NFARES support activity for the 2014 NFARL Field Day event, which included Sandy Springs and Alpharetta Police Department tactical vehicles. NFARES also had solar-powered radio communications by Register and **Stuart Williams, AK4EX**, and an impressive Go-Kit demo by **Garry Brass, AK4NA**.

The NFARES team provided 300 Field Day Bonus Points for NFARL.

Tom Koch, W4UOC, in an email to Sandy Springs Police Chief, Ken DeSimone, thanked the chief for his “support and the loan of the Sandy Springs Police Department's mobile command trailer” for Field Day.



Officer **Mike Stark, N4MSS**, delivered the trailer Saturday morning, helped set it up and participated in the exhibit and demonstration area.



Mike Stark, N4MSS, Tom Koch, W4UOC, Stuart Williams, AK4EX, and a visitor at the NFARES setup. Photo by Mike Cohen, AD4MC.

In the email, Koch also wrote that the Alpharetta Police Department “exhibited their mobile police command vehicle which included not only public safety radios but a very complete networking system that connected various other modes of communications that allowed various digital and voice modes to be interfaced.”

Alpharetta Police Officer **John Strika, KE4AQP**, set up and gave demonstrations in the trailer.

FIELD DAY 2014

Dignitaries, Public Visit FD / Jim Paine, N4SEC

This year we had 251 sign-ins at NFARL Field Day. For comparison, the number was 204 in 2013 and 225 in 2012. Over the past few years, NFARL has been one of the top clubs nationally for local participation.



Mark Schumann, KK4FOF, works with Roswell City Council Member Betty Price at the GOTA station with Robert Moore, Mill Springs Academy Headmaster, looking on. Photo by Jim Paine, N4SEC.

Elected officials present included state Sen. John Albers, state Sen. Brandon Beach, state House Rep. Lynne Riley, Roswell City Council Member Betty Price (wife of Congressman Tom Price) and Alpharetta Mayor David Belle Isle.

NFARL was presented proclamations from the City of Roswell and the State of Georgia

Both proclamations acknowledged the benefits of amateur radio to the state and the cities and praised the volunteer amateur radio operators of NFARL for their service to the community.

A separate State of Georgia proclamation was presented to Mill Springs Academy at

Field Day as a NFARL partner in education.
In the ARES section, we had two city mobile command vehicles staffed by certified police officers, both amateur radio operators.
We had articles and photographs in four municipal editions of the Neighbor Newspapers the week before Field Day.

State Rep. Lynne Riley colors in Washington state after a successful QSO. Photo by Jim Paine, N4SEC.



NFARES Praised for Fireworks Aid / Mike Cohen, AD4MC

Twelve NFARES volunteers provided fire spotting communications support for this year's Sandy Springs Stars & Stripes Fireworks Celebration on July 5 and we received the following letter of appreciation from Sandy Springs Assistant Fire Chief Daryl Smith:

"I can't say enough about how appreciative we are of you and your HAM Operators assisting us again this year with this event.

Without the assistance of your group there is no way that we could possibly assure coverage for any spot fires in or around the complex. Your group is awesome and it is indeed a pleasure working with a group of truly dedicated professionals. Your willingness to assist us without a doubt relieves a tremendous amount of stress and concern that we have with this type of event."



Club Logo Wearables

Club member **Jerry Sullivan, KD4LZL**, wife, Janice and daughter, Paige, operate Classic Monograms & More. They can embroider on just about anything. They can provide items from a huge [catalog](#), or you can provide your own item. They are located at The Shops of Shiloh, 3940 Cherokee Street, Suite 406, Kennesaw. For details, call 770-425-4545.



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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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